

MINUTES
TEXAS HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD
October 23, 2020

The Texas Historical Records Advisory Board (THRAB) meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on October 23, 2020. Due to Governor Greg Abbott's March 13, 2020 proclamation of a state of disaster affecting all counties in Texas due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the Governor's March 16, 2020 suspension of certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, the meeting was held by video webinar, as authorized under Texas Government Code §551.127. Members of the public had access and a means to participate in this meeting, by two-way communication and could register for the webinar by visiting: <https://zoom.us/s/95205581416>.

Members Present: Jelain Chubb, coordinator; Linda Barrett, Phyllis Earles, Teri Flack, Kristy Sorensen, Leslie Stapleton, Melissa Gonzales

Members Absent: Malinda Cowen, Bob Glenn

Also Present: Mark Smith, Director and Librarian, Texas State Library and Archives Commission; Monte Monroe, Texas State Historian; Laura Gracy, Benjamin Gracy, Annette Gracy Juba, Mary Beth Gracy, family of Dr. David B. Gracy, II; Carla Click, Elizabeth Hansen, Texas Archive of the Moving Image; Elizabeth Stauber, Hogg Foundation for Mental Health; Margarita Alvarez, Mary Capps, Colleen Horton, Haian Abdirahman, Ciaran Trace, Nancy Lenoil

Staff Support: Peggy Price, principal assistant

1. Welcome and introductions

Jelain Chubb welcomed board members and guests. Chubb reviewed procedures specific to videoconferencing for open meetings.

2. Roll call for members and establishment of quorum

Chubb called roll and established a quorum with Kristy Sorensen, Linda Barrett, Teri Flack, Melissa Gonzales and Leslie Stapleton present. Phyllis Earles joined on video after roll call. Malinda Cowen was absent as well as Bob Glenn, who has retired from the board.

3. Approve minutes of the July 21, 2020 meeting

Linda Barrett moved to approve the minutes and Teri Flack seconded. The board approved minutes for July 21, 2020 with a minor correction.

4. Public comment. Members of the public should state their full name and organization affiliation, if any, before speaking.

No public comment.

5. Consideration of resolutions and certificates of appreciation

(Chubb moved this item to follow number six, the THRAB Archival Award announcements.) Kristy Sorensen announced the proposed resolution to name the Distinguished Service Award the Texas

Historical Records Advisory Board's David B. Gracy, II Award for Distinguished Archival Service. Chubb read the resolution to establish the award and called for a motion. Leslie Stapleton moved to pass the resolution and Teri Flack seconded. The board passed the resolution unanimously in a roll call vote.

6. Recognition of the 2020 THRAB Archival Awards recipients

Chubb welcomed award recipients, nominators, friends and family for the announcement of the 2020 THRAB Archival Awards. The Archival Awards of Excellence went to Travis Williams (individual) of St. Edwards University and the Texas Archive of the Moving Image (institution). Chubb reported that THRAB created in 2020 two new categories for awards: Advocacy for Archives and Distinguished Service. The recipient of the Advocacy for Archives award went to the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health and the award for Distinguished Service went to Dr. David B. Gracy, II. Various award recipients, nominators, and the family of Dr. Gracy made comments.

7. Discussion of impact of COVID-19 on archives in Texas

Chubb opened a discussion with board members on the impact of COVID-19 on the staff, programs, services, and collections management activities at their home institutions and also with volunteers. Mark Smith shared how TSLAC has dealt with the ongoing pandemic. All concurred that the pandemic has limited public services and that collections management work continues. An upside has been the move to virtual meetings and staff able to use online technology to work from home. Some volunteer projects and programming are moving online as well. The Austin Archives Bazaar was cancelled in-person but offered in a virtual format. Chubb suggested holding an online forum for members of the archival community to discuss issues surrounding COVID-19 after the holidays. The board agreed that a forum would be helpful.

8. Update on the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's activities

Chubb shared that the State Archives strategic plan was approved and is now available on the TSLAC website. Chubb invited Mark Smith to speak on other activities from TSLAC. Smith reminded the board that the strategic plan was part of the Sunset Review "to-do" list and that all items have been completed, including the move of records to the Legislative Reference Library. The agency's 2022-2023 budget request from the legislature includes exceptional items for additional storage space and staffing to help with the backlog. Smith mentioned that TSLAC has had the only state-run library or archive open to the public during the pandemic. At the request of Monte Monroe, Chubb discussed a few points related to RHRDs and said that the new rules have been published. Legislative records at RHRDs are no longer under the custody of TSLAC, but the other records remain.

9. Discussion of 2020 State Board Programming Grant activities

Chubb discussed the status of the 2020 NHPRC grant. Peggy Price provided a summary of the online training THRAB provided through AASLH to fund 30 participants for their Basics of Archives five-week course. The response was very positive, with 80 applicants vying for 30 spots. Many participants were working with County Historical Commissions. Chubb would like to continue the program and look at how THRAB might offer the next phase of training for those who have acquired the basics. Chubb and Price discussed the archives month poster, which was on the centennial of women's suffrage. Chubb mentioned that the next poster will cover disability history and perhaps the Hogg Foundation would be a good contributor. Monroe encouraged the board to promote the theme of disability history and archival collections housing those resources. Chubb opened discussion on how to expend funds made available by cancelled in-person events and workshops. Some suggestions were to offer another AASLH workshop and conference registrations. Since the grant was extended through June 2021, some options may be available in the spring. The funds will also support the Texas History Day awards. Chubb

reminded board members who do not work for a state agency to advocate for records and archives issues at the state legislature. Monroe requested that the board coordinate with the Texas State Historical Association Archives Committee regarding any legislative issues.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Approved, February 25, 2021.