

El Camino Real de Los Tejas National Historic Trail Association
Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting
July 17, 2015
3710 Cedar St., Suite 161, Austin, TX

Meeting called to order by Carl Mica at 10:30 a.m. A quorum was present.

Board Members in Attendance: Carl Mica, Henry Mayo, John Kisalus, Gary Dunnam, Joy Graham, Maureen Winn, Duke Lyons, Chief Davis and Sarah Gould (arrived at 10:45). Chris Talbot and Irene Ramos attended online.

Others in Attendance: Steven Gonzales, Brad Patterson (THC), Aaron Mahr (NPS), Sergio and Melinda Iruegas (GTI Environmental), Nathan Garza (intern) and Ann Davis.

Board Members Absent: Mo Brown, Linda Curtis-Sparks, George Altgelt and Lucille Estell

Minutes from April 17, 2015 Board meeting were approved without changes, by motion (Gary¹, Duke²)

Carl Mica called for reports from the committees.

Governance Committee report – presented by Gary (written report in Board meeting notebooks) Proposed Bylaw changes were explained.

- There was discussion of changes to Article VIII §5(B), regarding the President being allowed to email permission to the Director, to spend over \$500 on the Association credit or debit card, if it is needed. It was decided to change “email” to “documented” to be less specific of the method of written permission.

- Regarding a change to future meeting dates (i.e. Saturday instead of Friday), it was decided to leave this decision up to the ‘new’ Board to decide next year.

- There was some discussion of vetting Board nominees before the annual meeting, but nothing was decided, as the discussion evolved into requiring Board members to be Association members at a minimum level.

A motion passed to propose a §7, under Article V, stating “All Board members must be current, dues-paying members of the Association, at the Pioneer level or above.” (Gary¹, Duke²)

Another motion passed to accept the Governance Committee Report (Gary¹, Maureen²)

Finance Committee report – presented by Duke (ledger and reports in Board meeting notebooks)

Steven explained that he has set up his personal retirement account and the funds that were being shown in the Association ledger for his retirement stipend, are now being moved to his account. He also explained the upcoming gap in funding for intern Nathan Garza, and how it may necessitate his gainful employment elsewhere, although he would like to keep working part-time for the Association.

A summary of the contents of the financial report was given by Steven, with most categories right on track with expectations for this time in the fiscal year.

A motion passed to accept the Financial Committee Report (John¹, Gary²)

Development Committee report – presented by Maureen (written report in Board meeting notebooks) Items discussed:

- Donor/donation tracking and membership software being researched by Steven, instead of using Microsoft Excel and its problematic mail merge applications.
- A custom ECR Association credit card is not practical for our small member potential users
- Crowd funding has been a great fundraising method for the Association and can be used again

- Corporate sponsorships (i.e. banks, etc...) for the annual meeting are also great ways to offset its expenses
- All Board members are responsible for soliciting new members and sponsors
- There is a real need for a 'pitch' to attract members and sponsors to the Association, and it needs to be unified. An orientation for the Board members may be scheduled early in the year
- Association website hits and a statistical matrix of them

A motion passed to accept the Development Committee Report (Henry¹, Gary²)

Executive Committee report (written report in Board meeting notebook) no questions and no action

Executive Director's report – presented by Steven (written report in Board meeting notebooks)

Items discussed:

- The possibility of a reservoir being built near Sugarloaf Mountain in Milam County will be detrimental to trail and Native American resources, but it has prompted the landowners in the area to reveal the hidden treasures they have been finding for decades. No local citizens are known to be in favor of the reservoir which is on a preliminary list of future water resources for Bexar County.
- A draft of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between GTI Environmental, LLC and the Association, was discussed. It would apply to Section 106 Consultation and grant application efforts on sites along the Trail, including and similar to Lobanillo.

A motion passed to accept the MOU as presented, contingent upon a legal review and approval by George Altgelt (Henry¹, Maureen²)

- An update of the Robertson County signage issues was given by Steven and Aaron Mahr. Aaron had met with County Judge Ellison and was pleased to report that the AFA with TXDOT was signed.

Lunch Break 12:03 to 12:35

Aaron Mahr presented a slide show of the NPS "Development Concept Plan" for Lobanillo. He discussed the optional routes of a trail through the swales, with one passing by the rock cairn which possibly is marking a grave. It was mentioned that the preservation of the rocks was important, and covering them with earth may be a good way to hide them from vandalism, in the hope that someday their real meaning will be discovered.

Brad Patterson gave an update of THC activities and issues. These included the fact that the legislature did not fund the Regional Trails program, but all except the Brazos Trails Region will try to continue limited operations with outside funding. He stated that the new THC Board Chair, John Nau is a good proponent of Heritage Tourism and has a lot of beneficial connections in Texas historical organizations. Brad passed around copies of the new *Hispanic Texans* tourism guide book. He said that THC is working on new online tour links/apps and launching cross-promotion through kiosks. The Chisolm Trail will be 150 years old in 2017 and the NPS is doing a feasibility study on its development as a new national historic trail.

A motion passed to adjourn, at 1:43 p.m. (Gary¹, John²)

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Henry Mayo