

**El Camino Real de los Tejas
National Historic Trail Association
Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting
August 25, 2018
Austin, TX**

Meeting was called to order at 10:17 am by Henry Mayo, President. A quorum was present.

Board members in attendance: Cindy Freeman, Chip Briscoe (phone), Henry Mayo, John Pruett (phone), John Kisalus, Lynn Young, Maureen Winn, Rebecca Blankenbaker (phone), Tom Byrd, Chris Talbot, Ellen Clark, and Sarah Gould.

Board members absent: Nancy Deviney.

Others in attendance: Steven Gonzales, Executive Director; Brad Patterson (THC); John Cannella (NPS- phone); Sergio and Melinda Iruegas (GTI Environmental).

Minutes of April's meeting were approved by vote, with a modification of the word "formal" corrected to "format" in the next to last sentence of committee reports. Lynn (1), Maureen (2).

Committee report: Finance, John Pruett, chair, covered the P&L and showed a graph for monthly cash flow. John noted a spike in revenues during the summer. Steve attributed this mostly to the timing of several grants toward archeological research provided by GTI. Lobanillo discussion: Steve said we are through with the major capital costs of Lobanillo, and have netted about \$300. We will keep the line item open for future maintenance activities. The quarterly report was approved: Cindy (1), Ellen (2). The fiscal 2019 budget was approved, subject to a refinement of the Lobanillo line item to reflect increased maintenance expense: Sarah (1), John K (2).

Committee report (written): Governance. Cindy reviewed the committee's recommendation for a reduction in the board from 15 to 9, with 4 regional representatives and 5 at-large. After much discussion, the board consensus is that 11 is a more appropriate number of board members, with 4 regional and 7 at-large. We agreed that having each region represented is important. In cases where a regional resident is not possible, the nominating committee can consider non-residents with strong ties to the region. The committee will work on revising the by-laws to reflect these conclusions and bring back to the board for a vote. Motion to approve, subject to revisions being agreed by board: John K (1), Tom (2).

Executive director report (written): Steve. Subjects covered: I. Talking points for volunteers. II. Lobanillo visitor statistics. The board recommended continuing this practice, at least for a year.

Related theme of E. TX/Caddo visitors: Rebecca asked about getting rack cards to promote this region. Steve says they've been designed, will follow up with Chris and Rebecca. III. Onion Creek park: Steve is working with NPS and GTI to document the trail's role at this site. In time we hope to work with the city of Austin for hike and bike retracement trails. IV. Los Corralitos update: GTI is working with the Mecom family on possible further studies. V. History, Peoples and Places traveling exhibit: Funding from Humanities Texas and Frost bank will cover most of the cost. John K will talk to his contacts at the Southwestern Cattle Assn. for additional funding. Goal is to roll it out approximately one year from now. Lynn suggested contacting Valero for future requests for matching funds. VI. Rancheria Grande: in July, we received a \$50K contract to perform National Register nominations in this area. VII. Annual membership drive continues through 9/30. VIII. Story map: beta testing is ongoing. Functionality was pretty good on projector during our meeting. Steve will contact interested board members for additional testing and feedback, including Maureen, Chris, Tom, and Cindy. Motion to approve Steve's report: Ellen (1), Tom (2.)

Regional and At-Large Updates: John P (written) – Brazos region. Milam County had its initial informational meeting on the Model Trail Community 6/9. An organizational meeting is planned for the first half of September. Cindy (written) – At-Large. Emphasis was on handing out 50 brochures to 50 or more visitor centers this year, which is the 50th anniversary of the Trails system. Sarah, John K, Maureen, Tom, Henry, and Chris volunteered to follow up with specific sites in mind. Cindy will follow up.

National Park Service Update: John Cannella. John talked about several personnel changes, including a new GIS mapping specialist, and an intern who will be working on signage. Programs regarding trail stewardship are being rolled out with the University of New Mexico. The NPS is working with constituent trails on 1 year and 5 year cooperative agreements. He highlighted that we should request annual funding as early as possible. Ongoing signage efforts: Nacogdoches, Travis and Dimmitt counties; and Mission Tejas. They plan to add Lobanillo information to their NPS website.

Texas Historical Commission Update: Brad. Ongoing signage efforts are occurring in San Antonio, Goliad, Nacogdoches, and Dimmitt Co. A recommendation has been made that THC take over 8 more properties from TPWD, including Battleship Texas, San Jacinto, and Washington on the Brazos. THC needs additional funding for staffing at Mission Dolores and San Felipe. The possibility of designating a Caddo National Heritage area is being explored. Real Places conference in January will feature 60 speakers and 24 breakout sessions.

Next meeting: Annual meeting, San Antonio– October 12-13.

Meeting was adjourned by Henry at 1:47 pm.

