



MINUTES

DALLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

June 9, 2022

Commission Chair Juanita Nañez called the meeting to order at 11:43 a.m. This meeting was held at the Dallas County Oak Cliff Government Center at 702 E Jefferson Blvd, Dallas, TX, 75203.

Members present: Juanita Nañez, John Roppolo, Priscilla Escobedo, Jim Gaspard, Coy Poitier, Roosevelt Nichols, Elizabeth DeLeon, Jearlene Miller, and Jerry Hawkins.

Members absent: Patricia Hicks, Elizabeth Gunby, and 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

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of the May 12, 2022, Minutes

Mr. Roppolo moved that the minutes from the Commission's May 12, 2022, meeting be approved, and Mr. Hawkins seconded the motion. This motion was approved unanimously.

4. Committee Reports

a. Newsletter Committee (Obj. 1, 2, 4)

Ms. Nañez reminded the members that Mr. Hawkins, Ms. DeLeon, and Ms. Escobedo volunteered to assume the responsibility of compiling articles for the Chronicle and formatting it for distribution as part of the Newsletter Committee. Mr. Hawkins said the committee is looking at updating the newsletter template. He also noted that the committee will establish deadlines for the next year and report them at the next DCHC meeting. Ms. Nañez reiterated that historical marker narratives can be a source of articles with the applicants' permission. She also mentioned that the committee can expect an article from Ms. Gunby on the Christ Episcopal Church. Mr. Roosevelt said that he wants to contact surrounding county historical commissions to share subscription information about each other's newsletters and that he would discuss it with the committee.

b. Marker Committee (Obj. 7, 8)

Mr. Roppolo stated that he has been fielding numerous questions about the manufacturing status of previously approved markers as well as next year's marker application process. Additionally, several markers are at the point where inscriptions are being edited. Ms. Nañez informed the members that the June 4th dedication for the Flag Pole Hill marker was postponed by the City of Dallas as it needs to be run by the Park Board, and so that they can plan a bigger and better ceremony. She also reported that she had been contacted by Bob Brinkman of the THC inquiring about the marker

dedication and asked if the marker inscription might need to be revised, to which she responded that she did not know. A member of the Goforth family is working with the City to research property records. Ms. Nañez also encouraged members to attend the THC's Undertold Marker Webinar on July 23rd.

c. Events/Outreach Committee (Obj. 3, 6)

Ms. Miller thanked the members for sharing their participation in events. Ms. Nañez emphasized the importance of capturing this information for the annual report to the Texas Historical Commission (THC). Ms. Miller noted that she attended meetings of the Irving Historical Society and the Grand Prairie Historical Organization. Ms. Nañez shared that Ms. Gunby and Ms. Hicks attended the Christ Episcopal Church marker dedication ceremony in Oak Cliff and participated in the unveiling of the marker. Mr. Poitier mentioned that his documentary film "Cowboys of Color: A Multicultural Legacy" would be screened at the Highland Hills Library on June 15th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mr. Hawkins said he would be attending the marker dedication ceremony for the Greater El Bethel Missionary Baptist Church on June 25th at 10:00 a.m. He said he will also be participating as a guest speaker at the Temple Emanu-El at their Juneteenth Shabbat on June 17th. Mr. Poitier spoke to representatives of Dallas International Film Festival, which the DCHC was unable to participate in during 2021 due to lack of response from the festival organizers. They said they would like to re-involve the DCHC and bring back the Best Historical Film Award. Mr. Gaspard said that former Dallas County Judge Jim Foster published a book called From the Outhouse to the Courthouse and would be signing the book at Union Coffee in the Cedar Springs neighborhood.

d. Historical Organization Contact List (Obj. 5)

Mr. Gaspard said that he is still working to compile the contact information for historical organizations in Dallas County and expects it to be complete at the end of the summer.

5. Texas Historical Commission Real Places Conference and Preservation Awards

Ms. Nañez reminded members that the Real Places Conference will be held February 1-3, 2023, in Austin. The workshop abstract submission period has passed. She encouraged members to nominate individuals for the 2022 THC Preservation Awards by the July 15th deadline.

6. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Nichols would like to follow up on the discussion about diversifying the content of the Chronicle. Ms. Nañez said she reached out to Dr. Ruben Arellano, historian and history professor at Mountain View College, regarding Native American history. Mr. Hawkins said that he talked to the organizers of Native American Heritage Day and expect they will send an article. He also said there is a new organization called the Asian American Historical Society, but they are not active yet. However, he will reach out to Stephanie Drenka, co-founder.

7. Upcoming Meetings

a. Next Meeting Date: June 9, 2022

The members requested that the August meeting be held at the Oak Cliff Government Center in Dallas.

b. No Meeting in July - Recess

8. Adjourn

There being no other business, Ms. Nañez adjourned the meeting at 12:39 p.m.