

**El Camino Real de los Tejas  
National Historic Trail Association  
Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting  
January 21, 2017  
3710 Cedar St., Suite 288, Austin, TX**

Meeting was preceded by new Board Member Orientation at 9am.

Meeting called to order by Chris Talbot at 10:04am. A quorum was present.

Board Members in Attendance: Tom Byrd, Ellen Riojas Clark, Nancy Devincy, Sarah Gould, Lucinda Freeman, Roger Holt, Lynn Young, Steven Fullen, John Kisalus, Henry Mayo, John Pruett, Chris Talbot, and Jeff Wright (online)

Others in Attendance: Steven Gonzales, Brad Patterson (THC), Angélica Sanchez (NPS, online), Aaron Mahr (NPS, online), Sergio & Melinda Iruegas (GTI)

Board Members Absent: Chip Briscoe, Maureen Winn

Minutes from October 15, 2016 Board meeting were unanimously approved without changes by motion (Henry<sup>1</sup>, John K.<sup>2</sup>).

Chris Talbot called for reports from the committees.

**Finance Committee Report**

John Pruett presented the finance report (written report in Board meeting notebooks).

John shared an overview of how the finance committee works. Monthly, a bookkeeper comes in to review the books and then the finance committee reviews. Quarterly, the finances are presented to the full board.

Steven reviewed the current financial statements. This year our balance sheet total is larger than last. Most of the increase is from the Rancheria Grande project.

The Finance Committee report was unanimously approved by motion (Ellen<sup>1</sup>, Lynn<sup>2</sup>).

**Executive Committee Report** presented by Chris Talbot (written report in Board meeting notebooks).

As described in the report, at the October meeting we failed to reelect several board members as we were focused on electing seven new board members.

By motion the board unanimously voted to waive the rule of the bylaws in regard to the board nominations/elections until October 2017 (Lynn<sup>1</sup>, Steve<sup>2</sup>).

Regarding GTI Environmental invoicing for the Rancheria Grande project, in order to disburse the grant we received to pay for this work before the grant period expires GTI is submitting invoices every two weeks. In order to follow Association rules regarding checks over \$500, Chris will approve the invoices via email and then Steven will issue the check.

Our current strategic plan is expiring, and THC has offered to facilitate our next strategic planning session at no cost. The Executive Committee is recommending to the Board to accept the offer from THC. Brad briefly spoke about Emily Koller and Susan Shore's experience and expertise. Steven suggested scheduling the strategic planning session on April 21<sup>st</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup> board meeting

By motion, the board unanimously approved THC strategic planning on April 21<sup>st</sup> (Ellen<sup>1</sup>, Nancy<sup>2</sup>)

Henry Mayo mentioned that the ad-hoc committee on executive compensation met. Their report is forthcoming.

**Executive Director's Report** presented by Steven Gonzales (written report in Board meeting notebooks).

Steven discussed three ideas for increasing revenue.

- 1) increasing archeological investigations, benefits include:
  - a. increased donations
  - b. increased public awareness
  - c. income from administrative fee – making about \$3,000 from Rancheria Grande project
- 2) utilizing our GIS program to generate revenue
  - a. sell the maps we currently create of our trail
  - b. create maps for other entities
- 3) hosting events
  - a. currently we have one official outreach meeting - the annual meeting
  - b. at the 2014 annual meeting in San Antonio we made over \$7,000; at last year's Laredo workshop we made over \$3,000
  - c. the model trail community program would create small chapters with dues – some of which would go to the Association

The Executive Committee raised questions about how ideas one and two would affect our nonprofit status and would our liability insurance cover these activities. Steven does not believe these are problems, but he will look further. Our membership is not growing and our NPS funding has been reduced. We do need to find other funding streams though he is not asking for a vote

Discussion of how these ideas could promote our mission, increase visibility, and increase trail resources.

Henry raised idea of developing a low cost traveling exhibit about the trail that could be a be a way to raise awareness and the Association could have a reception. Chris' photo exhibit of the trail has traveled to over 25 locations to date. It costs only about \$100 to ship and we don't charge to rent it, but we could probably consider sponsorships to make it more profitable. Brad reminded that the Dos Caminos workshop conversation included an interest in traveling exhibits from both sides of the border.

Our 2018 annual meeting has been approved as a San Antonio Tricentennial event. We were awarded a \$30,000 grant from THC for the Rancheria Grande project. A site visit is scheduled for February 21<sup>st</sup> all board members are welcome to attend. Steven will send more information.

----[end of reports]----

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Regional & At-Large Reports**

#### *At-Large Report*

Sarah presented an idea about organizing a trip to the Archivo General de Indias in Seville, Spain. Sarah will contact the archivist in Seville to inquire about the possibility of organizing a symposium or exhibit on the Camino.

