

**El Camino Real de los Tejas  
National Historic Trail Association  
Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting  
April 16, 2016  
3710 Cedar St., Suite 161, Austin, TX**

Meeting called to order by Chris Talbot at 10:06am. A quorum was present.

Board Members in Attendance: Tom Byrd, Chief Davis (on phone), Lucile Estell, Sarah Gould, John Kusalus (on phone), Duke Lyons, Henry Mayo, Carl Mica, John Pruett, Irene Ramos, Chris Talbot, Maureen Winn, and Jeff Wright

Others in Attendance: Steven Gonzales, Evangelina Oviedo (Assn. Staff), Brad Patterson (THC), Aaron Mahr (NPS, online)

Minutes from January 16, 2016 Board meeting were unanimously approved without changes by motion (Carl<sup>1</sup>, Irene<sup>2</sup>).

Chris Talbot called for reports from the committees.

**Finance Committee Report**

Steven presented the finance report (written report in Board meeting notebooks).

The Finance Committee met on April 1, 2016.

To avoid overwhelming the members of the board with too many financial reports, the Finance Committee determined to limit the quarterly financial reports to 1) a balance sheet with previous year comparison, 2) a profit and loss sheet arranged by job, and 3) a profit and loss budget performance report. These will be supplemented by 4) a narrative report to give an overall snapshot of the Association's financial health.

The Finance Committee reviewed the proposed FY2017 NPS budget and ECRT budgets.

Two significant points were made about the proposed FY2017 NPS budget: first, the Park Service is no longer putting the \$10,000 for sign funding in our budget, but will instead hold that money and disburse it as needed; and second, NPS has asked us to reduce our budget by 5-10%. We are proposing a reduction of a little over 5%.

Carl asked Aaron to confirm that the \$10,000 sign funding will continue to be available even though it will not be in our NPS budget agreement. Aaron confirmed that there will be no net loss to the Association in terms of signage funds, instead NPS will directly buy the signs using the \$10,000 allocated for El Camino Real de los Tejas signs. Nothing changes in regards to the Association's ability to decide where the signs go.

Duke asked about TxDOT's advance funding agreement and added that bills are currently late from TxDOT.

The proposed FY2017 El Camino overall budget corresponds with the proposed NPS budget, and incorporates a reduction in DC advocacy and small increase in membership. The Finance Committee presented their recommendation to approve both proposed budgets.

The FY17 NPS and Overall Budgets were unanimously approved by motion (Carl<sup>1</sup>, Henry<sup>2</sup>).

**Governance Committee Report** presented by Irene Ramos (written report in Board meeting notebooks).

The South Texas Region is down to one board member (Irene) and currently bylaws require one member from each region for a quorum. The Governance Committee recommends temporarily waiving the regional representation requirement for the July meeting. The Governance Committee will continue to discuss options beyond the July meeting.

By motion the Article V, Section 4 Bylaw requirement of one board member from each region for a quorum was waived for the July 2016 meeting by unanimous approval (Henry<sup>1</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>).

The Governance Committee also noted that multiple members will be terming out of the board in October, and so the board members are asked to submit resumes of potential board members. Chris noted the importance of representation from Louisiana.

Finally, the Governance Committee would like to see some continuity on the Executive Committee and is asking members to consider continuing on the committee.

Henry suggested that we consider a bylaw amendment to let the former-president stay on to complete a term as former president even if termed out.

The Governance Committee report was unanimously approved by motion (Carl<sup>1</sup>, Jeff<sup>2</sup>).

**Development Committee Report** presented by Maureen Winn (written report in Board meeting notebooks).

The Development Committee met on April 11, 2016. The committee discussed the issue of honorariums for Steven's speaking engagements.

Members engaged in a lively discussion on a proposal to have a fee scale for Steven's speaking engagements. Members leaned toward using language of "donations encouraged" rather than an outright speakers' fee.

John did not want Steven to take vacation days to give talks out of town. Chris agreed.

Several members suggested that the ED's job description might need a clause about speaking engagements and honorariums. Carl suggested forwarding the item to the Executive Committee.

By motion, the Board unanimously approved further discussion of speaker's donations by the Executive Committee (Maureen<sup>1</sup>, Jeff<sup>2</sup>).

The Development Committee encouraged members to pursue new memberships through June as they will be valid through 2017.

Chris mentioned fundraising goal setting for board members. Several board members have raised significant funds for signage. Steven noted that the Association has been so successful in raising funds that we have more signage than some of the other older Trail Associations.

Sarah encouraged production of graphics to easily convey the Association's activities and fundraising successes and asked that we have something ready in time for the annual meeting in October. Maureen encouraged keeping track of the board's volunteer hours for the Association. Brad Patterson also encouraged keeping a record of board volunteer hours for an annual report. Duke added that we need to reach out to businesses to join at the business level.

Steven shared a sample sponsor packet with the board, and a design for a business card for board members that can be used when promoting the Association.

