

MINUTES OF TEXAS CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

AUSTIN, TEXAS, JUNE 6, 1934.

The Texas Centennial Commission at its first official meeting, held in the Driskill Hotel at Austin, June 6, 1934, was called to order at 10 a.m. by Secretary of State W. W. Heath in a joint session with the Centennial Advisory Board.

Temporary Chairman Colten P. Thomas presided at the joint session, and at its close called a meeting of the Commission for 2:30 p.m.

At the afternoon session, Temporary Chairman Thomas called the meeting to order with a few introductory remarks and asked for a roll call. The call showed twenty-five members present with the following absent: Jones, Miller, Caldwell, Sealy, Morrison, Carter, Sevier, and Anderson.

The following members, present for the first time, were introduced: Pirory, Jacey, Ochs, Shery, Sharp, and Helen.

A motion by Heath that the meeting be executive was seconded and unanimously adopted.

The resignation of Morrison, of San Antonio, as a member of the Commission was tendered by Ochs and Farnsworth, both of San Antonio. The resignation was accepted. On motion of Ochs and Farnsworth, Morris Stern, of San Antonio, was elected to fill the vacancy thus created, the statement being made that Stern was recommended by the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and the Bexar County Advisory Board for that position. Stern was introduced to the Commission by Ochs.

The Committee on Plan of Organization and Procedure appointed by the Commission at its unofficial meeting on March 24, composed of Thomas, Texas, Martin, Warrack, and Pennybacker, announced that it had held two meetings, one in Dallas and one in Austin, and was ready to report.

The report was read and adopted by paragraphs with slight amendments, and as adopted is as follows:

Your Committee on Plan of Organization and Procedure unanimously makes the following recommendations:

The headquarters of the Texas Centennial shall be in Austin until the main celebration is located.

The Commission shall be organized with a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, other officers to be added from time to time as may be expedient, all of whom shall be members of the Commission except the Secretary, who may or may not be. The Secretary shall also be secretary of the Executive Committee.

There shall be elected now an Executive Committee of five members to be increased to not more than nine after the place of the main Centennial celebration is located by the Commission. The favorable vote of a majority shall be required on all measures coming before it for consideration, its duties and authority to be hereafter defined by this Commission.

The consideration of matters of general management, divisions, departments, and groups for Centennial preparation and activities shall be postponed until the main celebration is located, in order that the place selected shall have part in determining plans and personnel.

The selection of places for other celebrations than the principal exposition as provided by law and all matters pertaining thereto, such as places, periods of time, local cooperation and participation,

and character of such celebrations, shall be considered by the Commission after the location of the main celebration. Cities desiring the main celebration shall submit their proposals not later than September 1, 1934, and other places desiring local historic celebrations shall submit their proposals not later than November 1, 1934.

All sessions of the Commission and the Executive Committee shall be conducted under strict rules of parliamentary procedure.

No proxies shall be recognized in any Commission or Committee session. Absentee votes on specific questions may be recognized only when mailed or wired to the presiding official or the Secretary.

On motion made by Neak, seconded and adopted, the Chair appointed a committee on nomination of officers, as follows: Neak, Gline, Josey, Wamsler, and Taylor.

This committee retired during a brief recess of the Commission and returned, nominating the following officers: Cullen F. Thomas, President; Lowry Martin, Vice-President; Gus F. Taylor, Treasurer; and Will H. Hayes, Secretary. Hayes announced that under the law he could not accept the secretaryship without resigning from the Commission, as he would be unable to serve as secretary without some compensation for his services, but that he was willing to leave to the Commission the decision as to which position it preferred for him to fill. After some discussion in which it was evident that the Commission desired him to continue as Secretary, Hayes tendered his resignation as a member of the Commission, whereupon Cullen F. Thomas was elected President; Lowry Martin, Vice-President; Gus F. Taylor, Treasurer; and Will H. Hayes, Secretary.

