

ElCaT Board Meeting Notes

Austin, TX

July 16, 2022

In attendance: board members Chip Briscoe, Dave Regan, Cindy Freeman, Executive Director Steven Gonzales; plus John Kisalus and Jesse Trevino via Zoom. (Jesse had a previous commitment but joined part of the meeting, to present the Development report.) Agency partners: from THC, Brad Patterson; via Zoom, NPS Aaron Mahr and Carole Wendler. Newly elected board members Bob Ward and Joyce Conner, whose terms begin in October, attended in person. Board members Rebecca Blankenbaker and Adam Adams were absent.

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 10:18 am by president Cindy Freeman.

Cindy introduced our new board members Joyce Conner and Bob Ward, whose terms begin in October.

Minutes from the April 22 board meeting were considered. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dave Regan and seconded by Chip Briscoe. Motion passed.

Treasurer report: Dave presented the financials. Overall, we are somewhat over budget on income and under on expenses, resulting in net income that's about \$27,800 ahead of budget. A motion to accept the report was made by Chip and seconded by John. Motion passed. Joyce asked about the accounting for chapter revenues. She is the president of the Rancheria Grande chapter. Steve explained that the chapter balance shown on ElCaT's balance sheet is available to the chapter. Reimbursements can be made from receipts.

Steven Gonzales presented the Executive Director's report. Topics covered: Chapter outreach meetings in Central Texas and East Texas; Centex El Camino Real Resources Report; ElCat website issues and upgrade; ElCat board meeting scheduling; Spanish consulate exhibit and educational outreach effort; PNTS November workshop in Albuquerque; and new GIS intern John Erard. Highlights in addition to Steve's written report: the board accepted Steve's recommendation to upgrade the association's website. He will follow up with terms and we will have an e-vote. Board meeting schedule: incoming president Dave Regan will establish a task force in October. Issues: how many meeting per year, and whether to meet on Fridays instead of Saturdays. Separately, we changed the October meeting to Saturday 10/8 from Saturday 10/15 due to conflicts in local events and Dave's travel schedule. After Steve's report, there was a discussion about the potential for new chapters in Victoria/Goliad and Laredo/San Ygnacio. John Kisalus and Chip Briscoe, respectively, will follow up.

Jesse joined the meeting via Zoom during Steve's report, after our discussion about board meeting scheduling. He highlighted a productive conversation with US Representative Henry Cuellar, who seems receptive to engaging with NPS for additional funding for our trail and association. He also said Interior Secretary Debbie Haaland will be visiting Rep. Cuellar's district in November. Rep. Cuellar invited us to

assist in planning her Texas trip. Mitchell Foundation: Chip, Joyce and Steve have been making efforts to connect with the foundation regarding a grant.

We took a brief lunch break from 12:30 to 12:45.

Cindy presented a 2-page handout on our new endowment at TMF in Austin. It included a pie chart of asset allocation, and performance. She pointed out that the portfolio is highly diversified and has a growth tilt. Short term performance has taken a hit along with the stock and bond markets, but long term performance shows returns exceeding our 5% threshold for distributions. TMF has the ability to take in appreciated stock and sell it on behalf of EICat, in addition to donors adding to the existing endowment. She will write a newsletter article on several other planned giving strategies.

Community chapter reports were provided by Joyce (Rancheria Grande) and Dave (Trail de Flores). Joyce presented an initial effort for a logo for the Rancheria Grande chapter. The board gave feedback which she will take back to the chapter. There was support for showing 3 main items, with Native American history featured prominently.

Aaron and Carole provided the NPS update. Aaron mentioned several personnel changes. He also highlighted new financials for our trail: the \$262,000 available for the upcoming year represents an increase of \$59,000 from 2 years ago. Carole said NPS has hired Conservation by Design for a long-term interpretation contract that will include our trail. They are planning a 5 day trip to Texas in December.

Brad presented the THC update. The Texas Time Travel app has been revamped. Management of La Bahia Presidio in Goliad is being transferred to THC. Real Places will be in Austin in early February.

Next meeting: October 8, 2022

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15.