Brad suggested changing language on our website and in promotional materials to emphasize that this is a "membership supported" organization. Duke asked that the Executive Committee look into changing this language.

The Development Committee Report was unanimously approved by motion (Henry<sup>1</sup>, Carl<sup>2</sup>).

**Executive Committee Report** presented by Chris Talbot (written report in Board meeting notebooks).

As nearly all items in the written report had already been discussed, Chris focused on the Ranchería Grande project.

The Executive Committee met online to discuss the Ranchería Grande archaeological project in Milam County, and approved moving forward with the project. (Background: the site is on the trail and is an area being considered for a new reservoir. Though it seems unlikely that the reservoir will happen, an archaeological survey has never been done of the site and this survey will ensure documentation of this section of the trail.) Chris noted that everything in the project is in accordance with our agreement with GTI, and so the Executive Committee agreed to accept donated funds for the survey and serve as facilitator to have GTI conduct the study. Steven added that we are applying for a Texas Preservation Trust Fund Grant from THC to add additional funding for the project.

The Rancheria Rio Grande archeological survey was unanimously approved by motion (Carl<sup>1</sup>, Maureen<sup>2</sup>).

**Executive Director's Report** presented by Steven Gonzales (written report in Board meeting notebooks).

At the January THC meeting Lobanillo was designated a State Antiquities Landmark and Mission Dolores was added as a State Historic Site.

Brad added that THC has acquired property that was the first Mission Socorro site. It will be some time before that will be open to the public, but it will eventually add a bookend to Mission Dolores and Texas mission history.

In February, Steven and Chris had a productive meeting with congressional representatives in DC from Texas and Louisiana.

On April 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm all Texas PBS stations will air a special on National Parks in Texas, and El Camino will be featured.

June 4<sup>th</sup> will be an NPS Centennial event at McKinney Falls State Park and El Camino will be there.

Steven has just returned from the Ice Age Trail meeting in Wisconsin. Steven was an invited speaker. He was met with a great deal of enthusiasm about historic and scenic trails. He left thinking about how we can get more people excited about El Camino.

---[end of reports]---

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Regional & At-Large Reports**

*East Texas - Caddo Region* presented by Chief Davis.

Chief Davis noted that he would like to see a written history of the Caddo Region of the trail. Chris asked him about identifying a potential new member from the Caddo Region.

St. Augustine – Duke reported that local signage at Mission Dolores was delayed by conflicting dates of origin (1721 or 1722), but it has been resolved and the signs are now forthcoming.

Chris added that the Nacogdoches area will have some signage in place this fall.

Carl asked about a map with signage in place, signage in the works, and future areas. Chris added this could be an easy graphic.

*Brazos Region Report* presented by Henry Mayo (written report in Board meeting notebooks).

New Trail signage is close to installation in Robertson County pending completion of a contract between TxDOT and the installation contractor. Maureen also noted that a local teacher is working on a children's book about the 1721 journey to Los Adaes and the families that settled there.

Henry is working on getting finished Trail signs installed in Brazos County, but a contract with an installation contractor is not yet in place. He hopes to have the signs installed by the end of the FY or, have the allocated installation funds rolled over if there are unexpected delays.

A meeting was held in Milam County regarding the Ranchería Grande Project, and Milam County Heritage Days will be held April 21-23 featuring a narrated bus tour by Joy Graham and a presentation by Steven.

John also noted that a Trail sign had broken off its pole and fortunately the sign was not damaged and was reinstalled. This prompted Chris to suggest we consider a signage committee.

*San Antonio-Goliad Region Report* presented by Jeff and Steven (written report in Board meeting notebooks).

Signage is in place in Comal County and New Braunfels designating trail crossings and sites. A sign unveiling occurred in San Antonio in March. A class at UT Austin is focusing on the La Bahia Road segment of the Trail. They are developing a conceptual design for a Camino Real visitor's center in Floresville.

Steven added that the June workshop in Laredo with two Camino Real Trail Associations and officials from Mexico is coming up. It is hoped that Zapata County signage will be in place by then.

## **OTHER REPORTS**

**National Park Service Update** presented by Aaron Mahr.

Aaron reported that rack cards and posters have been developed about the National Trails.

He is gearing up for the Dos Caminos workshop in Laredo in June. Steven has been a big help with the logistics of the gathering. Aaron expressed his appreciation for the Association's work to raise funds and advocate for trail development.

NPS is finalizing a plan for Lobanillo and it should be ready for implementation soon.

**Texas Historical Commission Update** presented by Brad Patterson.

Brad reported that the THC has a quarterly meeting in Nacogdoches at the end of the month. Some THC staff will tour the local mission site, and may have time to tour Lobanillo on the morning of April 28<sup>th</sup>.

There may be an opportunity for Steven to write an article about the Trail for the *Authentic Texas* magazine.

Finally, THC will host a heritage tourism conference June 13, 14, and 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjournment at 1:19pm was unanimously approved by motion (Duke<sup>1</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>).

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Sarah Gould.