

**El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT Association  
Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting  
July 19, 2013  
Patterson Memorial Library – Rockdale, Milam County, TX**

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 am by Dr. Estell. Quorum was established and an opening prayer was delivered by John Kisalus.

Those in attendance:

Steven Gonzales  
Lucile Estell  
Gary Dunnam  
Chris Talbot  
Duke Lyons  
Henry Mayo  
Chief Davis  
John Kisalus  
Joy Graham  
Irene Ramos – online

Others attending:

Ann Davis  
April Garner  
Aaron Mahr  
Mike Brown, photographer  
Rockdale Reporter

Members absent:

Maureen Brown  
Linda Curtis-Sparks  
Chris Rincon  
George Altgelt

Opening remarks were made by Dr. Estell. She noted the growth of our organization, including the establishment of an official office in Austin. She commented on the need to get “stories” regarding our trail and our organization in print. It is important that our members and the public be aware of our history and our activities. Dr. Estell also commented on the need to increase our income through (1) additional members, and (2) additional sponsors. She put out a challenge to all board members to get \$1,000 in memberships by December. Historical organizations and genealogy based organizations (DRT, DAR, SRT, UDC) are two target areas. Hispanic genealogy organizations should be contacted as well. We need to provide large window decals/cards with our logo on it for all members.

It was pointed out that our by-laws are not static, but need to be reviewed, updated regularly and thoroughly enforced. There must be no unauthorized use of our official logo or that of the NPS.

Minutes of the April meeting were corrected with the addition of the names of Dr. Terry Colley and April Garner who were in attendance. Henry Mayo made the motion, Joy Graham seconded - passed unanimously.

The long overdue presentation to Duke Lyons of the Past President's Award was accomplished, with the board's gratitude and their apologies for the unfortunate delay.

Discussion of financials: Carl, Mo, and Steven met in Austin (in May) and made the suggested changes to the format of the report. Steven pointed out that we only exceeded the current budget on mailings and postage. Gary Dunnam moved that the 2014 Budget be adopted. Chief Davis seconded. Motion passed. Joy Graham pointed out that a "process" for funding the signage projects needs to be in place ASAP. This will avoid re-inventing the wheel. Aaron Mahr recommended that we approve the association's budget in January, so that his office has sufficient time to submit our requests to their superiors.

Report of the Executive Committee: It is recommended to the board that money be transferred from Zavala County to Louisiana to cover cost of signage. There will be very few signs needed in Zavala County, therefore Duke Lyons moved that \$3,000 be transferred to Louisiana from the allotted \$5,000 for Zavala. Maureen Winn seconded. Motion passed. This leaves \$2,000 for Zavala County and provides \$8,000 for Louisiana signage.

Aaron Mahr commented favorably on the Milam County signage and its attractiveness.

Steven Gonzales reported on the preview of the film, "Texas Before The Alamo." It was disappointing on many counts. Apparently the film focused on the preservation of the Alamo in the early 1900s, and not the preceding history. Steven reported that many in the audience walked out of the preview. Apparently a revised version was seen by Chief Davis who was pleased with what he saw. It was suggested that our association withhold our endorsement of the film until we can see the finished product. If we can preview the final cut, we may plan to have it shown the night before our Annual Meeting in Bryan in the outdoor theatre.

Gary Dunnam made a motion and Joy Graham seconded, that Steven be authorized to employ a part time worker for the association office effective August 1. The cost would be \$150 per week (15 hours at \$10 per hour) which equals \$600 per month and \$7,200 annually. The motion passed.

Benefits for the executive director were discussed. It was noted that Blue Cross would provide coverage for \$3,000 annually. Different amounts for retirement were noted: 3% contribution would be \$1,560 annually. 5% would amount to \$2,600 annually. John Kisalus moved and Gary Dunnam seconded that insurance be provided for Steven. Motion Passed. Chief Davis will check for sources of coverage. Gary Dunnam moved and John Kisalus seconded that retirement be provided. The amounts & details will be provided at a later date. Motion Passed.

Duke Lyons reported on the Lobanillo Swales and the progress that has been made toward acquisition of the land by our association. Duke has worked closely with Sabine County officials regarding the status of the 4.1 acres, back taxes owed, etc. Chris Talbot moved to support Duke Lyons' research and suggestions. Gary Dunnam seconded – motion passed. Henry Mayo will attempt to ascertain the exact boundaries of the target property.

A discussion of the Model Trail Community program took place, and the general consensus of the board was that the program looks very good. Duke Lyons moved and Joy Graham seconded that our association adopt the Model Trail Community program for used by our association. Motion passed unanimously.

Gary Dunnam made a motion that the Worley Family, owners of Apache Pass, be designated as our associations first Honorary Members. Joy Graham seconded and the motion passed. The family has certainly been supportive of our association's efforts. We appreciate the use of their facility.

A discussion of proposed changes to our mission statement was led by Chris Talbot. Joy Graham moved that the revised mission statement be approved as mailed. Duke Lyons seconded. Motion passed, with Carl Mica opposed, and Irene Ramos abstaining.

Dr. Estell discussed the need for an ad hoc committee to study proposed additions to the official NPS trail-line. Motion was made by Henry Mayo and seconded by Maureen Winn. Passed unanimously. Dr. John Kisalus was asked to chair the committee, and he accepted.

The executive director's report was given by Steven Gonzales. Of particular interest was his presentation of the idea to use INDIEGOGO to raise funds to acquire the Lobanillo Swales. Board members can visit the official site at:

[www.indiegogo.com](http://www.indiegogo.com)

(NOTE by Gary Dunnam – visit the site and in the search box – upper right – enter Finding Our Way on the Continental Divide. Click on the title and you can see details of the program. Our campaign would be based on this one.)

Duke Lyons motioned to utilize Indiegogo as a fundraising mechanism for obtaining funds to acquire and protect the Lobanillo Swales. Gary Dunnam seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Steven also reported that a grant proposal in the amount of \$15,000 was submitted to the Summerlee Foundation to create curriculum for 4<sup>th</sup> graders taking part in our annual videoconference with the Region 7 Educational Service Center.

Steven is also seeking grant funding from Whole Foods in the form of our participation in Community Giving Day. During CGD, Whole Foods donates 5% of their day's gross sales to a non-profit. Steven hopes for their response to come soon.

Regional reports were given as submitted.

Henry Mayo reported on the progress of our Annual Meeting in Bryan Texas. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hotel LaSalle in downtown Bryan. Several events are being planned in conjunction with our meeting.

Aaron Mahr discussed strategic planning and the need to follow our plan. He also gave an overview of work currently being done on the strategic plan for the Santa Fe office.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Dunnam