

MINUTES OF MEETING OF TEXAS CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

BAKER HOTEL, DALLAS, NOVEMBER 19, 1934

President Thomas called the meeting of the Texas Centennial Commission to order at 11 a.m., Monday, November 19, 1934, in the State headquarters office at the Baker Hotel, Dallas, Texas. Present: Anderson, Briggs, Brown, Cline, Elbert, Farnsworth, Florence, Force, Griffith, Hawk, Hughes, Hulen, Josey, Martin, Middleton, Neal Neff, Ochs, Pennybacker, Sharp, Snow, Stern, Thomas, Thornton, Womack, and Mayes (Secretary). Absent: Birney, Caldwell, Carter, Jones, Miller, Nucks, Sevier, Shary, Slater, Taylor, Governor Ferguson, Lieutenant Governor Witt, and Stevenson. Telegrams of regret at enforced absence were received from Caldwell, Sevier, Birney, Stevenson, Miller, Governor Ferguson, Lieutenant Governor Witt, and Jones, those of Witt and Jones being read to the Commission by President Thomas. Treasurer Taylor was reported ill at the residence of his daughter in Dallas and unable to attend the meeting of the Commission, although he had come to Dallas for that purpose. The Secretary was instructed to send him a letter expressing the regrets of the Commission at his illness and the hope of the Commission for his speedy recovery.

Chairman Cline of the Executive Committee made an extensive verbal report as to the activities of the Committee under his leadership before the special session of the Legislature. He stated that while both the revenue and appropriation bills died on the calendar, the Centennial is more thoroughly sold to the people and has more friends than ever before. He praised the services rendered by Briggs, Thomas, Thornton, and others in cooperating with him in attempting to iron out the legislative difficulties involved.

He said that there is very general approval of the selection of Dallas as the central exposition city and that this has been strengthened noticeably since Dallas voted the \$3,000,000.00 bond issue. He expressed the view that there are two thoughts in the mind of the Legislature as well as in the mind of the Commission: (1) It is most important to have a large central exposition in order to draw people to Texas; (2) proper emphasis should be placed upon the recognition of historic spots. He said that the Commission should not remain inactive until January but should take steps immediately to go ahead with a definite program, or quit insofar as the original program outlined by this Commission is concerned. In answer to a question from Anderson, he stated that the Tarwater bill, which was introduced in the Legislature but did not become a law, provided for the creation of a separate corporation with authority to put on the central exposition in Dallas and also for the creating of a committee for managing the historic phases of the Centennial.

Farnsworth said that the Commission cannot let the Centennial drop but should put it over in a way commensurate with the history and the progress of Texas. Pennybacker said that the Commission owes a debt of gratitude to the group of men and women who did such excellent work before the Legislature in endeavoring to assist in securing such legislative action as would insure the kind of a Centennial observance that would be a credit to Texas.

On motion of Martin, seconded by Farnsworth, the Commission expressed appreciation of the work done in Austin under the leadership of Cline and the men and women who undertook to aid him and pledged itself to carry on the work to a successful Centennial and evolve a plan which will be possible to be carried to a successful culmination.

Following a statement by President Thomas in regard to the splendid cooperation of the present State administration, Neal moved and Neff seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted, to thank the present State administration for its very fine service to the cause of the Centennial, and to instruct the Secretary to send a copy of the resolution to the Governor.

On motion of Sharp, seconded by Pennybacker, Cline was asked to state the plan in his mind for future action of the Commission. Cline stated that the Centennial movement is in better position now than if the revenue bill had been passed, because of the amendments and restrictions with which the bill had been hampered; that he would not undertake to recommend a plan but that the citizens of Dallas have some definite convictions and want to know today whether their program will be acceptable to the Commission so that they can assure active and aggressive leadership in putting on the Central exposition; and that friends from historical points are equally anxious that the Commission indicate a specific attitude and desire to follow through some definite program. The Commission, he said, has two distinct jobs: (1) to organize, finance, and stage a central exposition in Dallas which would be both profitable and creditable to the State; (2) to put on historic celebrations. These require different kinds of management.

At the request of President Thomas, Thornton presented at length the views of Dallas as to its responsibility for the success of the Central Exposition and the ideas of the Dallas committee as to the way in which that central exposition could be successfully financed, even though the State and Federal Governments may not render the financial support that is hoped for and for which the Commission should continue to seek aggressively and even with more persistence than has heretofore been used. He emphasized the fact that a State appropriation is essential to make the Centennial a State event of a kind that will attract world-wide attention and that Dallas has no desire to spend \$3,000,000.00 or more merely for a State fair but that the city stands ready not only to issue its bonds for \$3,000,000.00 but to finance a corporation to the extent of an additional \$2,000,000.00 in order to make the central exposition a credit to the entire State, confidently believing that with this evidence of the faith of Dallas in the undertaking, the State and the Federal Governments will certainly be willing to give their cooperation to make the exposition a far greater success than if financed solely and in a smaller way by Dallas.

