



MINUTES

DALLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

December 21, 2022

Commission Vice Chair Elizabeth Gunby called the meeting to order at 11:39 a.m. This meeting was held at the Aldredge House at 5500 Swiss Avenue, Dallas, TX, 75214.

Members present: John Roppolo, Roosevelt Nichols, Elizabeth DeLeon, Jearlene Miller, Elizabeth Gunby, Coy Poitier, Jerry Hawkins, Patricia Hicks, Priscilla Escobedo, Cheryl Jackson.

Members absent: Juanita Nañez, Jim Gaspard, Joan E. Jackson Bouldin, Rose-Mary Rumbley

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

2. Remembering the Legacy of Dr. George Keaton, Jr.

Ms. Brown read a message from the Chair, Ms. Nañez, thanking staff and the DCHC members for a successful year. The message also reflected on Dr. Keaton's dedication and passion as the leader of Remembering Black Dallas, Inc. Mr. Roppolo and Mr. Hawkins shared stories about Dr. Keaton's work and legacy. Mr. Hawkins mentioned that Dr. Keaton was key in bringing recognition to Martyr's Park in Dallas. Ms. Gunby recommended that an application for a state historical marker about Dr. Keaton be submitted in the upcoming year. She noted that the Texas Historical Commission (THC) rules state that subject markers can only be submitted for persons that passed at least 10 years ago, but that there may be an opportunity to request an exemption to this rule. Ms. Hicks closed the discussion by saying that he did as much as he could as long as he could, and he had a deep abiding passion for his work.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Approval of the November 16, 2022, Minutes

Mr. Roppolo moved that the minutes from the Commission's November 16, 2022, meeting be approved, and Ms. Hicks seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Old Red Museum Project

Evelyn Montgomery, Director and Curator for the Old Red Museum, spoke to the DCHC about the upcoming reimagining of the museum and the role the DCHC may play moving forward. Old Red Museum opened in 2007 and closed in 2020 during the pandemic. Plans were already in motion at that time to move the museum to a new building in anticipation of Old Red once again being utilized as a functioning courthouse. The plans were delayed due to the pandemic. Some exhibits are now being moved to the Records Building and there will be a significant online exhibit presence which will be contracted to a company to create for Dallas County over the next two years. The contract is anticipated to be approved by the Commissioners Court in

January. An idea being considered is for an advisory board to assist with content, representing all 31 communities in Dallas County. DCHC members may be appointed to this board, or the DCHC may be asked to provide additional context to the exhibits to ensure they are representative of the entire county. When asked what became of the physical exhibits, Ms. Montgomery said that many had been on loan and were returned to their owners. The remaining exhibits are catalogued and in storage, to be used in the Records Building or elsewhere in the future. There was consensus amongst the members for participation in these activities.

6. Lindalyn Adams Painting Donation to the Sixth Floor Museum

Ms. Gunby explained to the members that in September 2019, the DCHC participated with the other six major historical organizations in Dallas County to honor Lindalyn Adams as the only person to have served on each of their boards. She is known as “The First Lady of Dallas History.” As part of this event, the DCHC commissioned a painting of Lindalyn Adams and it was displayed in the Old Red Museum. With the relocation of the museum out of Old Red Courthouse and to multiple buildings and formats, the DCHC was asked to find a new home for the painting. Originally, the Sixth Floor Museum was considered as a backup plan since Ms. Adams was instrumental in establishing it, and it would still be appropriate as a new home for the painting. During discussion, members asked if the Sixth Floor Museum would commit to permanently and publicly displaying the painting in its physical exhibits given that it is still ramping its operations back up since the pandemic, and Ms. Gunby responded that they would. Mr. Roppolo said that the Hall of State at Fair Park could also be a good location to explore for display should the Sixth Floor Museum not be feasible. Mr. Roppolo moved that the painting be donated to the Sixth Floor Museum and Ms. Miller seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

7. Committee Reports – Year in Review

a. Newsletter Committee (Obj. 1a, b, c)

Mr. Hawkins said that publication of the next newsletter would be delayed until January. He also said that he will be stepping down from the DCHC his term ends. Mr. Nichols said that the City of Lancaster only printed one citywide newsletter this year due to staff shortages, so the Chronicle could not be shared via that method.

b. Marker Committee (Obj. 5, 6)

Mr. Roppolo stated that six historical marker applications were approved by the DCHC and sent to the THC: Manuel and Maria Valle Family of Garland, Junior League of Dallas, Salem Institutional Baptist Church, Elm Thicket/Northpark Neighborhood, Henry Keller, and Fields Cemetery. The Henry Keller and Fields Cemetery markers were ultimately not sent to the foundry due to the sponsors not paying the fee to cast the markers. Those applications can be resubmitted in the 2023 application cycle. DCHC members participated in eight marker dedications: Anderson Bonner, Johnny Graham Barber College, CCC Company 850 – Mesquite, Bennett Family Gardens, Dr. Marcellus Cooper, Greater El Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Antioch Life Park Cemetery, and Christ Church Episcopal.

c. Events/Outreach Committee (Obj. 2, 4)

Ms. Miller stated that members attended 25 events during the previous fiscal year and have attended six events since October 2022.

d. Historical Organization Contact List (Obj. 3)

Mr. Gaspard was not present to give an update.

8. DCHC Budget

Ms. Brown informed the members that she took their current year funding requests to the Office of Budget and Evaluation for consideration. The DCHC received \$2500 to sponsor the Best Historical Film Award at the 2023 Dallas International Film Festival, \$500 for sponsorship of the 2023 Legacies Dallas History Conference, \$1000 for promotional items, \$500 for a banner and tablecloth, and \$1000 for printing expenses. She noted that the check request for Legacies Dallas has already been submitted.

9. Future Agenda Items

Members said that they wish to see the following agenda items at a future meeting: The Dallas International Film Festival, the Old Red Museum Project, the THC's RTHL documentation project, and the City of Dallas Preservation Plan.

10. Upcoming Meetings

- a. Next Meeting Date: January 18, 2023

11. Adjourn

There being no other business, Ms. Gunby adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.