

**MINUTES  
HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
May 10, 1993**

The regular meeting of the Historic Landmark Commission of the City of Denton was held at 5:00 p.m. in the Civil Defense Room of the Municipal Building located at 215 E. McKinney Street, on Monday, May 10, 1993.

Present: Judith Abbott, Joe Bailey, W.A. Barker, Elinor Caldwell, Rita Holcomb, Mary McCain, and George Spuller

Absent: Liz Bays and Judy Cole

Present from Staff: Frank Robbins, Executive Director for Planning and Development; and Donna Baker, Planning Technician

Others Present: Mike Cochran

- I. Consider the minutes of the regular meeting of April 12, 1993.

It was moved by Mr. Spuller, seconded by Mr. Barker and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 12, 1993. Ms. Holcomb did not vote.

- II. Consider the wording for the O'Neil Ford Civic Complex Heritage Marker.

Mr. Cochran stated the O'Neil Ford Committee, which Liz Bays is appointed to, has scheduled July 31, 1993 as the date for the O'Neil Ford Ceremony. In honor of O'Neil Ford the following wording has been created for a historic marker that will be unveiled the day of the ceremony:

**O'NEIL FORD CIVIC COMPLEX**

O'Neil Ford, Prominent Texas Architect, was born in Pink Hill, Texas in 1905 and moved to Denton at the age of 12. He graduated from Denton High School and attended North Texas State Teachers College, now the University of North Texas.

Ford designed his first residence, the Mary Marshall House, here in 1929. In 1939, Ford earned national prominence with the completion of the Little Chapel in the Woods on the Texas Woman's University Campus.

Among Ford's many contributions to the architecture of Denton are the buildings of the Civic Center Complex. The Civic Center was built in 1966. The City Hall, built in 1967, displays many popular Ford themes, including doors carved by his brother, Lynn Ford, ceramic light fixtures, and saltillo tile floors. Ford and his firm designed additions to the Emily Fowler Public Library in 1969 and 1980.

Ford credited his pursuit of the creative life to his fascination with the Denton County Courthouse. "I used to just stand there, wondering how they ever got it

... (built), I was in Denton just the other day ... so I went over to look at the courthouse again and still don't know how they ever did that blasted, blessed thing."

O'Neil Ford died on July 20, 1982, in San Antonio, Texas.

Dedicated the O'Neil Ford Civic Complex on July 31, 1993.

Ms. McCain asked what all was included in the O'Neil Ford Civic Complex. Mr. Cochran stated that it would include the Civic Center, City Hall, Senior Center, Library, and all city owned buildings in the area. Mr. Cochran added that the City Council has already titled all of the buildings as the O'Neil Ford Civic Complex.

Mr. Cochran stated that someone earlier had a question as to whether the Little Chapel in the Woods should be hyphenated. He said he would check and if it should be hyphenated he would change it accordingly.

Ms. McCain stated that she did not understand the last line and felt that since it was not a sentence, it was not very clear.

Ms. Abbott suggested changing the last sentence to "The O'Neil Ford Civic Complex dedicated on July 31, 1993".

Mr. Bailey suggested adding that the dedication was made by the Denton City Council. The Commission agreed.

Mr. Barker moved to approve the wording, as amended. It was seconded by Mr. Spuller and unanimously carried (6-0). Ms. Holcomb did not vote.

III. Receive reports regarding:

a) O'Neil Ford Celebration Ceremony

Ms. Abbott stated that the date of the O'Neil Ford Ceremony has been changed and is rescheduled from July 24, 1993 to July 31, 1993 as stated earlier.

Mr. Cochran stated that the Denton Record Chronicle has agreed to take photographs for free. In addition, the ceremony will include having a representative from the O'Neil firm present as well as a self guided tour from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. The opening ceremony will be on Friday,

July 30, 1993 with the dedication at 10:00a.m. on Saturday, July 31, 1993.

Mr. Cochran said that he felt Ms. Bays has been an asset to the Committee and thanked the Commission for her help.

b) Preservation Plan

Ms. Abbott stated the drawings for the Preservation Plan are complete. She thanked Ms. McCain for an excellent job.

Ms. McCain stated that Elizabeth McMath also provided help in the drawings.

The Commissioners looked at some of the drawings and expressed their appreciation for the work involved.

IV. Future Agenda Items.

Ms. Abbott stated that the Commission may want to discuss in the future some alternatives for raising money for the historic inventory.

Mr. Bailey moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 p.m. It was seconded by Mr. Barker and unanimously carried (7-0).