He added that Dallas must work out its program and hope for the best from the Legislature and the Federal Government; that Dallas will undertake the job and make it a credit to the city, the State, and the Nation, provided the management of the central exposition is placed in the control of any corporation organized to finance it, the Dallas control being limited to the funds raised through its bond issue and through whatever corporation may be created for financing the central exposition, leaving the funds appropriated by the State and Federal Governments to the management of the Texas Centennial Commission. He emphasized the necessity of proceeding at once along a well defined plan and without slowing down, either as to the activity for the central exposition or the celebrations at historic points. He said that both the central exposition and the historic celebrations, while managed in their own ways, should have but one objective: to bring millions of people to Texas from other states and induce them to see as much of the State as possible.

Middleton expressed the view that Thornton had "blazed the way" and that all should get into the same spirit for a great Centennial. Thomas expressed the same view and said that the thoughts expressed by Cline and Thornton should be worked into concrete shape by a committee appointed to do this. Ochs moved and Middleton seconded the motion that the Chair appoint such a committee of five members. The motion was unanimously adopted, and the Chair named Thornton (Chairman), Hawk, Josey, Stern, and Neal as the committee.

The Commission, on motion of Ochs, seconded by Hughes, recessed from 12:30 to 2 p.m., after instructing the committee to make its report at that time.

APFTERNOON SESSION

President Thomas called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m., all those attending the morning session being present at the afternoon meeting.

Thornton submitted the report of the committee, as follows, stating that it had been unanimously approved by the committee.

WHEREAS, the law passed by the Legislature of the State of Texas providing for a Texas Centennial celebration and creating "The Texas Centennial Commission" clothed said Commission with the power, if desired, to procure and a cause to be procured a charter for a corporation under the general laws of the State of Texas, for the purpose of carrying out said Texas Centennial celebration; and

WHEREAS, the said Texas Centennial Commission acting under the authority and direction of the Legislature of Texas has heretofore duly designated the City of Dallas Texas, as The Central Centennial Exposition City; and

WHEREAS, it is the judgment of the Texas Centennial Commission that it is now necessary that a separate corporation be created for the purpose of undertaking to finance and to hold said Texas Centennial Central Exposition to be at Dallas, Texas, said corporation not to supersede the Texas Centennial Commission but to be authorized and empowered to put on and to hold the Texas Centennial Central Exposition at Dallas, Texas; and

WHEREAS, certain citizens of Dallas and Texas at this time desire to form such corporation under the general laws of the State of Texas;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Texas Centennial Commission, in official session at its headquarters, there being present and voting more than a quorum of said Commission, does hereby reaffirm its designation of the City of Dallas, Texas, as the Texas Centennial Central Exposition City; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Texas Centennial Commission does hereby consent to, authorize and direct the formation of a corporation under the general laws of the State of Texas, and does hereby consent to and direct that the name of such corporation shall be TEXAS CENTENNIAL CENTRAL EXPOSITION; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said corporation, when formed, shall be and the same is hereby authorized and directed to do and perform any and all things whatsoever necessary or appropriate for the purpose of financing, designing, erecting, directing, holding and operating the Texas Central Exposition at Dallas, Texas, of the Texas Centennial celebration as provided by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of and for the said corporation for the first year shall be the following citizens of Texas:

1. Nathan Adams, Dallas
2. Fred F. Florence, Dallas
3. R. L. Thornton, Dallas
4. Geo. Waverley Briggs, Dallas
5. L. B. Denning, Dallas

6. Otto Herold, Dallas
7. T. E. Jackson, Dallas
8. Arthur L. Cramer, Dallas
9. Chas. F. O'Donnell, Dallas
10. Cullen F. Thomas, Dallas
11. Harry Olmstead, Dallas
12. Z. E. Marvin, Dallas
13. Edwin J. Kiest, Dallas
14. John W. Carpenter, Dallas
15. D. A. Little, Dallas
16. Geo. E. Dealey, Dallas
17. Alfred O. Anderson, Dallas
18. L. M. Jordan, Dallas
19. A. H. Bailey, Dallas
20. Walter D. Cline, Wichita Falls
21. John D. Middleton, Greenville
22. J. K. Hughes, Mexia
23. Jesse H. Jones, Houston
24. Herman M. Ghes, San Antonio
25. Wilbur Hawk, Amarillo
26. H. E. Birney, El Paso
27. Lowey Martin, Corsicana
28. J. B. Josey, Houston
29. Pat Neff, Waco
30. General John A. Eulen, Ft. Worth

