



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: Sept. 30, 2014

Prepared By/Phone Number: Shawn Malone/854-7627

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Steven Broberg, RMCR Director

Commissioners Court Sponsor: Judge Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE: CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON SEVENTH ANNUAL TRAVIS COUNTY HISTORY DAY, OCT. 24, 2014

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST: The theme for this year's History Day will be "100 Years of Extension Services in Travis County." 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the passage of the Smith-Lever Act, the legislation which created the national Cooperative Extension System. Our speaker will be Dr. Doug Steele, the president of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Judge Biscoe has agreed to serve as Master of Ceremonies.

To develop and execute an event plan, and to produce the content for the day's program, a committee similar to those of prior years has been meeting. Archivist Christy Moilanen chairs the planning committee. Others serving include members of the Travis County Historical Commission and representatives from the AgriLife Extension Service, County Clerk's Office, County Auditor's Office, Constable Precinct 5 office, and the Records Management and Communications Resources (RMCR) department. The committee is supported by liaisons from the Austin History Center and the Austin Bar Association.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve date (Friday, October 24, 2014), and location (Commissioners Courtroom and Hall of Government, 700 Lavaca Street) for the 7th Annual Travis County History Day.

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: All agenda requests and supporting materials should be submitted as a pdf to the County Judge's office, agenda@co.travis.tx.us by Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. for the next week's meeting.

2. Commissioners Court approval is also sought to furnish the Hall of Government with temporary wall hangings, banners, and a decorative quilt from Oct. 15 through 27.
3. The Extension Service would like to make Master Gardeners available for ad hoc public consultations in the Hall of Government from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM on Oct. 16 & 17, and October 20 through 24.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES: Travis County History Day has proven to be a popular opportunity to learn about and to celebrate unique aspects of our rich history. Past events have covered topics such as the Heman Marion Sweatt Travis County Courthouse, current and former elected officials, and the history of Travis County law enforcement. A short program will begin at 10:30, followed by a reception. Historical photographs, documents and artifacts will be on display, including photographs from the collections of the Austin History Center, records from the Travis County Archives, and artifacts from the Travis County AgriLife Extension Service. All county officials, employees and the public are welcome to attend this special occasion. Travis County History Day is sponsored by the Austin Bar Association, Austin History Center, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Travis County Archives, and the Travis County Historical Commission.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING: History Day expenses will be related to educational/informational displays. They can be absorbed within the existing budgets of the AgriLife Extension Office, the RMCR Department, and the Travis County Historical Commission.

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

None required.