

## **BEXAR COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

**Wednesday March 4, 2020 1:00 p.m.**

**Minutes by Mr. Jesús (Corky) Rubio**

**Double Height Courtroom, Media Briefing Room**

### Commission Members in Attendance:

Dr. Felix Almaraz, Chair

Mr. Dan Arellano

Mr. Hector Cardenas

Mr. Joseph de León

Executive Director Angelica Docog

Hon. Alan Ernst

Mr. Mickey Killian

Prof. Sue Ann Pemberton

Mr. Jesús (Corky) Rubio

### Commission Members with Excused Absences:

Mr. Clinton McKenzie

Dr. Francis X. Galan

Dr. Amy Porter

### Commission Members Absent:

Hon. Prof. Mario Salas

### Associate Members in Attendance:

Dr. Scott Baird

Dr. David Carlson

Mr. Gary Houston

Mr. José G. Jimenez

Brother Edward J. Loch, S.M.

Dr. Sharon Skrobacek

### Associate Members Absent:

Mr. Fran Faulkner

### Guests and County Representatives in Attendance:

Ms. Linda Henderson, Texas Dept. of Transportation (TxDOT)

Mr. Emiliano Calderon, Texas Historical Commission (THC)

Mrs. Mary Wilson, Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT)

Mr. Justin Kockritz, Texas Historical Commission (THC)

Ms. Miranda Garrison, City of San Antonio

Ms. Betty Bueché, Director Bexar Heritage and Parks Department

Ms. Juliette Mok, Manager Bexar County Heritage Center

I. Welcome, roll call, confirmation of quorum by Mr. Jesús Corky Rubio followed by a call to order of the meeting of the BCHC by Chair Dr. Felix Almaraz and the immediate introduction of guests and subsequent address to the BCHC.

A. Ms. Linda Henderson (TxDOT) Delivered a general description and outline of section 106, placed herself for any and all BCHC needs, and quickly deferred to Mr. Justin Kockritz.

B. Mr. Justin Kockritz (THC) Reviewed the process for section 106, and the basic steps on how to work with THC on this requirement with a federal or state agency. It can be any project or proposals that have Federal connections. This requirement is only for construction and not housing assistance, medical care or VA benefits. The Federal 106 Commission reaches out to THC to disseminate information throughout the state primarily to avoid demolition or destruction. The Federal government wants to minimize or mitigate such things. All local Historical Commissions should advise the THC on projects affected by section 106 including other needs. He requested all CHC and local stakeholder groups to help THC.

C. Ms. Linda Henderson (TxDOT) Indicated that the TxDOT portion pertaining to section 106 deals mainly with highways and roads. Therefore TxDOT has a duty to seek out local input on TxDOT projects. Ms. Henderson wanted to know if we have any historical properties and projects of which we have priorities.

D. Ms. Betty Bueché (BC) Delivered an explanation to the guests and all present about the Bexar Heritage Center and introduced the Director Mr. Juliette Mok. Ms. Bueché further detailed and informed the guests about Bexar County's Historical initiatives.

E. Mr. Dan Arellano (BCHC) Requested from the visiting group for more help with the Battle of Medina site. In particular, for a state supervisor to help with the obstacles for preservation of the site.

F. Ms. Linda Henderson (TxDOT) Indicated she "will look into this because there are a lot of roads being built."

G. Mr. Hector Cardenas (BCHC) Mr. Cardenas asked Ms. Henderson about certain railroad projects in Bexar County, specifically he referenced an old Missouri Pacific Depot from the early 1900s-1961 that was torn down.

H. Ms. Linda Henderson (TxDOT) answered that section 106 refers only to the sites that are now in existence.

I. Mr. Gary Houston (BCHC) Requested of Ms. Henderson to look into bridges also. That they be inventoried, catalogued and examined.

J. Ms. Linda Henderson (TxDOT) Ms. Henderson referred the BCHC to search [bridgehunter.com](http://bridgehunter.com) and that TxDOT always accepts information, and invited BCHC to share with them any information we may offer.

K. Mr. Justin Kockritz (THC) Indicated "there is not a central repository of bridges that I know of where we can help them." He further added "that if the Federal government would want this then Sec. 106 would kick in with that information".

L. Ms. Linda Henderson (TxDOT) Ms. Henderson added that the hope is to intervene on those projects where the contractors are not knowledgeable of the sites. Those that are well known are not given that much attention. She subsequently passed out booklets on historical narratives, roadwork and highways.

M. Mr. Justin Kockritz (THC) Also handed out pamphlets on Section 106, lists of contacts at THC, information on how local preservation groups can interface with THC as well as with the National Register of Landmarks.

