

El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association

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October 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Jesse Treviño, Adam Adams, Joyce Conner, Dave Regan, John Kisalus, Chip Briscoe, Cindy Freeman, Carole Wendler, and Steven Gonzales. Absent were Bob Perkins and Bob Ward.

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order by President Dave Regan. As it was Regan's first meeting as president, he then provided a brief comment about his gratitude for being elected president and he set out expectations that each meeting would focus on efforts tied to the strategic plan.

Meeting Minutes:

Minutes from the October 8, 2022 board meeting were considered. Joyce Conner moved to accept the minutes and John Kisalus seconded. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

The end of year financials, as well as the proposed overall annual budget for FY23, were presented. The end of year financials were accepted, but modifications to the overall annual budget were suggested, primarily the removal of the newly established endowment money from the budget with only its projected revenue to be shown as income within the proposed budget. It was agreed that after the annual budget was revised that it would be shared with the board via email for an electronic vote.

John Kisalus motioned to accept the end of year financials and to conduct an online vote of the proposed overall annual budget for FY23 after the fact. Jesse Treviño seconded the motion and it was approved.

(The proposed overall budget for FY23 was emailed to the board for a vote on October 25, 2022 and approved by unanimous consent by October 26, 2022.)

Executive Director's Report:

Steven Gonzales presented his report with information concerning: 1) the Community Chapter Outreach effort, 2) his placement on San Marcos committees, 3) articles that came from the San Marcos / Hays County Community Chapter effort, 4) the trail resources report being created for Central Texas (Bexar, Comal, Hays, and Travis Counties), 5) potential new candidates for the board of directors, 6) the beginning of natural resource surveys at Lobanillo by the Long Leaf Pine chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists, and 7) and roadway signing efforts in Hays, Houston, Cherokee, Sabine, and Atascosa Counties.

The full report that Steven provided can be seen in the October 2022 board meeting materials.

National Park Service – National Trails office Report:

Carole Wendler, acting superintendent for the trail, presented on a number of items including: 1) that a new task agreement between the NPS and ElCaT is in place for FY23, 2) a new cultural resource specialist and signing intern were hired, 3) a project to digitize walkable segments of the trail is being created, 4) new signage was ordered for San Marcos / Hays County and Brazos County, 5) in Wilson County new roadway signs had been installed; Helton River Park received a site identification sign and hiking panels along one mile of trail;

Floresville mini exhibits are under review; and digital pages have been created for Floresville, and 6) she discussed the ongoing creation of a binational and bilingual international travel itinerary for the trail.

Trail de Flores Community Chapter Report:

Dave Regan lead the conversation on the Trail de Flores Community Chapter report and he discussed the breakdown of trail segments in Wilson County that are based on the Vision of Opportunities document to create a thirty-three mile walkable trail from Mission Espada to the Rancho de las Cabras. He emphasized the need to incorporate elected officials into the initiative and outlined his efforts at doing so. He reported that the chapter had received approval for eighty hours of assistance from the NPS – Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program toward the retracement trail effort from the Rancho to Espada. Dave detailed the work the chapter did with the NPS – National Trails office towards finalizing the Phase II sign plan for roadways in the county, and noted that TxDOT agreed to install the signs on its ROW free-of-charge. And he discussed a glitch within the NPS – National Trails office that had slowed the production of the mini exhibits for the Floresville El Camino Trail, noted that it had been rectified, and that their production was moving forward.

Ranchería Grande Community Chapter Report:

Joyce Conner presented the report for the chapter. In her report, she conveyed that the Conner and Baumann families are continuing their work to establish a hiking trail across their collective properties to allow the public access to sites within the Ranchería. She also stated that they are eager for the NPS – National Trails office to deliver their conceptual site design plan, as well as other interpretive and signage products. Joyce also shared that the chapter is creating subcommittees to work on different aspects of trail needs in the area, such as development and education. It was also shared that the chapter is still working on designing its chapter logo and that it is now in its third or fourth revision. She also informed the board that the chapter is creating an online repository of chapter records via a Google Drive and that recordings were being made of individuals such as former ElCaT President, Dr. Lucile Estell. Joyce also reported that former ElCaT Vice-President, John Pruett is cataloging the condition of NHT signs in the county and that the chapter had an informational table at a groundwater summit in Caldwell County. More so, they are working to create a traveling informational table that can easily be setup at events across the region. She finished out by noting that two chapter members were integral in facilitating the natural resource survey by the Texas Master Naturalists at the Lobanillo Swales.

Meeting Adjournment:

Dave Regan motioned to adjourn the meeting and John Kisalus seconded. The meeting was adjourned by approximately 1:30 PM.