

**El Camino Real de Los Tejas  
National Historic Trail Association  
Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting  
July 18, 2020  
Virtual, GoToMeeting**

The online meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Board President Tom Byrd. Board members present were John Pruet, Dave Regan, Sarah Gould, John Kisalus, Cindy Freeman, Rebecca Blankenbaker, Lynn Young, Chip Briscoe, and ELCaT Executive Director Steven Gonzales. Also, online was Superintendent Aaron Mahr and Carol Wendler of the NPS, and Brad Patterson of the Texas Historical Commission.

Items:

1. Approval of the Minutes from April 18, 2020. Lynn Young<sup>1</sup> moved, and Sarah Gould<sup>2</sup> that the Minutes be accepted as presented. The motion passed unanimously. (Action Item)
2. Treasurer's Report (Cindy Freeman)- Lynn Young<sup>1</sup> and John Kisalus<sup>2</sup> moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed unanimously. (Action Item)
3. Administrative Reports:
  - a. Executive Director's Report- A printed detailed report is presented in your Board materials. In summary, Steven reported that the AGE building would not publicly reopen until Travis County sustains two weeks at Austin Public Health's Stage 2. Once the building reopens, tenants will be responsible for the implementation of health checks and cleaning protocols. The small office space was released at the end of April, providing a savings of \$1,400.00 by May 2021. Project Updates:
    - i. GIS & Graphic Design- Melanie Butler of Texas State University's Geography Department has been working towards our GIS internship funded by the National Trails System Partnership since early May. Her work to date has focused on revamping our interactive Storymap. Melanie is also working in the area of graphic design. She is presently working twenty-five to thirty hours per week.
    - ii. NPF Lobanillo- the agreement to issue \$10,000 in funding for installing erosional controls at Lobanillo was signed and submitted on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Once funds are secured, Steven will begin working with S&S Trail and local partners to coordinate the work.
    - iii. Travis County- ELCaT was approached by the Stratfordland Company to help them come up with interpretive information for the Estancia housing development on the Old San Antonio Road in Travis County

in the form of placing pedestrian signage and NPS-branded interpretive panels in the area to create an interpretive walkable, retracement trail (not OSR of Zively/DAR). Tom's daughter Lilly is volunteering toward the project and working through ELCaT to help NPS develop a landscape architecture design for the site. Other partners interested in this project are the Travis County Historical Commission and the local DAR chapter.

- iv. Onion Creek Metro Park Update- In May, a draft Parkland Improvement Agreement was presented to the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD). The documents are intended to solidify the arrangement between ELCaT, PARD, and GTI Environmental. PARD cannot enter into an agreement but can provide a letter of support to help ELCaT and GTI work with potential funders to provide funding towards the research.
- v. Signing: Austin/Travis County- a letter of introduction for the project will go out to local officials in August. The effort will be supported by letters of support from local supporters. Use of FY20 sign funds for replacement signing needs- hopefully, an agreement will be in place by July 22<sup>nd</sup> for replacement panels installation in multiples areas along the trail, targeting specifically Floresville, San Marcos/Hays County, Nacogdoches County, and Sabine and Natchitoches Parishes.

#### 4. New Business

- a. Annual Meeting Committee- the report was included in the Board materials. Due to the ongoing COVID 19 Pandemic, the committee offered three options for the annual meeting, 1) go forward with an in-person meeting at McKinney Falls, 2) hold a virtual meeting, and 3) in place of a meeting, develop a print edition newsletter to be mailed to Association members with updates and ballots for board positions and any potential bylaws changes. The committee recommended the adoption of the #3 option (Newsletter). Cindy Freeman<sup>1</sup> and Lynn Young<sup>2</sup> moved to accept the #3 option (Newsletter). The motion passed unanimously. (**Action Item**) Sarah volunteered to be on the editorial staff and suggested the inclusion of a membership form. The committee will create the outline for content and format the document for the Joint Trail Report.
- b. ELCaT Brochure Task Force Update- Melanie is trained in design. Hopefully, the brochure can be designed edited by Carol Lindneer by October, then share with NPS and be available by our April Board Meeting.
- c. Model Trail Community Update- the report was included in the Board materials. Considerable discussion was given to the Caddo Region Marketing Group, becoming a Model Trail Community. Although not fitting the criteria to become a chapter, the committee is looking into how this group can be incorporated into the Gateway Communities Program. This issue is

considered an action item for the committee, and the committee will recommend a position on this matter.

- d. National Park Service- Aaron is currently on a detail assignment in San Antonio. Thus Aaron deferred to Carole for the NPS report. The 2021 agreement has been signed, and additional funds were requested for technical assistance for the Southwest Border Resources Protection Programs addressing Central and Southwest Texas Indigenous groups. Dos Caminos initiative interpretive data sharing is a year or so away. Brian Deeton is working on a GIS National Historic Trail inventory. Monday is the deadline for sign purchase. Exhibit projects planned from Texas to Louisiana may be completed within the calendar year (e.g., Apache Pass).
- e. Texas Historical Commission- Brad Patterson reported that Sue Shore has retired, and Sarah Page will handle her work. They are working on their budget for the next two years. Sites are open with restrictions; grounds remain open. Caddo Mounds design work has begun. Design and installations for exhibits continue as Mission Delores. The 2021 Real Places meeting will be held online in February. The THC awards deadline is July 31. The Goodnight Ranch facility has been transferred to the agency. They have completed a five-year strategic plan for Heritage Tourism. The staff is currently working from home, and a new foundry for historical markers has been found.
- f. Other-
  - i. Brazos Region (John Pruett)- Do to the Covid-19 pandemic, group activities have been quite limited since March. The May meeting of the Rancheria Grande Chapter was canceled. The Rancheria Grande Chapter did meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July by Zoom. Under the pandemic's current limitations, we are attempting to collect oral histories from select individuals regarding their knowledge of Gause and the surrounding area, and the San Xavier Mission complex and properties. Zoom offers us an excellent platform for invited speakers and interviews. We plan to use Zoom extensively in the coming months.
  - ii. San Antonio/Goliad Region (Dave Regan)- About two years ago, Ex. Director Steven and I met with the Floresville City Manager and the housing developer at the Riverbend golf course. At that meeting, we discussed incorporating a path through the next phase of the housing development that would connect to the end of the existing NHT near the golf course, effectively extending the trail another mile or so. We left the meeting with an informal agreement to add the path. The developer was to develop path plans. Currently, housing is being built. I need to contact the city and developer and confirm that the path is still part of the development, and get a copy of the plan. The plan can then be shared with NPS to certify the new course as part of the NHT.