

EICaT Board Meeting Notes
via Zoom
October 22, 2021

In attendance: board members Tom Byrd, Lynn Young, Chip Briscoe, Adam Adams, John Kisalus, Judge Bob Perkins, Dave Regan, Cindy Freeman, Jesse Trevino, and John Pruett; Executive Director Steven Gonzales; and Agency partners Aaron Mahr and Carole Wendler from NPS. Brad Patterson from THC was absent due to a board conflict. Board member Rebecca Blankenbaker was absent.

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by president Cindy Freeman, who took the minutes in the absence of secretary Lynn Young, who attended by phone while traveling.

Minutes from the July 17 board meeting were considered. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dave Regan and seconded by John Kisalus. Motion passed.

Treasurer Dave Regan presented the financials and proposed 2022 budget. A motion to approve both items was made by Chip Briscoe and seconded by John Pruett. Motion passed.

Cindy presented the minutes of the Governance Committee meeting that was led by Lynn Young. The first 2 items, involving a change of the annual meeting timeframe from the fall to March/April, and the definition of a quorum to specify a majority of the Directors present, were presented as a matter of information. Our membership has submitted votes online, and Steve says both motions have earned enough votes to pass. Judge Perkins made a motion to clarify the quorum issue. His motion states: "A majority of the Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business." John Pruett seconded the motion, and it passed. We will ratify this change with a membership-wide vote at the spring annual meeting next year. Cindy also presented the names of the Executive Committee who will be serving through the Spring of 2023, based on the new annual meeting timing. President: Cindy Freeman; Vice President: John Kisalus; Treasurer: Dave Regan; Secretary, Lynn Young; Immediate Past President (non-voting): Tom Byrd. A motion to accept was made by Judge Bob Perkins and seconded by John Pruett. Motion passed.

Strategic plan: John Kisalus presented the new 5 year strategic plan after reviewing the expiring 3 year plan. Overall we made good progress toward the old plan, especially considering the pandemic. With regard to the new plan, Dave asked that we add a reference to "members" in addition to the stated "partners" in our introductory material. He also asked that we add the term "chapter" to 2 references to Model Trail Communities, and suggested we quantify our goals in relation to future MTC's. The board agreed to reference a goal of 5 new MTC's and accept Dave's other changes. A motion to accept the amended strategic plan was made by Lynn and seconded by Tom Byrd. The motion passed.

Steven Gonzales presented the Executive Director's report. Topics covered: Bylaws membership mailout; joint trail report; intern update; signing efforts along the trail; Estancia developments along with Old San Antonio Road bridge dedication (scheduled for 12/4); Onion Creek Metro funding update;

new Storymap, with release targeted by 12/31/21, new EICaT brochure, expected to be finalized by January board meeting; new interpretive panels at Rio Grande overlook; and PNTS November workshop.

We took a brief break from 11:50 to 12:00.

MTC reports: Dave presented an update on Floresville, including pending questions about land ownership along the old route to Mission Espada. NPS interpretive signs should be arriving soon. Consideration is being given to having an artist paint a mural on the water towers along the route. Steve knows 2 artists, and arts funding may be available. The Floresville chapter is willing to host our April 2022 annual meeting. John Pruett presented an update on the Rancheria Grande chapter in Milam County, focusing on a virtual tour that will soon be available on video. John and Lynn said there's a new mural on a wall in Rockdale that references the Camino.

Aaron and Carole gave an NPS update. Interested parties are invited to contribute to their wayside sign inventory, via an app. In terms of personnel, they are looking for a GIS specialist and hope to have someone hired by 12/31. Updates on signage in Sabine and Wilson counties were given. They are working with a contractor on a comprehensive video project featuring significant sites along National Trails, including our Camino. Once the videos are complete, an effort will be undertaken to add audio. This is a major project with uncertain completion date, at which time the videos will be put on their website.

Brad gave an update from THC. Caddo Mounds will be receiving an NPS Connecting Trails to Parks grant to enhance the Camino portion of their site. The state fair in Dallas will be held from September 24 to October 17. There will be an opportunity for EICaT to publicize our work. Mission Dolores is expected to reopen soon, with exhibit installations currently underway. The agency has also initiated the process of undertaking its 10 year statewide preservation plan and we are encouraged to get Camino resources and needs incorporated into it.

THC written report: Steve gave a brief summary. Mission Dolores reopened October 9th. A free webinar about the Camino is scheduled for November 10th. Steve and Brad will be presenting, along with staff from Mission Dolores and Caddo Mounds. Cindy asked about any future potential for THC to take over Lobanillo. Steve responded that there is a chance of this happening in the future, with EICaT becoming a "friends" group along the lines of other THC sites.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m .