

**El Camino Real de los Tejas
National Historic Trail Association
Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting
April 27, 2019
AGE Building, Austin TX**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Tom Byrd, President. A quorum was present.

Board members in attendance: Tom Byrd, Cindy Freeman, Lynn Young, Sarah Gould, and John Pruett. Members in attendance by on-line GoToMeeting Chip Briscoe, and Henry Mayo.

Board members absent: Rebecca Blankenbaker, Ellen Riojas Clark, Chris Talbot, and Dave Regan.

Others in attendance were Steven Gonzales (Ex. Director ELCAT), Elaine Sullivan (ELCAT staff), Brad Patterson (Texas Historical Commission), and from the National Park Service, John Cannella, Kristin Van Fleet, and Jeff Denny.

Minutes of the January 2019, meeting were approved as corrected (spelling of Peterson corrected to Patterson) by vote: Lynn¹, Cindy², unanimous. (Action Item)

Committee Report: Finance, Cindy Freeman, Chair, delivered the finance report. The discussion focused on the Profit and Loss Budget Performance sheet. An item was posted for Web/Communications for \$420.00 with no budget for Web/Communications. Ex. Director Steven suggested that this should have been posted to Telephone, Telecommunications. Income from the Model Trail Community Chapter appears as Chapter Dues on the Balance Sheet Previous Year Comparison. A column in the Profit and Loss by Job will be created for the Model Trail Community (Rancheria Grande Chapter) for the designation of these funds. The report was accepted by vote: Lynn¹, Sarah², unanimous. (Action Item)

Committee Report: Governance, Cindy Freeman, Chair, deliver the report, and a copy was included in the Board Book. The Committee recommends, and submitted as a motion, that the Board revises its membership cycle to a rolling basis instead of our current policy of a fixed annual period. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (Action Item)
A discussion regarding implementation followed this action. This discussion resulted in resending the Committee's proposal, Lynn¹, and Sarah², unanimous vote. (Action Item)
Lynn¹ moved and Sarah² that we accept the Governance Committee's recommendation that the Board revises its membership cycle to a rolling basis instead of our current policy of a fixed period, and that the revision is effective immediately (April 27, 2019). The motion passed unanimously. (Action Item)

Executive Director's Report (written report available in Board Book)

- a) Annual Meeting Update: Reported a request to change the 2019 Annual Meeting from Austin to Milam County. Lynn¹ moved and Cindy² that the Annual Meeting

location is changed from Austin to Milam County and that the meeting convenes the weekend of October 11-12, 2019. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

(Action Item)

- b) Onion Creek update: The Exec. Director reported that he was pleased by the support of the city and the potential of engaging multiple partners towards the project. ELCAT will submit a partnership proposal to the city via its Community Activated Parks proposal portal that will formalize the project proposal. Shared historical resource information can be shared with a city generated Google drive. ELCAT will also need to work with Onion Creek Metro Park District, supported by taxes paid by the Goodnight Development residents, for developments within the park.
- c) Lobanillo Visitor Statistics: A game camera monitors the site, and the resulting report was prepared by Chris Talbot and presented graphically in the Board Book.
- d) Public Relations Update: The Exec. Director reported on the PR talking points when making presentations on the trail. This information included available PowerPoints and the finalization of regional Rack Cards. Any edits/additions to the Rack Cards are requested by mid-May.
- e) Signage proposals for FY 21 and FY 22: Cherokee and Bastrop Counties are scheduled for signage in FY21, with Atascosa and Karnes Counties in FY 22.
- f) Survey of sign damage in Counties affected by spring storms: Five signs were damaged in Robertson County. Lobanillo Swales had a few small tree limbs in the trail, and erosion was observed. A damaged tree needs to be removed at the trailhead. Chris Talbot will take care of the tree problem.

Staff Report: Elaine Sullivan prepared an extensive update on the traveling display, and the report can be found in your Board Book. It is anticipated that the display will be completed by this July, and available for the Annual Meeting for presentation. There will be an effort to translate the display into Spanish, and considerable discussion ensued as to how best to accomplish the translation.

Regional Reports:

- a) Brazos Region: A written report is included in your Board Book. The MTC, Rancheria Grande Chapter, is conducting a sign survey within Milam County. The Chapter has prepared an interactive Google map, and a PowerPoint of the locations listed in the Signage Plan. It appears that a few signs may not have been installed from the plan that we have. Thus, we need the final plan or check with the agencies with the responsibilities for sign installation.
- b) San Antonio/Goliad: The agreement for signing has moved forward, and a meeting for the formation of an MTC should occur this summer.
- c) It was reported that Dr. John Kiskus wishes to continue to work with the Board in the Victoria area.

National Park Service Update: John Cannella, Acting Superintendent, provided the update. Aaron Marr remains on a temporary assignment. New staffing requirements need to be met by

new hiring as a result of several retirements. John explained the difference between a task agreement and a grant. With the task agreement, we work together, and excellent communication is essential. The renewal of the five-year Cooperative Agreement and the task agreement for FY 20 are pending, and a decision should be available by July. A joint meeting held with TxDOT this week was very productive, and perhaps this will improve the efficiency of signing. John stressed the importance of building capacity building and identifying grant sources. Jeff Denny, interpretive specialist, spoke to interpretive signs at Apache Pass and the TxDOT pull out, Rio Grande Overlook. Jeff and Kristin visited East Texas locations this past week and listed highlights of Mission Delores, Los Adaes, and a project led by Professor Pat Stevens-Williams at Stephen F. Austin University, whose students were eager to get into real life projects.

Texas Historical Commission: Brad Patterson reported on the extensive storm damage at Caddo Mounds. The site is closed, and plans are ongoing as to how to proceed forward. In the short-term surviving structures will be repurposed for a visitor center. A Friends organization is suggesting raising funds to replace the grass hut. Hurricane Harvey funding remains available through the end of this May. Brad discussed pending legislative action in the Texas Legislature. During the discussion of legislative matters, Sarah informed the Board of proposed changes to the National Register nominating process and will provide Board members with additional information by email.

Cindy¹ moved and Lynn² for adjournment at 2:10 p.m., motion passed unanimously. (Action Item)