

Bertron, Cara

From: Bertron, Cara
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 9:47 AM
To: Bertron, Cara
Cc: Sadowsky, Steve (Steve.Sadowsky@austintexas.gov); 'Melissa Barry'; Ted Lee Eubanks; McKnight, Kim (Kim.McKnight@austintexas.gov)
Subject: FW: Republic Square interpretive markers

Hi Commissioners,

Please see the following email from Melissa Barry regarding the Republic Square interpretive panels, in response to Commissioner Valenzuela's comment. I will also post it as backup for tonight's meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you this evening at 7:15 in One Texas Center!

Cara

Cara Bertron
Senior Planner / Deputy Historic Preservation Officer
City of Austin Planning and Zoning Department
(512) 974-1446 / cara.bertron@austintexas.gov

From: Melissa Barry [mailto:mbarry@downtownaustin.com]
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 8:20 AM
To: Bertron, Cara <Cara.Bertron@austintexas.gov>
Cc: Ted Lee Eubanks <tedleeeubanks@fermatainc.com>; McKnight, Kim <Kim.McKnight@austintexas.gov>
Subject: Re: Republic Square interpretive markers

Cara,

Thanks for sending this feedback. These are all important points of discussion. We have had a lengthy process and dialogue with the Our Austin Story Steering Committee and other community members to get where we are today; the narratives reflect that dialogue. Our Interpretive Planning consultant Ted Eubanks has provided some initial responses below. Please feel free to share this with Landmark Commission members.

I also want to offer that the interpretive panels for Republic Square are just the beginning – there are many more stories that need to be communicated throughout downtown. We agree that there's much more opportunity to elaborate. We are constrained by both the number of panels and the amount of space for narrative on the panels for Republic Square; but we hope to elaborate on these stories in web, print and other digital media, as well as in the programming of the park.

Responses from our consultant:

In response to #1 to change the date from *16 de septiembre* to *Diez y Seis de Septiembre*: We started with this format and it was recommended by Sylvia Orozco and others that we use the proper format for the date in Spanish.

In response to #2 regarding the 1928 City Plan: These are all great points. There are differing views on how to communicate the 1928 plan within the community. The language we submitted what was agreed to by the Our Austin Story Steering Committee and other community members and other interested parties.

We would also welcome an in-person meeting with any Commission members who would like to discuss this further. We are eager to get the signs printed and installed in Republic Square so that we can begin to share this heritage with the community.

Thanks for consideration,

Melissa

From: Valenzuela, Sarah - BC

Sent: Monday, November 27, 2017 3:01 PM

To: Bertron, Cara <Cara.Bertron@austintexas.gov>

Cc: Sadowsky, Steve <Steve.Sadowsky@austintexas.gov>; Galindo, Mary - BC <bc-Mary.Galindo@austintexas.gov>

Subject: Republic Square interpretive markers

Good afternoon,

I have reviewed the revised text for the Republic Square markers and feel like an opportunity has been missed to elaborate on the rich Mexican and Tejano heritage of the area surrounding the square. I have a few items to consider for the marker on page 3 of the Revised Text. I don't feel like these items are substantial enough to pull off the item off the Consent Agenda, but if possible, if they could be passed on to the interpretive panel designer.

1. Change the date from *16 de septiembre* to *Diez y Seis de Septiembre*
2. Rework paragraph 3 on the 1928 City Plan - the 1928 City Plan was one reason Mexicans and Tejanos relocated to East Austin from the area surrounding Republic Square, but not the only reason. Earlier settlements of railroad laborers developed along the railroad yard in East Austin; Sacred Heart Chapel (now Cristo Rey parish) was established in East Austin in 1923, Our Lady of Guadalupe relocated to East Austin in 1926; returning WW2 veterans used the home loan program of the 1944 GI Bill to purchase first homes in East and South Austin.

It might be more accurate to say that many Mexican Americans living in neighborhoods surrounding Republic Square eventually relocated to a larger Mexican American *barrio* established in East Austin. Residents were drawn to the area east of present-day IH 35 due to the relocation of services and infrastructure under the 1928 City Plan, but with the move of Our Lady of Guadalupe to East Austin in 1926, many saw the area as an opportunity to purchase homes and establish businesses...

Thank you for your consideration of these revisions,

-Beth Valenzuela

City of Austin Historic Landmark Commissioner for District 2

Sarah Valenzuela
Boards and Commissions

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