



## MINUTES

### DALLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

December 9, 2021

Commission Chair Juanita Nañez called the meeting, held at the Aldredge House on 5500 Swiss Avenue in Dallas, Texas, to order at 11:40 a.m.

**Members present:** Juanita Nañez, Coy Poitier, John Roppolo, Roosevelt Nichols, Jearlene Miller, Elizabeth Gunby, Patricia Hicks, Jim Gaspard, and Jerry Hawkins.

**Members absent:** Elizabeth DeLeon, Priscilla Escobedo, Rose-Mary Rumbley

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Ms. Nañez welcomed all members and attendees. Mia Brown noted a quorum was present.

**2. Public Comment**

RuLan Hebeler, President of Dallas County Medical Society Alliance Foundation, welcomed the Dallas County Historical Commission (DCHC) members to the Aldredge House, which has been the Foundation's headquarters since 1974. She noted that the furniture is from all three previous owners going back to 1917 and the house has been decorated this month to recreate the last owner's Christmas trees.

**3. Approval of the November 11, 2021, Minutes**

Mr. Roppolo moved and Ms. Miller seconded that the minutes from the Commission's November 11, 2021, meeting be approved. This motion was approved unanimously.

**4. Events**

**a. Legacies Dallas History Conference January 2022**

Ms. Gunby said that the conference will be virtual. The DCHC approved a sponsorship in the amount of \$100 at the November meeting and the payment is currently in process.

**b. Florence Ranch Homestead 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Ms. Gunby shared that she attended the November meeting of Historic Mesquite, Inc. There was no quorum and no business was conducted. The DCHC is invited to visit the Florence Ranch Homestead, a Texas Recorded Historical Landmark, for Christmas at the Ranch, celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the homestead. The event will be held on December 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 1424 Barnes Bridge Road.

**c. Remembering Black Dallas Historic Marker Training**

Mr. Roppolo presented on behalf of the DCHC at this event.

**d. THC Regional Planning Workshop**

Ms. Hicks attended the Regional Planning Workshop in McKinney at the Historic Collin County Courthouse and described the event. These workshops are held every ten years and include stakeholders such as county historical commissions, non-profit organizations, and homeowners. This meeting was part of Phase 1 of the 2022-2032 Texas Statewide Historic Preservation Plan. Phase 1 takes place from June 2021 to February 2022 and “focuses on community engagement, defining Texas stakeholder needs and opinions related to historic preservation, and developing a base line of information for analysis and decision making.” Phase 2, which will include additional stakeholder input and focus on utilizing information from Phase 1 to create draft and final deliverables, will run from March 2022 to October 2022.

**5. Dallas County Chronicle**

**a. Article Deadlines & Assignments**

The fall issue of the Chronicle will be released later this year. Ms. Nañez said that article assignments will be revisited. Mr. Tamayo stated that he had not yet received any submissions for the upcoming edition. Mr. Hawkins stated he would send one in soon.

**b. Latest Issue and Audience**

Mr. Tamayo said that Chronicle readership is steady. Mr. Hawkins suggested that the Chronicle could be printed for wider distribution if there is adequate budget.

**6. Committee Reports**

**a. Chronicle Circulation, Increasing Readership**

Mr. Nichols said that a portion of the Chronicle will be published in the March edition of the Lancaster city newsletter, which reaches 48,000 readers. He is going to meet with other potential publication partners after the holidays.

**b. Marker Committee**

Mr. Roppolo did not have an update. He thanked Ms. Hicks, Ms. DeLeon, Ms. Gunby, and Ms. Nañez for their help in the marker approval process.

**c. Untold Marker Committee**

Ms. Hicks stated that to date there have been no County Untold Marker applications. She said that the 2022 THC marker application period will run from March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, to May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The county historical commissions must submit their approved applications to the THC by May 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. and payment for markers must also be submitted. Ms. Hicks will work to set internal deadlines for receiving applications in time to submit to the THC.

**d. Media Committee and Film Festival Updates**

Mr. Poitier did not have an update for the Dallas International Film Festival. He stated he will share meeting links and updates on the Dallas County Historical Commission Facebook page.

