

**El Camino Real de Los Tejas  
National Historic Trail Association  
Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting  
January 18, 2020  
3710 Cedar Street, Suite 161  
Austin, Texas**

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Tom Byrd. Other board members in attendance were John Pruett, Dave Regan, Chip Briscoe, Cindy Freeman, Sarah Gould, John Kisalus, and Lynn Young. Not in attendance were Rebecca Blankenbaker and Chris Talbot. The meeting obtained a quorum for business.

Others in attendance were Steven Gonzales (Executive Director of ELCaT), NPS personnel included, Superintendent Aaron Mahr, Carol Clark (Visitor Use, Experience, and Engagement- Interpretation), and Guy McClellan (Historian), and from the Texas Historical Commission, Brad Patterson (Division Director, Community Heritage Development).

Items:

1. Approval of the minutes from the Annual Meeting, October 11, 2019. A motion was made by Cindy Freeman<sup>1</sup> and seconded by John Kisalus<sup>2</sup> to accept the minutes as presented with one correction (Brad Patterson was not in attendance at the Board Meeting, but was in attendance for the Membership Meeting). The motion passed by unanimous vote. (Action Item)
2. Executive Committee Report – the report of the committee is provided in detail in your Board materials. In summary, the committee is recommending the formation of five *ad hoc* committees to establish Board work and volunteer activities towards 1) Annual Meeting planning, 2) Model Trail Community Chapter Formation, 3) Association Brochure development, 4) Site Certification / Site Identification Signage Outreach / Exhibit Panel Inventory, and 5) Joint Trail Report / Volunteer Recognition Task Force. It was also recommended that each Board member donate forty hours or more volunteer time each fiscal year. Lynn Young<sup>1</sup> and Chip Briscoe<sup>2</sup> moved and seconded that the Board accepts the recommendations of the Executive Committee. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (Action Item)

The Board President and the Executive Director will appoint Board members to these committees based upon their interest and expertise. Committees assignments made at this meeting include 1) Annual Meeting – John Kisalus, John Pruett, and Lynn Young; 2) Model Trail Communities – John Pruett, Dave Regan; 3) Brochure – Sarah Gould, Chip Briscoe, Cindy Freeman, with NPS coordination; 4) Site Certification – Dave Regan, Chip Briscoe, and John Pruett the Rancheria Grande Chapter, MTC; 5) Trail Report – provide deliverables from all committees.

3. Finance Committee Report – The detailed Finance Committee report presented by Treasurer Cindy Freeman is included in the Board materials. A discussion of grant overhead fees charged by the association ensued, and it was resolved that for now, the charge would remain at 5%. Lynn Young<sup>1</sup> and John Kisalus<sup>2</sup> moved and seconded that we accept the Treasurer's report as presented. The motion passed unanimously. (Action Item)
4. Executive Director's Report – the detailed report is included the Board materials. In summary, the Executive Director discussed 1) Grants for FY20: Intern grant (NPS) of \$10,000; Tejano Ranching Grant (San Antonio Conservation Society) of \$10,000; National Park Foundation, Lobanillo Erosional Control Grant of \$10,000; Travis Audubon Society, Blair Woods Historical Research Project, \$15,750; 2) Signing- in Travis County, Bexar County, and Wilson County; 3) Onion Creek Metro Park and Old San Antonio Road Development, a community activated parks proposal was submitted to the City of Austin in November for historical and archaeological research to take place at Onion Creed Metropolitan Park to determine its potential connection to the trail; 4) 2020 Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place in the Austin area, and volunteer assistance is needed.
5. Regional and At-Large reports- A written report for the At-Large report and a San Antonio/Goliad Region report by Dave Regan was included in the Board materials.
  - a. At-Large- November 20, 2019, Board members, including President Tom Byrd (Presenter), attended the Milam County Economic Development Summit IV. November 21, 2019, Tom Byrd met with Ron Ralph (archeologist, former TAS President) about relevant sites in Travis County. December 27, 2019, Tom and Eloise Byrd visited Camino site In Leon County and recruited on ranch family north of Normangee to ELCaT membership. Tom filed drone images and a field report to the Executive Director, January 16, 2020. ELCaT member Nancy Byrd, her husband Bill Moore, and Tom Byrd investigated the site of the Bolm Road parkland slated for future development.
  - b. Regional, San Antonio/Goliad (Dave Regan)- Floresville created a Hike and Bike Committee in July of 2019 to assist the City Manager with creating a strategic vision of the trail. The creation of the "Trail de Flores," Model Trail Community in Floresville, has been completed with the signage of their Charter at the January 2019s meeting of the Board. All signs from the original Wilson County Sign Plan have been received and installed. A follow-up plan has been developed to move a sign to a new location. The Wilson County Road Runners donated \$2,500 to ELCaT for interpretive panel installation at each end of the Floresville trail. Sarah Gould spoke to interpretive panels in western San Antonio. John Kisalus mentioned that the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of coastal Spanish Missions was being planned in Goliad, and perhaps the ELCaT FY 21 or 22 Annual Meeting could coincide.

- c. Regional, South Texas (Chip Briscoe)- San Ygnacio is in the crosshairs of the border wall construction. The people that favor the wall are in a distinct minority as the wall will lead to increased enforcement activity and impact bird sanctuary and birding opportunities. Chip also spoke to his projects in Cotulla, Texas.
  - d. Regional, Brazos- The Texas Historical Commission Board of Review met in Brownsville, Saturday, January 11, 2020, to approve the nomination of the Rancheria Grande to the National Register of Historic Places. Attending were Steven Gonzales (Executive Director, ELCat), Sergio and Melinda Iruegas (GTI), Joyce and Mike Conner (Landowner), Elaine and Gene Baumann (Landowner), Joan and Jerald Wise (Landowner), Geri Burnett (MCHC), and Lynn Young (ELCaT, Chair MCHC). The nomination was approved.
6. National Park Service- Superintendent Mahr introduced Carol and Guy to the Board. Carol is an interpretation specialist with a background in education and interpretation and can be an interpretive trainer. Guy is a historian, graduating from the University of New Mexico with a Ph.D. in History. The federal budget is looking good at either to remain at present funding with the potential to some increase. Listed priorities for the coming year include site certifications, media development, and perhaps training opportunities in historical documentation at the ELCaT Annual Meeting. Carol provided an update on interpretive panels with Floresville, Goliad, Rio Grande Overlook, Apache Pass, Mission Delores, and Los Adaes, all in the works.
7. Texas Historical Commission- Real Places Conferences had greater than 600 attendees. Work is ongoing at Mission Delores, and Caddo Mounds is officially open in temporary facilities. The Caddo Nation is involved in the rebuild of the site.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m. by unanimous vote, John Kisalus<sup>1</sup>, and Lynn Young<sup>2</sup>. (Action Item)