

TRAVIS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION (TCHC)

MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

Having determined that a quorum was present, TCHC Chair Bob Ward called the meeting to order at 11:04 AM.

New members/guests were introduced: Bruce Elfant, Wayne Schneider

No corrections were noted for the May minutes.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

1. Kim McKnight from the City of Austin briefed the TCHC on the Horton House, Sneed House, and Rogers Homestead developments
2. The Chair recognized Terri Mirka for an Education Committee update. She reported on the Cox Spring School historic designation, the Round Mountain school flood relief headquarters, and the Nameless School and Cemetery flood damage
3. Gilbert Rivera noted the installation of the Green & White Grocery marker and updated the TCHC membership on the progress of the Palm School Steering Committee
4. The Chair updated the membership on African American history preservation efforts; he will join the County Judge for a tour of the Sorrell tract
5. The TCHC will expand its involvement with the Freedom Colonies survey
6. The Chair and Richard Denney will brief on the Indigenous history connection to Laguna Gloria in the future
7. The Chair has submitted five topics for sessions proposed for the Real Places conference next May. It was noted that one of his presentations during the last conference was the most popular session of the 2025 Conference, so expectations are high
8. The TxAmerica250 programming will be informed by the Chair's recent trip to Spain to strengthen the synergy around preservation efforts focused on the Spanish trails in Texas, the Spanish contribution to the American Revolution, story maps etc.
9. The Austin History Center project scope will include the History Corridor strategy, including the Heman Marion Sweatt Travis County Courthouse. TCHC member Bruce Elfant agreed to consult on a potential interlocal agreement
10. The Chair heard a motion by Adrienne Risom-Isom to approve an expenditure of special funds (Flachmeier & Owens) to purchase books for the Blackshear Elementary School, the first African-American elementary school in Travis County to establish a library. Kelly Russell seconded and the motion was approved.

11. The Chair reported on efforts to strengthen the partnership between the TCHC and the County's Transportation and Natural Resources department so that greenbelts which include historic sites are designed with historical preservation elements in mind

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Nora Jackson was absent for this meeting.

MARKERS COMMITTEE ACTION ITEM - Kerry Russell moved, with a second by Wayne Scheider, to fund the Cox marker using the TCHC budget. This motion was approved.

CLG report: the Hayden Springs and San Bernard grants process & deliverables are pending.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 PM.

Shawn Malone, Secretary