

**El Camino Real de los Tejas
National Historic Trail Association
Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting
October 21, 2017
Goliad, TX**

Meeting called to order by Chris Talbot at 1:37pm. A quorum was present.

Board Members in Attendance: Tom Byrd, Nancy Deviney, Lucinda Freeman, Sarah Gould, John Kisalus, Henry Mayo, John Pruett, Ellen Riojas Clark, Chris Talbot, and Lynn Young.

Others in Attendance: Steven Gonzales, Brad Patterson (THC), Aaron Mahr (NPS), Carol Wendler (NPS), Brenda Pruett

Board Members Absent: Chip Briscoe, Maureen Winn, Jeff Wright

Minutes from July 15, 2017 Board meeting were unanimously approved without changes by motion (Ellen¹, John K.²).

Chris Talbot called for reports from the committees.

Governance Committee Report presented by Cindy Freeman (written report in Board meeting notebooks).

The Governance Committee recommended a new slate of officers as follows: Henry Mayo, President; Sarah Gould, Vice President; Cindy Freeman, Secretary; John Pruett, Treasurer; Christopher Talbot, Immediate Past-President.

The Governance Committee report recommending a new slate of officers was unanimously approved by motion (Lynn¹, Tom²).

New officer positions will go into effect immediately after today's meeting.

Finance Committee Report

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

Overall for the year we came about where we predicted, but the change in our fiscal year results in the current fiscal year showing an approximate \$800 difference. We still ended up with a surplus of \$1,553.

The finance report was unanimously approved by motion (Cindy¹, Lynn²).

There was no **Executive Committee Report** this quarter.

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

Documenting Our Volunteer Hours - At this morning's annual meeting Carol Wendler (NPS) emphasized the importance of recording volunteer hours, and Steven reiterated this need and shared a form for all board members to use to track their hours. He will also provide an electronic version. We have not done this before, but it will be a critical way to show NPS our efforts on behalf of the trail.

Quarterly submission of volunteer hour forms was unanimously approved by motion (Ellen¹, John K.²)

Suggested Annual Meeting Locations for 2019 & 2020

Steven suggested Austin for 2019 and Natchitoches for 2020 in his written report, but amended the suggestion for 2020 to Rockdale, which is working on a Model Trail Community initiative. There has never been an annual meeting in Austin and Travis County signage will occur in 2019.

Annual meeting locations of Austin for 2019 and Rockdale for 2020 were unanimously approved by motion (Henry¹, Lynn²).

Suggested Signing Locations for FY19 & FY20

Steven suggested targeting Houston and Bastrop Counties during FY19 and Bexar County in FY20. There will be 9 new signs going into San Antonio next year for the Tricentennial, but there are many more places in the County.

Signing in Houston and Bastrop Counties for FY19 and Bexar County for FY20 were unanimously approved by motion (Tom¹, Ellen²).

Development of Regional Rack Cards

Steven presented an idea to print rack cards highlighting authentic trail resources in the region. Communities in each region would be approached about becoming a sponsor at approximately a \$1,000 level to offset the cost and potentially raise money for ELCAT while also promoting the trail. He believed the cards could work in all regions except perhaps the South Texas region where there are limited public trail resources.

Brad offered to talk to Steven about possibilities for working with THC on something. Steven will come back to the board at the next meeting with more ideas in this direction.

50th Anniversary Celebrations

For the 50th anniversary of NTS we will celebrate the opening of the Lobanillo site to the public. The official opening will be in December to mid-January. We will also celebrate at our annual meeting in San Antonio. We will need to identify some sponsors for both activities.

Rancheria Grande Archeological Project - Steven shared a report from GTI Environmental.

---[end of reports]---

NEW BUSINESS

Lobanillo Development presented by Henry Mayo (written report in Board meeting notebooks).

The Lobanillo Task Force met on October 11th. They recommended using in-kind labor and materials from Sabine County for road improvement and creation of the parking lot and trailhead, plus development of the trail loop once a contractor has been selected. Steven will contact the Professional Trail Builders Association to help develop a trail loop contractor contract. The document is expected in early November and the Task Force requested permission to move forward with selecting a contractor once the contract is ready.

Using in-kind labor and materials from Sabine County for road improvement and creation of the Lobanillo parking lot and trailhead, plus development of the trail loop once a contractor has been selected and allowing the Lobanillo Task Force to move forward with selecting a contractor were unanimously approved by motion (John K.¹, Tom²).

Model Trail Community Charter presented by Lynn F. Young (written report in Board meeting notebooks).

Lynn walked the board through an ELCAT Chapter Charter document. Chris and Steven recommended: 1) adding a clause about chapters not being able to take actions that would represent the overall organization – something to provide clarification about governing body vs. chapter appropriate actions, 2) amend to have Community Relations Committee oversee chapter efforts, 3) quarterly reports from the chapters, and 4) submit minutes of chapter meetings to Community Relations Committee and the Executive Director.

Steven mentioned stagnant membership growth as a reason to pursue chapters.

Lynn will add: They cannot speak for the overall organization. They will submit quarterly reports.

With above amendments, the Model Trail Community Charter was unanimously approved by motion (Cindy¹, John K. ²).

April Board Retreat presented by Tom Byrd. Tom shared an idea to have a one-and-a-half day board retreat April 6-7, 2017 at McKinney Roughts in Bastrop. He proposed a mix of facilitated workshops and outdoor team building recreation.

Steven added that typically the spring board meeting is held the third weekend of April and it is the meeting where we work on the budget for the following fiscal year. The retreat and meeting could be combined. Tom will share his PowerPoint with the board and present costs and other possible dates at the next meeting.

A board retreat with an open date was unanimously approved by motion (Ellen¹, Cindy²).

Strategic Plan presented by Cindy Freeman (written report in Board meeting notebooks). Cindy walked the board through the strategic plan that was distilled from the strategic planning sessions held in April.

Steven noted that Goal 3 mentions a Resource Protection Committee and he reminded us that the Lobanillo Task Force started out as a resource protection committee and suggested that the task force once again come to be known as the Resource Protection Committee.

The Resource Protection Committee will be made of the Lobanillo Task force committee as unanimously approved by motion (Tom¹, John K.²).

Chris thanked the Strategic Planning Committee for their hard work on the document.

The Strategic Plan was unanimously approved by motion (Sarah¹, John P.²).

OTHER REPORTS

Texas Historical Commission Update presented by Brad Patterson.

Brad shared that the Texas Brazos Trail has been reconstituted and they are looking for an Executive Director, hope to have the position filed by December.

The budget will support existing staff and the Dolores Mission museum is almost complete. Aiming for a spring opening.

They are working on a Texas Music history trail and a Tom Lea trail. Will be celebrating Texas Travel Trails 50th anniversary. Have two new mobile tours including one on German Texans - for a total of 11 mobile tours.

In January will have a conference in Austin. There will be a development workshop series for Friends of THC.

The Vernon-Hogg Plantation suffered about \$1 million of hurricane damage and Sabine Pass had some damage. Most other sites in the affected areas sustained little to no damage.

Adjournment

Meeting adjournment at 4:25pm was unanimously approved by motion (Sarah¹, Ellen²).

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Sarah Gould.