

**MINUTES
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING
CITY OF LEANDER, TEXAS**



Development Services - San Gabriel Conference Room
201 North Brushy Street - Leander, Texas
Wednesday, January 21, 2026
Regular Meeting at 5:30 PM

**Place 1 - Benjamin Geiger
Place 2 - Anna Yelaun
Place 3 - Kathy Howell
Place 4 - Esmeralda Gonzalez
Place 5 - Carlos Gormaz**

**Place 6 - Christina Twing
Place 7 - Triste Freeburg
Council Liaison - Na'Cole Thompson
Staff Liaison - Karina Castillo**

REGULAR MEETING

1. Open Meeting.

Opened meeting at 5:35 p.m

2. Roll Call.

All Commissioners present except Commission Howell.

3. Public comments on items not listed in the agenda.

Public comments on items listed in the agenda will be heard at the time each item is discussed.

[All comments are limited to no more than 3 minutes (6 minutes if translation is needed) per individual.]

No one spoke.

4. Election of Chair.

- a. Nomination for position of Chair.
- b. Discussion of Nominees.
- c. Election of Chair.

Motion: Appoint Commissioner Freeburg as the Chair.

By: Board Member Yelaun
Seconded: Board Member Gormaz

Vote: 4 - 0

5. Election of Vice Chair.

- a. Nomination for position of Vice Chair.
- b. Discussion of Nominees.
- c. Election of Vice Chair.

Motion: Appoint Commissioner Gormaz as the Vice Chair.

By: Board Member Yelaun
Seconded: Board Member Gonzalez

Vote: 4 - 0

6. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Public Education - updates on community engagements, presentations, and other educational opportunities.
2. Website and Social Media - discuss the upcoming posts on the Commission's Facebook page.
3. Special Events - debrief the volunteer's efforts at the Holidays at the Homestead event held on November 22 and discuss participation at the upcoming Mason Heritage Day event being held in March.
4. Historic Locations - discuss updates on historic locations throughout the City and discuss the creation of a marker program for historical properties within the City of Leander limits.

1. Public Education update included Commissioner Howell presenting at the 11/20 City Council meeting on Native Americans of Leander.
2. Website and Social Media - update included sharing a photo of a snow day in Leander before the upcoming winter storm.
3. Special Events - update included providing water and snacks at the events and looking for volunteers to help with setting up, activities, and taking down. The Holidays at Homestead event that the Commission helped with had about 800 attendees and has improved on having more vendors this past year. There were a lot of new faces with young children. Consider activities more children focused at future events.
4. Historic Locations - update included some coordination on the historic marker program moving forward with the new appointments.

7. STAFF BRIEFINGS

1. Bryson Farmstead - updates on the status of the rehabilitation of the Bryson Farmstead.
2. Mason Homestead - updates on the maintenance of the Mason Homestead.
3. FY 25/26 Budget - status of the current fiscal year budget.

1. The Bryson Farmstead update included 90% design drawings for the rehabilitation being completed and pending coordination with the Williamson County Historic Commission.
2. The Mason Homestead update included the construction documents being completed and the solicitation for improvements beginning soon.
3. The Budget update include a discussion of considering the purchase of a photo reel and creating a game to use at events.

CONSENT AGENDA: ACTION

8. Approval of the minutes for meeting held on November 21, 2025.

Motion: Approve the consent agenda.

By: Board Member Yelaun

Seconded: Board Member Gormaz

Vote: 4 - 0

REGULAR AGENDA

9. Discuss and consider action on confirming the Commission's existing and proposed sub-committees.

Motion: Approve the following Sub-Committee appointees.

- Public Education - Commissioner Howell
- Website and Social Media - Commissioner Gonzalez
- Special Events - Commissioner Yelaun
- Historic Locations - Commissioner Gormaz

By: Board Member Yelaun

Seconded: Board Member Gonzalez

Vote: 4 - 0

10. Discuss and consider action on creating procedures for oral history.

Motion: Approve Commissioner Gonzalez to coordinate the oral history sessions.

By: Board Member Yelaun

Seconded: Board Member Gormaz

Vote: 4 - 0

11. Discussion of the volunteer process for events with the Historical Preservation Commission.

The Commission discussed the volunteer process for special events consisting of having volunteers help with setting up, participating in activities, and taking down at the Central Texas Learning Festival, Mason Heritage Days, and Holidays at the Homestead. The Old Town Street Festival would need only assistance setting up and taking down; volunteers are not need to work the event.

12. Discuss and consider action on the schedule of events for 2026.

Motion: Approve participating at the following events:

- Central Texas Learning Festival
- Mason Heritage Days
- Old Town Street Festival
- Juneteenth Block Party

- Holidays at the Homestead

By: Board Member Freeburg
Seconded: Board Member Gonzalez

Vote: 4 - 0

13. Discuss and consider action on topics to submit for the Central Texas Learning Festival held in March 2026.

Motion: Approve to submit for an in-person event with a matched facility for March 12, 2026 at 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm to present on Leander History with an inventory of historic items and a dinosaur activity.

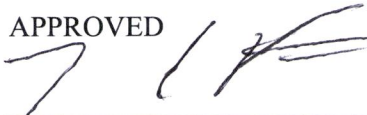
By: Board Member Gonzalez
Seconded: Board Member Yelaun

Vote: 0 - 0 None

14. Adjournment

Adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

APPROVED



CHAIR

ATTEST:


STAFF LIAISON