Briggs made the statement that the salary of secretary Hayes should be made sufficiently large to absorb the amount due him for the services rendered since March 2, 1932, under employment of the former Centennial Executive Committee, and as Temporary Secretary of the Commission since its first meeting, March 24, 1934. President Thomas suggested that this obligation should not be paid out of the \$100,000.00 appropriated by the Legislature for the preliminary work of the Commission but that it should be met from funds secured for the Centennial from other sources, and this was concurred in by Hayes.

On motion made by Neff, seconded and adopted, the salary of Hayes was fixed at \$300.00 per month, and the Commission recognized its indebtedness to Hayes for services heretofore rendered under employment of the former Centennial Executive Committee.

All of the officers elected accepted the positions with promises to render their best services to the Centennial and to the State.

The matter of providing office help, equipment, and supplies for the Secretary's office was referred to the Executive Committee with instructions to make arrangements at once for financing the Secretary's work.

On motion of Ochs, seconded and adopted, the President was instructed to name an Executive Committee of five, thus rescinding the previous action of the Commission providing for the election of this Committee. The President appointed the following Executive Committee: Gline, Chairman, Hughes, Middleton, Caldwell, and Ochs. On motion of Ochs, seconded and adopted, the four officers of the Commission were added to the Executive Committee as ex-officio members.

A suggestion from Ochs that some of the \$100,000.00 appropriation for the work of the Commission might be used for an exhibit at the Chicago Century of Progress was met by President Thomas with the statement that the Commission has no authority to appropriate any of this fund for that purpose. Ochs' suggestion was referred to the Executive Committee.

A suggestion from Griffith that the Commission should confer with the Arkansas Centennial Board in regard to cooperating with that Board in the holding of the two Centennials in a way that might be continuous was referred to the Executive Committee.

Hayes offered the following resolutions, which were adopted: "Pampa's Pre-Centennial," "Conventions in 1936," "Visiting Texas Shrines," "County

Historical Societies," "Restoring Missions and Parks and Marking Historic Spots," "School Participation," "Centennial Addresses," and "State Parks Addresses."

Hammack made a report for the committee appointed on March 24 to prepare a resolution commending Senator Margie E. Neal for her interest in and work for the Centennial. This resolution was adopted and is as follows:

Whereas, Senator Margie Neal in her continued efforts in the Legislature of Texas toward adoption of measures authorizing the Texas Centennial and its final adoption has rendered her state a distinguished service.

Resolved, that the Texas Centennial Commission, created by the Legislature of the State of Texas, expresses its commendation and appreciation of the service Senator Neal has rendered to the State of Texas.

(Signed)

Mrs. E. B. Griffith
Mrs. Fannie Campbell Hammack
Mrs. Percy V. Penneybecker

Fernsworth presented an historical map of Texas which had been endorsed by the Daughters of the Republic and asked that the Commission give its endorsement of the map with the understanding that it is to sell for \$1.25, of which the Daughters of the Republic are to receive \$0.25 and the Commission \$0.25 for each map sold, the part received by the Daughters of the Republic to be used by that organization to finance its participation in the Centennial in the way of a building on the exposition grounds, maintaining it, assembling an historical exhibit, etc. The Commission gave its endorsement to the map and also to a guide book explaining the map, which is to be sold for \$0.55 with the Commission receiving \$0.07 for each book sold. President Thomas was instructed to execute a contract with the publishers of the map and the guide book in accordance with this agreement.

An invitation from Martin, the Corsicana Chamber of Commerce, and other organizations to hold the next meeting of the Commission in Corsicana was accepted.

President Thomas called attention to the law that provides that members of the Commission shall not receive any compensation for their services other than traveling expenses and hotel bills. He stated that traveling expenses should include actual railroad and Pullman fare or bus fare, hotel bills, but no meals and no tips, and that expense allowance for cars shall not be over \$0.04 per mile. On motion, seconded, this suggestion was adopted, expense accounts to be sent to Secretary Hayes, who was instructed to furnish the forms therefor required by law.

On motion by Middleton, seconded and adopted, the President and the Secretary were authorized to give out all reports of executive sessions.

The Commission adjourned subject to the call of the President.

Cullen F. Thomas
President

Will H. Hayes
Secretary