N. Mr. Emiliano Calderon (THC) Also gave out a printed list of all contacts and departments of THC.

O. Round of applause and appreciation by BCHC members.

II. Review of the minutes of the meeting of February 11, 2020. The Chair called for a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Judge Alan Ernst made a motion to accept the minutes followed by a second from Ms. Angelica Ducog. Motion was unanimously passed by the membership of BCHC.

### III. Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Archaeology Committee. Mr. Clinton McKenzie – No report due to the excused absence of Mr. McKenzie.
- B. Archives Committee. Brother Edward Lock, S.M. delivered his report which addressed a Mexican Collection, Old Bell Telephone Records, Urban 15, and Women’s religious archives among others. Next meeting of archivists in conjunction with CORAL, will be at Palo Alto College on May 15, 2020. There were no questions or comments. Report submitted and attached. Dr. Felix Almaraz indicated he had spoken with the Catholic Archives of Texas who informed him of the limited scope of the Archival Collection whereupon she indicated she could only attend to some inquiries, letters and telephone calls. Dr. Almaraz proceeded to give a brief history of the Catholic Archives of Texas and of New Orleans.
- C. Cemetery Committee Dr. Scott Baird submitted and attached report. Includes information on the Arnold Cemetery, Heritage Cemetery, information from Leon Valley Historical Society and Coker Cemetery Newsletter. An annual meeting of the Association of Gravestone Studies is set for Austin Texas in June 2020. Also additions pertaining to Cemetery Committee duties submitted to the BCHC By Laws draft.
- D. History Appreciation Committee Dr. Sharon Skrobarcek reported a detail of some of the events for March 2020 including all the Alamo events such as “Dawn at the Alamo (reenactment)”. Laying of the wreath by the DAR, evening meeting of the Defenders Descendants Association and Confessions of David Crockett performance. Also included were Fiesta Events pertaining to history such as the solemn Pilgrimage to the Alamo.
- E. Historic Sites and Structures Prof. Sue Ann Pemberton reported that the committee is currently being set up. She is also doing work on restoration of adobe jacal structures.
- F. Historical Markers Committee Dr. Felix Almaraz indicated that submittal of applications for Historical Markers will begin to be received on April 1, 2020. Some have already come in. The committee will convene and review them early as there are only 12 weeks to review the applications.

### IV. Ad Hoc Committees

- A. By Laws (document in progress). Judge Alan Ernst, committee chair, submitted the new revised By Laws to the BCHC so that they can be approved and further submitted to the Bexar County Commissioners for their approval. Judge Ernst reviewed the various changes, edits and additions to the new By Laws and further asked that each committee submit its own rules and policies. There was a question as to the existence and inclusion of the Oral History Committee in the new By Laws. After discussion it was agreed to retain the committee in the new By Laws. Other information was shared, including the possibility of seeking guidance from THC as to other counties' By Laws and the clarification by Ms. Bueché that the BCHC consists of 15 members. Judge Ernst made a motion to accept the new By Laws to be adopted with some minor changes. Prof. Sue Ann Pemberton seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

#### V. New Business

- A. Dr. Almaraz would like to invite Mr. Mickey Kilian and Judge Alan Ernst to have a meeting With Commissioner Justin Rodriguez to inform him of the BCHC.
- B. Dr. Almaraz would like a microphone/s to be set at the table so that the speakers could be heard more clearly.
- C. Dr. Almaraz reviewed the results of the Arciniega Trademark Trial, indicating that a settlement had been achieved. Both sides walk away with their individual portraits, neither is official nor unofficial. It had caused much anxiety and Dr. Almaraz was in fact not able to testify.

#### VI. Announcements

- A. Mr. Dan Arellano spoke to the Texas Association of School Boards. The members pledged to come up with a revision of the Texas History Textbooks.
- B. Mr. Mickey Killian reported the celebration of the 300 years anniversary of Mission San José. It included a ceremony by three indigenous tribes with 75 people attending the picnic and ceremony. It was the only ceremony for the descendants of the indigenous founders.
- C. Mr. Hector Cardenas asked Dr. Sue Ann Pemberton if she knew of any documents or photos pertaining to the old Laredo neighborhood before it was replaced. Ms. Betty Bueché indicated that the WPA made photos of the area and that they are in the Library of Congress.
- D. Ms. Julie Mok announced that she received an e-mail from the Texas Historical Association with a Historical Designation Certificate for the Arnold Cemetery at the Strauss Ranch.

- VII. Motion made by Chairman Almaraz to adjourn. Seconded. Motion passed and meeting was Adjourned. Approx.. 2:55 pm.