



MINUTES

DALLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MAY 15, 2024

Commission Vice-Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 11:39 a.m. This meeting was held at the Oak Cliff Government Center, 702 E. Jefferson Blvd., Dallas, Texas 75203.

Members present: Patricia Hicks, Coy Poitier, Anthony Cornell, Joan Jackson Bouldin, John Roppolo, Jearlene Miller, Christopher Cornell, Cheryl Jackson, Deah Berry Mitchell, and Priscilla Escobedo

Members absent: Elizabeth Gunby, Roosevelt Nichols, and Yasir Arafat

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Ms. Hicks welcomed all members and attendees, and noted a quorum was present.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of April 17, 2024, Minutes by Pat Hicks

Ms. Hicks recognized Commissioners Court staff, Noemi Gonzalez, and introduced new Commission Member, Deah Berry Mitchell, District 1 appointment. Ms. Berry Mitchell is a food writer and History PhD student. Ms. Hicks was pleased to recommend Ms. Berry Mitchell for the Commission appointment. They had the opportunity to meet during an event at the Joppa community.

Ms. Hicks reported that several corrections need to be made to the April 17th meeting minutes before approval. Ms. Hicks reviewed the minutes and requested input from Commission members regarding corrections. The revised minutes will be shared at the next DCHC meeting. Ms. Hicks shared that the meeting agenda also needs corrections. Ms. Allen will update the meeting agenda and that those changes will be reflected at the next scheduled meeting. Mr. Roppolo moved approval of the April 17th as amended. Mr. A. Cornell seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved. Ms. Hicks noted that Ms. Bouldin will join the Newsletter Committee and that Mr. C. Cornell's committee assignment will be corrected on the meeting agenda. Ms. Miller moved approval of the corrected agenda and Mr. A. Cornell seconded the motion. Changes to meeting the agenda were unanimously approved.

4. Committee Reports

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

Mr. A. Cornell distributed a draft of the summer chronicle newsletter. Commission members reviewed the articles in the publication. Articles featured in the summer chronicle included: Commissioner Profile of Christopher Sean Cornell, Doc Holiday, May Hopkins, M.D., The Hall of Negro Life, and Forest Hills turns 100. Mr. A. Cornell will add another photo before it is finalized for distribution. Mr.

A. Cornell will start accepting articles for the fall edition of the Chronicle. Mr. Poitier will submit an article covering the film festival.

b. Marker Committee (Obj. 5, 6)

Mr. Roppolo will provide an update on the approved marker applications. The Commission is submitting a total of eight marker applications to the state. A record number for the DCHC. Mr. Roppolo noted that today's meeting date, May 15, 2024, is the deadline for marker applications. The Gulf Oil marker application was returned by the state as they indicated it should have been submitted as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Marker. Gulf Oil will be approved as a subject maker pending the subject marker fee of \$100. The Elm Thicket North Park marker application was approved last year. The marker ceremony will be scheduled in June 2024. Mr. Roppolo will forward the invitation and details to Commission members when they become available. Ms. Hicks emphasized the importance of approving and reviewing marker applications in a timely manner and thanked commission members for their part in reviewing applications.

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

Commission members reported the following activities and upcoming events:

Ms. Miller noted that she plans to attend the Elm Thicket marker ceremony coming up in June and that she will look up event information.

Ms. Hicks shared that she received an event invitation for the Mt. Pisgah Church 160th Anniversary and will be on second weekend in June. Additionally, Ms. Hicks shared that Mt. Pisgah needs to relocate their archive room and is seeking support from the DCHC. Ms. Hicks will write a letter of support and request signatures from Commission members.

Ms. Escobedo reported the Mexican American Museum opening event by the University of Dallas has been postponed until further notice.

Mr. Poitier shared that the Opal Lawrence Historical Park in Mesquite will host a barn dance on May 18th at 7pm. Mr. Poitier added that he is joining their board of directors.

Ms. Hicks attended the Mesquite Farmers Market to do community outreach and promote the work of the DCHC.

Ms. Miller will attend an event sponsored by Dallas Jewish Community Foundation at Temple Emanuel (8500 Hillcrest) at 1:30pm. The event will feature stories of the South Dallas community.

Ms. Hicks emphasized the importance of visiting historical societies and organizations to raise awareness of the opportunity to apply for historical markers.

d. Social Media

Mr. Poitier reported that he posted the Commission's participation and support of the DIFF on social media. DIFF reshared the post and it received very positive reactions. DIFF was very grateful for the DCHC's support. Mr. Poitier and Ms. Jackson attended the event opening and several Commission members attended various film screenings. Mr. Poitier watched the film *Blood of Jesus*, which focused on an African American director from Dallas. The DIFF

acknowledged that the DCHC is a major supporter of the event and was pleased to have a County Commissioner, Dr. Elba Garcia, in attendance for the first time.

Ms. Hicks attended the DIFF and provided a spoken testimony about the DCHC marker application process and proud support of the DIFF event. Ms. Hicks watched a film by Liz Carpenter, *Shaking It Up: The Life and Times of Liz Carpenter*. The film focused on women's rights. Ms. Jackson reported that she was excited to attend the DIFF and shadow Mr. Poitier. Mr. C. Cornell also attended and saw the film *City of Hate*.

5. Future Agenda Items

None

6. Upcoming Meetings

Next Meeting Date: Ms. Allen will confirm if the June meeting will be cancelled due to the Juneteenth holiday and if meetings will resume in July.

7. Adjourn

Ms. Hicks adjourned the meeting at 12:42 p.m.