



ROUTE TO:

Comm Pct 1 _____
Comm Pct 2 _____
Comm Pct 3 _____
Comm Pct 4 _____
Admin Sect _____

November 5, 2008

The Honorable Mike Brown
Judge, Tom Green County
112 W. Beauregard
San Angelo, Texas 76903

Dear Judge Brown,

I am writing to request that the Tom Green Commissioner's Court grant an appointment of Mrs. Golda Foster to the Texas Forts Trail board of directors.

The Texas Forts Trail is the non-profit organization that implements the Texas Historical Commission's Texas Heritage Trails Program. The Texas Forts Trail Region is comprised of a twenty-nine county region in central West Texas stretching from Jacksboro to Aspermont to Eldorado to San Saba. The bylaws of the Texas Forts Trail stipulate that the board will be comprised of no more than fourteen voting members representing a cross-section of the region. At this time, San Angelo does not have a voting member of the board of directors. Due to their positions, Mr. Bob Bluthardt, Director of Fort Concho NHL, and Mrs. Pamela Miller, director of the San Angelo Convention and Visitors Bureau are ex officio members of the board; however, at this time there is not a voting member from San Angelo and/or Tom Green County. Information on the Texas Forts Trail board is enclosed for your review.

I have had several conversations with Mrs. Foster and believe that she would be an excellent representative for San Angelo and Tom Green County. Additionally, I have forwarded information to Mrs. Foster regarding the duties and obligations that are involved with serving on the Texas Forts Trail board and understand she is willing to fulfill these obligations.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Margaret Ann Hoogstra
Regional Coordinator

CC: The Honorable Ralph Hoelscher, Tom Green County, Commissioner, Precinct 1
The Honorable Aubrey de Cordova, Tom Green County, Commissioner, Precinct 2
The Honorable Steve Floyd, Tom Green County, Commissioner, Precinct 3
The Honorable Richard Easingwood, Tom Green County, Commissioner, Precinct 4

TEXAS FORTS TRAIL

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**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
TEXAS HERITAGE TRAILS PROGRAM**

INFORMATION SHEET – TEXAS HERITAGE TRAILS PROGRAM AND THE TEXAS FORTS TRAIL REGION

The Texas Heritage Trails Program (THTP) is based around 10 scenic driving trails created in 1968 by Gov. John Connally and the Texas Highway Department as a marketing tool. The trails were established in conjunction with the HemisFair, an international exposition that commemorated the 250th anniversary of the founding of San Antonio.

In 1997, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) was charged by the State Legislature to create a statewide heritage tourism program. The THC based their program on the original driving trails, creating ten heritage regions: Brazos Trail Region, Forest Trail Region, FORTS Trail Region, Hill Country Trail Region, Lakes Trail Region, Independence Trail Region, Mountain Trail Region, Pecos Trail Region, Plains Trail Region and Tropical Trail Region.

Today, the trails serve as the backbone for the THC's award-winning regional tourism initiative. The program's focus has broadened to include heritage tourism attractions both on and off the trail, and communities throughout each region are encouraged to participate in the program.

The Texas FORTS Trail Region features a 650-mile driving route within a 29-county area that highlights eight frontier forts, one Spanish presidio and the communities and attractions that surround them. It is a non-profit organization with offices in Abilene and funded primarily by the Texas Historical Commission.

The Board of Directors is the decision-making entity that facilitates the program strategies of the Texas FORTS Trail Region. Members are selected by a nomination-by-application process of community leaders from within the region. The board is comprised of no more than fourteen (14 members) voting members who are elected for a three-year term. There is a commitment of one board meeting every other month, plus additional time spent working on such issues as historic preservation, economic development, promotion, education and heritage tourism. The board also has not more than fourteen (14) ex officio board members. Board meetings are open to the public and are typically held on the last Wednesday of each month.

The mission of the Texas FORTS Trail is to increase heritage tourism to the Texas FORTS Trail Region by:

- making people aware of the region and its attractions;
- educating people about the role of forts in the development of Texas;
- fostering historic preservation in the region;
- helping improve sites to be visited in the region; and
- helping develop local/regional heritage tourism leadership.

TEXAS FORTS TRAIL REGION BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2008/09

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W.K. Gordon Center for TX Industrial History
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City of Eden
Eden, TX

Margaret Hoogstra

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