## **7. Goals and Objectives Updates**

### **a. Use of Slogan**

Ms. DeLeon was not present to provide an update. Ms. Nañez stated that 2022 is a good time to fine tune the DCHC's goals and objectives. She reviewed the current goals and their completion status and praised the DCHC members for their efforts to date.

### **b. Attendance at Other Local Historical Organizations**

Ms. Miller thanked Ms. Gunby for attending the Historic Mesquite, Inc. meeting and Ms. Hicks for attending the THC Regional Planning Workshop. She invited the DCHC members to attend the Irving Heritage Society's local marker dedication on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. at 777 Hidden Ridge Drive.

## **8. Upcoming Meetings**

### **a. Meeting Locations**

Ms. Brown told the DCHC that the Records Building Complex renovations are scheduled to be complete sometime in January or early February. The Commission will need to continue to meet at alternate locations until an appropriate County meeting facility is identified. A location for the January meeting is to be determined.

### **b. Next Meeting Date: January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Ms. Brown noted that the next meeting date is set for January 13th, 2022.

## **9. Adjourn**

There being no other business, Ms. Nañez adjourned the meeting at 12:33 p.m.





#### **An Application to the County:**

Every county in Texas has a historical committee vested with the responsibility for submitting applications for historical markers to the State. Once an applicant has completed an application, including the on-line form, narrative and other attachments, it is sent to the County Marker Chair which is I, John Roppolo, in this case. I then review the entire application to assure that all parts are present, then send to the two members of my committee plus our commission chair and co-chair. They read and review the application and rate it using the guidelines on the state website. We pay close attention to all required signatures, especially the property owner, the quality of the narrative, and any attachments. The committee members then communicate with me---giving the application an approval, an approval with corrections to be made or rejection usually based on a poorly written and undocumented narrative. The application then goes to the full Dallas County Historical Commission for its vote. Once approved, the application along with the \$100 deposit goes to the State for their procedure by deadline. It is important to note that the county's deadline is not the same as the State. We must have at least a month to complete the local process so look on the county's website to ascertain the deadline. Make note of the following important criteria—use the correct form when submitting subject, landscape or cemetery applications. Use a Word document and 12 point type. Make sure the subject or building is more than 50 years old.

Last year Dallas County Historical Commission submitted eight applications and received approval for all eight. They include Collins Radio Project 1, Attorney J. L. Turner Jr., St. John Missionary Baptist Church, Kiest Memorial Gardens, Dr. M.L. King Jr. 1966 Speech at SMU, New Hope Baptist Church, Junius Heights Neighborhood and Hall of Negro Life.

#### **An Application to the State:**

The Marker application and \$100 check go to the state which sends it to members of the THC who read and review the applications based on the criteria on the state website. Usually we do not hear back from them until the application is approved which is usually less than a month after the deadline. Once approved, I am notified along with the applicant. Your fee for the marker plaque is then due. After several months you will receive the inscription for the plaque written by the THC staff which you may edit or accept. Once sent back to THC, there is a long wait for months for the foundry to design the plaque. The finished product will be sent to the applicant and a marker ceremony can be planned.

Dates for submitting applications to State annually fall during the months of March-May with fees typically due by the month of September

Number to be awarded in 2022: 185—170 plus 15 Undertold

Topics to be favored in 2022: Communications, Industry, Business & Commerce, National Resources (extra points given for one of these topics)

*Please join the  
Irving Heritage Society and Las Colinas Association  
for the*

*Hackberry Creek Ranch  
Historical Marker Unveiling*

*Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at 2:30 pm*

*777 Hidden Ridge Drive at Carpenter Ranch Road*

*RSVP*

*972-252-3838*

*[irvingheritagesociety@yahoo.com](mailto:irvingheritagesociety@yahoo.com)*

*This project is a partnership of the Irving Heritage  
Society and the Las Colinas Association, with  
assistance from the City of Irving and Pioneer  
Natural Resources.*

*Photos courtesy of Las Colinas Association.*



*Hackberry Creek Ranch Historical Marker Unveiling  
Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at 2:30 pm*