

**El Camino Real de Los Tejas
National Historic Trail Association
Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting
April 18, 2020
Virtual, GoToMeeting**

The online meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m. by Board President, Tom Byrd. Board members present were John Pruet, Dave Regan, Sarah Gould, John Kisalus, Cindy Freeman, Rebecca Blankenbaker, Lynn Young, and Chip Briscoe. Joining us online was Superintendent Aaron Mahr of the NPS.

Items:

1. Approval of the Minutes from January 18, 2020. Lynn Young¹ moved Cindy Freeman² that the Minutes be accepted as amended (on to one). The motion passed unanimously. (**Action Item**)
2. Treasurer's Report (Cindy Freeman)- There was a brief discussion regarding membership payments being behind; however, most are not due until October. Cindy is working with the traveling exhibit speaking with Washington on the Brazos and San Felipe. Trail signage expenses for Hays/San Marcos and Floresville are expected to be completed this year. Because of travel restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a surplus will exist in the 2020 budget. Executive Director is asking that \$4,010.00 be redistributed into a \$1,400.00 bonus for the Executive Director and the remainder to office supplies, etc. Superintendent Mahr supports the reallocation of funds as long as the amount is less than 10% of the budget. A discussion of a pay raise for the Executive Director for the upcoming cooperative agreement was initiated. The Ex. Director pay will be an item for Executive Committee consideration. Cindy Freeman¹ moved, and John Kisalus² the acceptance of the Treasurer's report. The report was accepted by a unanimous vote. (**Action Item**)
3. Administrative Reports: Executive Director's Report- A printed detailed report is presented in the Board Materials. A summary of the report includes adjustments that have been made to the work schedule due to the pandemic. The office has been closed and the Ex. Director and interns remain working from home. The AGE Building has banned all meetings within the buildings but allows individual organizations access to their offices. Due to working remotely for the foreseeable future, the small office has been returned to AGE, saving \$1,400.00 per year. Melanie Butler of Texas State University will accept the paid internship funded by the Partnership for the National Trails System. The funding paperwork (\$10,000) for the installation of erosion controls at Lobanillo has been submitted to the National Park Foundation to have the funds transferred to ELCaT. Covid-19 has impacted

signing in Austin/Travis County and the Ex. Director is working with County officials. To use funds slated for signing the Ex. Director is reaching out to various areas for replacement panels. Sign inventories have been received from San Marcos and Hays County, Floresville, Sabine and Natchitoches Parishes. Nacogdoches County will not be able to survey due to the pandemic. A discussion ensued regarding the disposition of old signs. It was generally agreed that those signs should be recycled and we should develop a policy for recycling old signs. In other matters, the Ex. Director had an online meeting with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation staff and GTI about moving forward with the Onion Creek Metro Park historical resources and archaeological survey. Upper-level management was supportive. Concerning funding, it was agreed that the City would incur no cost, and ELCat would seek grant and private funding for the project.

4. New Business

- a. Annual Meeting Committee- The annual meeting is scheduled for the 4th weekend on October 23-24, 2020, at the McKinney Falls State Park facility. A detailed report was included in the Board Materials.
- b. ELCaT Brochure Task Force- a detailed committee report was included in the Board Materials.
- c. Model Trail Community Task Force Update- a detailed committee report was included in the Board Materials. Much of the discussion centered on the development of logos and an MTC toolkit.
- d. Site Certification/Site Identification/Exhibit Task Force Update- a detailed committee report was included in the Board Materials.
- e. Joint Trail Report/Volunteer Recognition Committee Update- a detailed committee report was included in the Board Materials. The committee will focus on 1) releasing an annual report in conjunction with NPS on trail developments and other trail news during the year, and 2) recognize volunteers for their effort.
- f. NPS Update- Most of the process has been completed for the 2020-2021 funding agreement. It is being reviewed and is expected to be approved. NPS is working with groups contracted to do exhibits and orientation panels for various ELCaT sites and will review their plans. The Federal Highway Administration has streamlined work with Tx DOT. They are working on a mobile app, seeking input, and developing a workshop on how to use the app. A TAMU professor is working in South Texas studying the indigenous people. The NPS is working with the Mexican National Institute of Natural History on the renewal of an MOU regarding US/Mexico cultural resources data sharing. Develop a workshop effort with additional financial support for ELCaT to help support. Pursue the effort in FY 21-22-23 with a comprehensive interpretive plan with Mexican participation. The ELCat Board would need to commit to the workshop date and would support as host. This conference will be the 2nd Dos Cominos Conference. NPS is also teleworking.

- g. THS- no report
- h. Regional Reports-
 - i. Dave Regan, San Antonio/Goliad- a Chapter meeting for the Floresville MTC was held in January, and the Floresville Market, the logo, Wilson County signage, and Covid-19 plans were discussed.
 - ii. Chip Briscoe, South Texas- Chip discussed the issue with the border wall and how it will be threatening Camino resources. An effort to designate a National Historic Landmark District has started.
 - iii. Rebecca Blankenbaker, East Texas/Caddo Region- will provide a note.

5. Announcements- the next Board meeting will be July 18, 2020.

6. John Kisalus¹ and Lynn Young² moved to adjourn at 12:16 p.m. Motion approved.
(Action Item)