



## Bexar County Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

1:00 p.m.

Bexar County Courthouse  
Double-Height Courtroom  
Wednesday, February 5th, 2020

### Commission Members in Attendance:

Dr. Felix Almaráz  
Mr. Dan Arellano  
Mr. Hector Cardenas  
Mr. Joseph de León  
Hon. Alan Ernst  
Dr. Francis X. Galan  
Mr. Mickey Killian  
Mr. Clinton McKenzie  
Prof. Sue Ann Pemberton  
Dr. Amy Porter  
Mr. Jesús R. (Corky) Rubio

### Commission Members with Excused Absence:

Executive Director Angelica Docog  
Hon. Professor Mario Salas

### Associate Members in Attendance:

Dr. Scott Baird  
Dr. David Carlson  
Mr. Gary W. Houston  
Dr. Sharon Skrobarcek

### Associate Members with Excused Absence:

Mr. Frank Faulkner  
Mr. José G. Jimenez  
Brother Edward J. Loch, S.M.

## County Officials and Community Members in Attendance:

Betty Bueché  
Juliette Moke  
Robert Garcia

- I. Welcome: Chairman Dr. Felix D. Almaraz, Jr., presiding  
A quorum was present. Minutes were reviewed and approved with minor amendments.
- II. Standing Committee Reports:
  - A. Archaeology: Clinton McKenzie  
McKenzie noted that human remains were found at Mission San Antonio de Valero. This was reported in the newspapers. There are many other small projects occurring around the county.
  - B. Archives: Brother Edward J. Loch, S.M. Also, Dr. David Carlson, Archivist Joseph DeLeon, O.L.L.U.  
No new report. Carlson noted that Brother Loch could not make the San Antonio Regional Archivists (SARA) meeting. There will be a SARA meeting this month. The Miguel Yturri family will donate its papers to the Bexar County Archives.
  - C. Cemetery (Dr. Scott Baird)  
David Carlson's work at the Bexar County Spanish Archives was featured in the *San Antonio Express News* on February 2. Access to the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society Cemetery link was given to several people who asked for a possible listing of Bexar County cemeteries. McKenzie noted that he was invited to speak on the Hockley Cemetery during Dream Week, and it was very well attended. Bueché noted that the gravesite of Hendrick Arnold was proposed to be registered as a Texas Historic Cemetery and incorporated into a park. Moke will provide us with a copy of the application for designation.
  - D. Historical Markers: (Dr. Almaraz) [No report due to a delay by the State of Texas in Designating a successor foundry to design, cast, and deliver official Texas Historical Commission markers and plaques to applicants.]  
Almaráz noted that the state of Texas has finally designated a foundry to cast the markers. He received this email yesterday. The fees will remain the same for one year. The application review process will begin on April 1 and remain open until June 15. The marker committee will get back to work.
  - D. History Appreciation: (Dr. Sharon Skorbarcek)  
Skrobarcek provided a handout with an itinerary of events happening this spring.
  - F. Oral History: (no volunteer has indicated an interest in serving)
  - G. Historical Structures: (no volunteer has indicated an interest in serving)
- III. Ad Hoc Committees:
  - A. By-Laws (document-in-progress): Judge Alan Ernst  
This was a project that Almaráz requested last year, and the intent is to revise the Bexar County Historical Commission by-laws. Ernst researched other CHCs (County Historical Commissions), and many do not have by-laws. Ernst suggested that we call them guidelines rather than by-laws. He recommended a change in the first line to replace "agency" with "organization." There was some discussion of the purposes of the CHCs as well as the history of

the BCHC. Ernst noted that some of what the BCHC does is mandated by the state, and some projects are self-initiated. Ernst questioned the position of Associate members. Ernst explained that he feels that Associate Members should be regular members. A discussion of this issue took place. Houston noted that some former members attend meetings and provide institutional memory. The consensus is to continue the Associate Members category. Ernst and Galan will work on the section defining Associate Members. Ernst noted that in the draft he added that the chairman may recommend to Commissioners Court the removal of a member for three consecutive unexcused absences or for other good or sufficient cause. In the officers section, Ernst noted that he will add the section explaining how the officers are chosen. In the meetings section, there was discussion over which three months should not have meetings. The consensus was July, August, and December. Carlson noted that a quorum is normally half plus one. In discussion of the committee section, Ernst suggested cutting the executive committee and leaving the others. Ernst noted that he would like to have a Historical Markers Committee, History Appreciation, Cemetery, and Historic Sites and Structures. He can cut the oral history committee and add an archives committee if we like. McKenzie noted that it would be useful to include language that allows latitude to add or subtract standing committees. McKenzie would like to have a process outlined for expenditures. Ernst will consult with Almaráz, revise the by-laws, and recirculate them. Send any other comments to Ernst by email.

**B. Bexar County Parks Centennial Observance:**

Betty Bueche, Director, Bexar Heritage and Parks Department

**IV. Old Business: Nothing mentioned or discussed**

**V. New Business: Nothing mentioned or discussed**

**VI. Announcements:**

- Robert Garcia (Visitor) wondered why there is no event(s) to mark the 300th anniversary of the founding of Mission San Jose on February 23, which falls on a Sunday. He said he could not get an answer from the National Park Service. Betty Bueché responded that Bexar County is contributing \$47,500 to a festival at Mission San Jose and Mission County Park, but it'll take place in April to attract more people during Fiesta and reflects the community response. She added that the NPS might be skittish because of the issue about separation between church and state.
- Rubio announced that on February 29 at the Casa Navarro State Historic Site there will be the yearly celebration of announcing scholarships for students and that Mickey Killian will fill in for him to hand out our BCHC scholarship. Ernst asked how much money did BCHC commit for our scholarship and when was this decided? Rubio responded \$1,500, and Bueche mentioned it was decided by the BCHC right before Ernst came aboard. Ernst added that maybe we should also have a financial position on the BCHC, and Bueché followed with maybe have funding status included in the minutes?

- Houston mentioned a few events: 1) Speaker, Bree Newsome, artist, musician, writer, UTSA, February 26 (she gained national attention in 2015 when she lowered the Confederate flag from South Carolina's capital after the Charleston church shooting); 2) Buffalo Soldiers Artifacts Display and History Lecture at Texas A&M University-San Antonio, February 24, 11am-1pm; and the first African American book festival at the Carver Library (3350 E. Commerce St), February 8.
- Bueché mentioned there'll be redevelopment of land around the Navarro House with UTSA's acquisition of property for their downtown campus expansion, which also includes tearing down the old county jail.
- Bueché announced that on February 11 @10am, Bexar County Courtroom, there will be a Proclamation of the 100th anniversary of the county park system and vignettes. Covington Park was the first of the county's parks and where Stephen F. Austin had an encampment during the Texas Revolution before entering San Antonio in the fall 1835. There will also be a Reenactment in October and of the Siege of Bexar in November as well as the capitulation in December. Dr. Carlson, Dr. Almaráz, and Dan Arellano are on this committee. You may speak with them about joining in the committee.
- Juliette Moke mentioned this past Saturday (Feb 1) at the "Save the Woolworth Building" Symposium there were wonderful speakers. Judge Wolff gave opening remarks. This event was live-streamed and recorded so you may watch online through the Bexar County website. She also announced that on February 21, archivists will meet at the Bexar Heritage Center and are headed by Mary Kenney, Archivist for the National Archives of the Marianist Province of the US.

VII. Adjournment: 2:47pm.