

**El Camino Real de los Tejas
National Historic Trail Association
Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting
October 12, 2018
The Daschiell House- La Villita
San Antonio, TX**

Meeting was called to order at 10:09 am by Henry Mayo, President. A quorum was present.

Board members in attendance: Henry Mayo, John Pruett, Rebecca Blankenbender John Kisalus, Lynn Young, Maureen Winn, Chris Talbot, Ellen Clark, Sarah Gould, and Cindy Freeman. Absent: Chip Briscoe, Tom Byrd.

Others in attendance: Steven Gonzales, Executive Director; Brad Patterson (THC); Aaron Mahr, Diane Weddington, Brian Deaton, and Sarah Rivera (NPS); Elaine Sullivan, who is coordinating efforts on our traveling Camino exhibit.

Minutes of the August meeting were approved by vote: Lynn (1), Maureen (2).

Committee Report: Governance. John Kisalus filled in for Cindy Freeman, who was running late to meeting. Full slate was approved by vote: Lynn (1), Rebecca (2). The elected officers were: Tom Byrd – President; Sarah Gould – Vice-President; John Pruett – Secretary; Cindy Freeman – Treasurer; and Henry Mayo – Immediate Past-President.

Committee report: Finance, John Pruett, chair, delivered finance report., which was accepted by board.

Executive director report (written): Steve. Section I of Steve's report ties into specific pieces of our recently updated strategic plan. Subjects covered in Section I: signing (Travis County, Wilson County/Floresville). Onion Creek research and consultations are ongoing, which may result in Onion Creek's becoming part of a new hike/bike corridor between Austin and San Antonio. Discussions with NPS and City of Austin continue. Also in I: Future Model Trail Communities include Caddo area, with Nacogdoches potentially a focal point. Another MTC possibility is San Antonio/Goliad. Additional items in part I: interpretive panels at Apache Pass, Floresville, and Drexel Rio Grande overlook; finalization of volunteer talking points; finalization of traveling Camino exhibit, which is being coordinated by Elaine Sullivan, who has a Masters in Preservation Studies from Boston University (expected July 2019); and participation in Mission Dolores site development. Item II: a one page volunteer survey is being developed, which will help meet board needs with board member and other volunteers' interests. Item III: 2019 annual meeting will be in Austin. We hope for Bike Texas involvement and possibly a signing

ceremony for Travis County. IV: ELCAT intern Brian Salvesen, a Texas State student who has worked extensively on our upcoming story map, has been selected to participate in the Trails 50 conference upcoming in Vancouver, WA. V: Lobanillo rack cards are ready; 10,000 printed. VI: Story map: expected to be live by 10/19: first of its kind among NTS organizations.

Motion to approve Steve's report: Chris (1), John K. (2).

Regional and At-Large Updates: John P (written) – Brazos region. The new Rancheria Grande Chapter, our first Model Trail Community, met to organize on 9/11. Officers were selected; group will meet bi-monthly. There was some discussion at today's ELCAT board meeting about finances. The MTC will not have a separate account; money will flow through to ELCAT. This will simplify tax reporting.

Regional and At-Large, Cont'd: Rebecca reported on 2 new NPS grants, of which one will contribute toward renovating the Los Adaes Visitor Center. She also reported on a successful Archaeology Day at Los Adaes last month, when 30 kids attended.

National Park Service Update: Aaron. Aaron mentioned some personnel changes at his NPS division, including expected upcoming retirements. He introduced Brian Deaton, GIS head; GIS team member Sarah Rivera; and Trails 50 intern Diane Weddington. Aaron emphasized that the Cooperative Agreements between NPS and trail associations need robust input and participation from local entities including communities on the trail, and the trail's board of directors. He highlighted several likely NPS priorities that overlap with Steve's director's report.

Texas Historical Commission Update: Brad. The next Real Places conference will be in Austin starting 1/16/19. Registration is up from last year, and 60 speakers are lined up. THC is establishing a new position: Heritage Tourism Program Coordinator, who will oversee THC's 22 sites and oversee the Heritage Trails program. A grant of \$12.2 million for Harvey recovery is expected from NPS. It provides an opportunity to upgrade facilities impacted by Harvey.

Next meeting: January 19, 2019 in Austin.

Meeting was adjourned by Henry at 3:20 pm.