Thomas moved that the report be adopted. Eulen seconded the motion. Sharp asked whether this committee would prepare a program, resolutions, or suggestions as to how the historic celebrations should be carried out. Thornton replied that he did not regard it the duty of this committee to go into the historic question but that the nature of a well rounded observance would demand that there should be a coordinated program as to both the central exposition and the historic celebrations and that no trouble need be anticipated along this line; that these matters could be worked out together later.

Following a lengthy discussion as to the contents of the report, the powers of the proposed corporation, the holding of historic observances, and other matters explanatory of the report, (participated in by Gchs, Stern, Pennybacker, Foree, Anderson, Cline, Womack, Florence, Sharp), Neff asked for a rereading of the report, which was done by Thornton, Neff stating that the only question involved is, "Does this Commission desire to turn over to this corporation the holding of this exposition here in Dallas" and "continue to function in regard to any other celebrations (historic) to be held in the State?"

Thornton emphasized a previous statement that any appropriation obtained from the State or Federal Governments through the Commission would be spent under the direction of the Commission and would not come under the direction of the corporation.

The Chair submitted the resolution as reported back by the committee, and it was adopted unanimously.

Neal moved that the Commission go on record as still favoring a State appropriation of not less than \$5,000,000.00. This motion was numerously seconded and discussed at length by Florence, Sharp, Hughes, Farnsworth, Cline, Anderson, Neal, and Martin, and was adopted.

On recommendation of Cline, Senator Tom Connally, who had expressed readiness to have the Centennial Congressional Committee visit Texas to make recommendations in regard to a Federal appropriation, was asked to wait until the State Legislature takes definite action and then have the Congressional Committee come to Texas during the next session of Congress.

Cline stated that without any specific authorization from the Commission but as Chairman of the Executive Committee, he had arranged for a credit of \$6,500.00 with Dallas banks to finance the three weeks' work done by the "Texas Centennial Educational Bureau of the Texas Press Association"; that \$4,777. of this amount had been spent; that Martin will be responsible for and has given Cline a detailed statement of these expenditures; and that Cline would accept personal responsibility for this amount if the Commission does not provide for it. Middleton moved to ratify the action of the Chairman of the Executive Committee in spending the \$4,777. to carry on the educational work and to pay the \$4,777. so spent under the direction of the Chairman of the Executive Committee. The motion was seconded by Briggs and adopted unanimously.

Cline stated that \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00 should be spent in the next six weeks before the Legislature convenes in an educational campaign to inform the public and the Legislature in regard to the Centennial program, its cost, and the advantages and profits to be derived by the entire State from such a celebration as is proposed and desired. Middleton moved "to allocate \$15,000.00, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to be spent by the Executive Committee, headed by Cline for use in its wisdom for educational work between now and the time the Legislature is convened and during the time of the Legislative session." Briggs and others seconded the motion, and it was adopted.

Anderson moved that the Commission be notified of future meetings by letter, setting forth the purposes of the meetings, at least four days in advance, if possible. Briggs seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

Stern stated that the historic side of the celebration should be emphasized now and that the press and public should be given notice that the historic side of the Centennial is being considered and that members of the Commission from Houston and San Antonio should be made a committee to cooperate with the Dallas corporation in order to work out a program of cooperation to bring before the public. Neff moved that the present Historical Planning Committee continue its investigations and recommendations and report back to the Commission at its next meeting. Hawk seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously. Cline stated that this committee should do more than investigate, but should work out and have ready an acceptable concrete program in regard to historic celebrations.

Sharp moved to elect the five persons nominated for membership at the last meeting of the Commission, the motion being seconded by Cline and Neff, Phil L. Sanders, Nacogdoches; J. L. Clark, Huntsville; J. A. White, Coliad; Ross Boothe, Gonzales; and John Boyle, San Antonio, were then, on this motion, unanimously elected to membership on the Commission.

Briggs moved that, subject to the ratification and approval of the Executive Committee, Secretary Hayes be authorized to supply his office with such help and pay such salaries as he deems necessary. Thornton seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

On motion of Briggs, seconded by Hawk, President Thomas was instructed to give to newspaper reporters a statement as to the Day's proceedings of the Commission.

The Commission adjourned at 5:15 p.m., subject to the call of the President.