



# Travis County Historical Commission

The regular meeting of the Travis County Historical Commission (TCHC) was held on Wednesday, October 14, 2015. Commission Chair Bob Ward called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and declared a quorum present.

Attendance: Present were Bobby Cervantes, David White, David Peyton, Marjorie Alford, Patti Hansen, Adrienne Rison-Isom, Teri Flack, Bob Perkins, Marty Moulthrop, Vonnye Rice-Gardner, Rosemary Morrow, Larry Oaks, May Schmidt, Dan Hickox, Barry Hutcheson, Shawn Malone, and Bob Ward. Margarine Beaman, Nora Jackson, and Jeannette Cook were absent.

Minutes: A motion to approve the corrected minutes of the meeting on September 9 carried unanimously.

Introduction of Guests: Dora Hernandez, of the Civil and Family Courts Complex Community Focus Committee, visited this meeting to discuss Palm School. Artist Reji Thomas and consultant Elizabeth Purcell visited this meeting to discuss preservation of the Pine Street Station. Pearl Cox, sponsor of the RTHL marker application, visited this meeting to discuss the recommendations of the Research Committee.

## Report from the Chair

1. The Chair recognized TCHC member Rosemary Morrow to report on the Save Texas History Symposium exhibits and programs. Ms. Morrow noted the involvement of "junior historians" on campuses.
2. The Chair reported that progress continues on the digitization of Frank Brown's Annals by the Portal to Texas History.
3. Guest Dora Hernandez and TCHC member May Schmidt laid out some of the issues regarding the Palm School building (see Action Item below).
4. Richard Overton, the oldest living veteran of World War II, will record an oral history as soon as the interview can be scheduled.
5. Efforts to involve Preservation Austin in the plan to preserve the Sneed Mansion at 1801 Nelms Drive were discussed; the Chair reported on meetings over the past 2-3 months to this end.

6. The Chair revisited the question of collaborating with the Texas Department of Transportation on future projects. Investigations into the options will continue.

### Action Item

May Schmidt moved, and Bob Perkins seconded, a motion to authorize the Chair to sign a letter communicating the “sense of the TCHC” regarding the future of Palm School.

### Research Committee

Committee Chair Teri Flack described two applications for Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers: The Colored Teachers State Association of Texas building at 1911 Navasota Street in Austin, and the Walsh house at 3701 Bonnie Road. She moved approval of both applications and both motions were seconded and approved.

A Research Committee report on inscriptions approved for Kincheonville, Hancock and Cranfill markers was received by the THCH membership.

A motion was made by May Schmidt, seconded by various members, to approve the application for the Richland School, a one-room structure built in 1878 east of Pflugerville. This motion was approved.

### Markers Committee

David White described repairs of fuel line problems with the TCHC’s auger. A motion to authorize spending \$105 on these repairs was approved.

### Special Projects Committee

Marty Moulthrop described online notices that had been added to the TCHC web page and Facebook since the last meeting. There have been no new developments regarding the History of the TCHC project. Larry Oaks, having consulted with Assistant Travis County Tom Nuchols since the last TCHC meeting, updated his findings regarding best practices and examples in other jurisdictions related to a list of endangered historic properties in Travis County. Mr. Oaks also announced an upcoming lecture on Abraham Lincoln coming to Lakeway on Monday, October 26.

### CLG Committee

Mr. Ward updated the TCHC membership on the Southwest survey, describing it as “pretty well done.” Commissioners Court action will be coming soon on the Northwest Survey grants soon, he said.

## Announcements

May Schmidt circulated copies of the Austin Parks and Recreation 2015-2016 Guide to Museums and Cultural Programs, pointing out the exhibit at the Carver History Museum and Cultural Center coming up in December about the historical farmstead of Ransom and Sarah Williams. Bob Ward reminded the membership that the Halloween at Oakwood Cemetery annual event would be a scary way to celebrate local history.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shawn Malone  
Secretary