#### *South Texas Region Report* presented by Steven

Steven reported that the Zapata County signs are installed. The Trevino Fort received the first site ID sign in June. Eventually San Ignacio will be open to the public, but not yet.

#### *San Antonio-Goliad Region Report* presented by Steven

Steven will be speaking in Goliad on February 9<sup>th</sup> with the San Antonio River Authority. Former board member Raymond Starr is facilitating. By the end of the year he hopes we will have new signage in the area.

#### *Brazos Region Report*

Henry gave an update on signage in Brazos County. There will be a meeting with the sign installer on Monday so there should be new signage along the south side of OSR soon.

Maureen has not received much information from TXDoT regarding Robertson County, but Steven reported that Robert Hicks has filed a lawsuit against NPS out of Waco.

John Pruett reported on prospect of a Model Trail Community in Milam County. The Milam County Historical Commission is working on a short video about the history of Milam County that will include the trail.

Three property owners on the Rancheria Grande have certified their property as trail sites.

*East Texas - Caddo Region* presented by Roger

Roger shared a January 12<sup>th</sup> newspaper article from the *San Agustin Tribune* about their tricentennial, which was kicked off at Camino site Mission Dolores. Roger also donated a book on the history of East Texas to the Association.

Chris shared that the new signs in Nacogdoches should happen anytime now. Steven reported that a kiosk opened in Douglas, and next month there is an event at Mission Dolores.

Steve reported on Natchitoches where more possibilities for signage

## **OTHER REPORTS**

**National Park Service Update** presented by Angélica Sanchez-Clark & Aaron Mahr.

Angelica provided updates from the National Trails System office. Mike Taylor from the NTS Cultural Resources team, Steven, and Angélica attended a partnership building meeting in El Paso in November where they promoted the significance of the two Texas Camino Reales.

In December they received word that they received funding for a project including El Camino Real de los Tejas. This will be a cultural resources database – an idea proposed at last year’s Dos Caminos workshop. They are working on organizing a workshop in Zacatecas with INAH in late summer 2017 to develop a protocol for the shared database that will document trail resources for both Caminos on both sides of the border.

At the end of November, Mike, Aaron, and Angélica traveled to Mexico City to meet with INAH as a follow up to the Dos Caminos workshop and finalize a work plan. INAH will organize a symposium on North American cultural routes in Zacatecas this August and want to include the two Caminos.

The interpretation team is completing plans for the Lobanillo wayside signage.

In November, there was also a final NPS NTIR Centennial event at McKinney Falls State Park – about 100 people attended.

The Design and Development team has completed draft plans for signage in Dimmit and Wilson Counties. A rough draft plan for Goliad County (priority for 2018) is also complete. Angélica believes that funding for all three counties will be available this year. They would like to have 3 more priority counties identified for 2018-2019 before the end of the fiscal year. The board previously approved Travis County as a 2018-2019 priority, and will work to determine other priority signing locations.

April 3<sup>rd</sup> is Steve Chavez Burns' target date for completing layout work for opening Lobanillo to visitation. With this plan Steven can get estimates from local contractors.

The history team has a research project underway on biographical sketches of trail participants, with ten narratives planned for El Camino Real de los Tejas. The project is projected for completion by the end of summer 2017.

An Ethnographic Assessment for El Camino Real de los Tejas in the Natchitoches area with a "Tribes of the Trail" guide is underway. The narrative content and images are due February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Estimated date of completion of the guide is December 2017.

Certifications – two new properties received certifications in late 2016 - Lobanillo Swales and the Bauman Family Village Sites in Gause, Texas.

Finally, Angélica is working on editing and translating the Dos Caminos bilingual report. They received the Mexican draft report and are working to get that distributed to all trail partners once finalized. Angélica is also working on translations for the Lobanillo wayside markers.

**Texas Historical Commission Update** presented by Brad Patterson.

For new members, Brad explained that THC has an advisory role and a charge to promote heritage tourism and cooperate with the NPS and the Association on the Camino Real. THC oversees 21 state historic sites including Mission Dolores and Caddo Mounds, which are Camino sites.

Updates: Earlier this month THC's historic site Casa Navarro was named a national historic landmark, which is the highest designation in the US. A celebration will tentatively be held February 23<sup>rd</sup>. This year is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chisholm Trail as well as the centennial of the US entry of WWI. Commemoration for both will be held at the state capital.

This is a budget year. THC has not had ongoing funding for heritage tourism and so they are looking for a permanent solution to that funding area. Similarly, the funding to the Brazos Trail area has been defunct and they are looking to revive it. THC is requesting funding for their state historic sites, especially needed to fully staff Mission Dolores and other sites.

THC continues to work on German Heritage travel guide. They have multiple mobile tour apps available. New exhibits as well as some physical improvements are in the planning stages for Mission Dolores.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjournment at 12:51pm was unanimously approved by motion (Sarah<sup>1</sup>, John P.<sup>2</sup>).

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Sarah Gould.