

MEETING MINUTES
TRAVIS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
03/30/2026

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRAVIS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION (TCHC) WAS BE HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2026, AT THE FAULK LIBRARY, 800 GUADALUPE STREET, AUSTIN, TEXAS.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

1. CALL TO ORDER - Having determined that a quorum was present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 11:08 AM
2. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM - See #1
3. CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS - There were none
4. CALL, RECEIVE INFORMATION AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON:

Introduction of guests: Adam Powell, Executive Director, Austin History Center Association; Jennifer Chenoweth, Division Manager, Austin Public Library; Martha Napolillo, Archivist, Office of the Travis County Clerk; Laurie Grobe, Archives Program Manager, Travis County Archives; Hagan Barber, Archivist, Travis County Archives; Sarah Marshall, Manager, Historic Preservation and Tourism Program, City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department; David Peyton, Assistant Director, Environmental Programs, Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources; Rowena Dasch, Executive Director, Neill-Cochran House Museum; and Ricki Carmargo, Texas Historical Reclamation Project.

No corrections to the minutes of the last two meetings were noted.

Report from the Chair - Bob Ward

1. The early stages of the multi-year Texas State University GIS Mapping initiative show promise, with Dr. Ruby Orem's students focusing on schools
2. Physical space with equipment in the Austin History Center now support the AHC Freedom Colonies oral histories project
3. TCHC member Bruce Elfant will lead the new Jewish History project
4. The Chair recognized Terri Mirka for a report on the work of the Education Committee, the Round Mountain School marker, Nameless School "Return to Nameless" event (silent auction), and other developments
5. The Chair recognized Gilbert Rivera for a report from the Mexican-American History Committee and plans for a Roy's Taxi historical marker. Follow-up discussion included notes on the San Jose 1 & 2 historic designations, and markers for Cisco's, Pan Am, and other places/topics
6. David Porter and Stephanie Lang updated the membership on African-American Committee projects status, including pending markers and expansion of the scope of the AHC's Freedom Colonies project to go beyond the Austin city limits

7. The Chair reported on a session he and others will present at the Real Places conference in April
8. The Chair recognized Rowena Dasch for a report on the upcoming America 250 event commemorating the United States semiquincentennial; she noted that the Bullock Museum would be the site of a ceremonial reading of the Declaration of Independence, and suggested that banners be flown along Congress Avenue
9. The Chair and Jennifer Chenoweth described the framework for an interlocal agreement between the City of Austin and Travis County to improve synergy
10. Bruce Elfant, Christy Costlow and others followed up on Item #9 and the interlocal's relationship to a History Corridor designation, tax credits etc.
11. Efforts to zero out the Flachmeier and Owens accounts are on pause, pending administrative review
12. Work will begin to design, approve and install a historical marker regarding Muslim history in Travis County

Markers Committee: Vince Liebowitz reported that two markers (Cambridge Tower and the John Philip Sousa concert) are pending for action in May of this year. A discussion of lost and stolen markers cited specific examples. The Chair noted that the Historical Markers Database updates need to be kept current to make that resource useful, and reminded the membership that a link on the Travis County Historical Commission website sorts the markers list to make the Travis County markers easier to find. Ricki Carmargo said he had updated some markers recently.

Certified Local Government Report: Work is completed on the San Bernard NR, and a vote on Hayden Springs #2 may take place at the Real Places conference in April.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 PM.

Submitted by Shawn Malone, Secretary