

**El Camino Real de los Tejas
National Historic Trail Association
Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting
January 20, 2018
Austin, TX**

Meeting was called to order at 10:10 am by Henry Mayo, President. A quorum was present.

Board members in attendance: Chris Talbot, Cindy Freeman, Ellen Clark, Chip Briscoe, Henry Mayo, John Pruett, John Kisalus (phone), Lynn Young, Mick Haven (phone), Maureen Winn, Rebecca Blankenbaker (phone), and Sarah Gould.

Others in attendance: Steven Gonzales, Brad Patterson (THC), Sergio and Melinda Iruegas, President and CEO of GTI Environmental.

Absent: Aaron Mahr (NPS), Nancy Deviney, and Tom Byrd.

Brief introductions were made. Mick and Rebecca are new to the board this year.

Minutes of October's meeting were approved by vote: Ellen (1), John P (2).

Committee report: Finance, John Pruett, chair. Report was approved by vote: Chris (1), John K (2). Discussion: brief discussion on whether membership budget should show a pro-rata amount for partial year; board decided this isn't necessary. Still on membership funds, Steve said a year-end membership recruitment mail-out to about 80 people resulted in revenues of several thousand dollars.

Executive Director report: Steven Gonzales. (Written report provided.)

1. Lobanillo development: we are entering Phase II, involving construction of a ¼ mile loop trail and NPS-designed interpretive signage, as well as road signage near the entrance. Target opening date to the public is late March/early April.
2. TPWD viewing parties: The Texas Parks and Wildlife PBS episode featuring the trail is scheduled for mid- February. Steve encouraged board members to host viewing parties during the live episode, and will be working with TPWD to obtain video clips after the episode to use in publicity events at breweries and other venues in ensuing months, tying into the 50th anniversary of the trails system.
3. Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) – has awarded the association a \$10,00 grant for an intern. The intern's focus will tie into one of our strategic objectives: helping to elevate the identity as a recognizable, significant historical asset for users and stakeholders.

4. Rancheria Grande: the Milam County Certified Local Government has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the National Park Service's Historic Preservation Fund, for writing nominations for the National Register of Historic Places. Sergio and Melinda stated that there are 7 sites in Rancheria Grande that are candidates. Steve will work with Milam County officials to highlight GTI's merits in obtaining the contract.

Adjournment for lunch.

Old business:

Board retreat set for April 13-14. Steve and John K led the discussion on Tom Byrd's behalf. Consensus is that both days' events will be held at the LCRA McKinney Roughts facility in Bastrop. Several board members offered to pay for the facilities fee. There was support for a rafting event on the Colorado River on Saturday. The cost will be about \$40 per person, and it was agreed that each interested person would pay. There are numerous lodging options in the area, including a possible group discount at the nearby Lost Pines Resort. Steve and Tom will coordinate with a former board member who lives in the area.

Model Trail Community (MTC) charter review: Lynn. (Written report including language for new charters was presented.) Board discussion involved making the case for local chapters, and logistics surrounding regular meetings. Steve stated that NPS is an advocate for closer relations with local constituents including MTC's, partly as a result of Department of the Interior emphasis. A few modifications to the language of the charter were suggested, and will be followed up by Lynn in coordination with Cindy and Steve. A vote was taken to adopt the language as modified: Ellen (1), Maureen (2).

New business:

Regional updates

1. South Texas – see written report. Chip and Steve discussed new signage at San Ygnacio, and Chip said the Trevino-Urbe Rancho has been restored. It will be open to the public only on a limited basis. One opportunity to see it might be the San Ygnacio home tour, occurring in early December. Steve said he's been having conversations with representatives of the owners of Los Corralitos about possibly conducting archaeological efforts at the site and potentially donating the site. Conversations are ongoing.
2. San Antonio-Goliad. John K said Victoria is still suffering from after effects from Harvey. The Tonkawa Bank site at Riverside Park just reopened. General discussion: San Antonio 300 events and annual meeting in San Antonio. Discussions continue including establishment of site ID signs in San Antonio. Steve is talking to a resident of Floresville about how to enhance that trail.

3. Brazos region – John P. furthered discussion on the new Milam County chapter. Meetings in Rockdale and Cameron will occur in March. Lynn said an upcoming issue of THC’s “Medallion” magazine will feature Rancheria Grande. Also the Rockdale Reporter just published an article on the site.
4. East Texas/Caddo: Mick. Mick stated that a master plan for redevelopment of Mission Dolores is underway. It will include context of the mission in the larger story of Texas history. On Rebecca’s behalf, the Cane River Heritage Area is seeking a grant for trail resurfacing at Los Adaes.
5. At large: Cindy – highlighted the importance of delivering trail brochures to museums, visitor centers and community events. This led to a discussion about an inventory of our trail signs, by county/region. Steve will work on getting a database.
6. NPS- Steve read notes submitted by Aaron before the government shutdown last night. It emphasized the importance of working with local stake holders. Also it’s important to submit budget requests as soon as possible.
7. THC- Brad. THC and its regions will be coordinating social media contests in coordination with NPS’s Trails 50. Also, there will be a follow- up meeting to the Dos Caminos meeting in Mexico, to be held in New Mexico in March. The “Real Places” conference was a success in turning out a broad range of constituent groups. In response to a question from Henry, Brad said a new director for the Brazos region is in place, and the region’s Facebook page is active again.

Meeting was adjourned 1:15 pm by Henry.

Next meetings:

April 13-14 retreat and board meeting: Bastrop.

July 21: board meeting: Austin.