

Minutes

Bexar County Historical Commission

Wednesday, April 5, 2023
100 Dolorosa, 2nd Floor
Double Height Courtroom

Members Attending
Hector Cardenas
Joseph de León
Angelica Docog
Tim Draves
Alan Ernst
Mickey Killian
Jesus R. (Corky) Rubio
Pauline Rubio

Associates Attending:
Scott Baird
David Carlson
Robert Garcia
Gary Houston
Jack Reynolds
Virginia Rutledge
Jose Jimenez
Frank Faulkner
Christopher Fullerton

Clinton McKenzie
Rick Reyes
Unable to Attend:
Geremy Landin
Michael Gallegos
Sue Ann Pemberton
Mario Salas
Sharon Skrobarcek
Brother Ed Loch, S.M.

Kay Hinds

Guests:
Kristin Rodriguez, THC
Georgia Ruiz Davis THC
Nancy Draves
Susan Draves

- I. The meeting was called to order at 1:06 P.M., followed by roll call, and declaration of a quorum.
- II. The Historical Commission approved the minutes of the March 1, 2023, meeting.
- III. Kristin Rodriguez THC Assistant Site Manager for Casa Navarro requested input from the Historical Commission on a project to draft an interpretive master plan, and Robert Garcia, Rick Reyes, Christopher Fullerton, and David Carlson volunteered to help.
- IV. Angelica Docog offered a resolution to honor the life and work of Felix D. Almaráz, our Chair Emeritus, which the Historical Commission approved with the contingency that an ad hoc committee of Gary Houston, Angelica Docog and Tim Draves would finalize the wording and that Paulina Rubio would approach Commissioners Court to likewise honor Dr. Almaráz.
- V. The Historical Commission approved a resolution by Hector Cardenas to allocate up to \$300 to send flowers to the services for Dr. Almaráz and Mr. Cardenas agreed to manage the purchase and delivery.
- VI. Joseph de León described the 8th Annual Cactus Flower Annual Dinner on May 20 sponsored by American Indians of Texas and Angelica Docog made a motion to support the event in the amount of \$2500. The resolution passed.
- VII. Joseph de León made a motion, and the Historical Commission approved an allocation of up to \$300 for a memorial wreath to present at the Fiesta Event, the Pilgrimage to the Alamo held on April 24. Numerous members agreed to participate.
- VIII. Corky Rubio made a motion, and the Historical Commission approved an allocation of \$300 for brochure printing with the Bexar Print Dept. for Genealogy Day and other upcoming events.
- IX. Tim Draves offered the Chairman's report that focused on the County's effort to build a Native American Culture Center (NACC) which began in 2021 saying that on April 4, 2023, the project moved to the design phase when the Commissioners Court awarded a contract to a local architectural firm. Rick Reyes, Angelica Docog, and Virginia Rutledge offered to represent the Historical Commission when community input design stage begins. Draves further pointed out that the County budget process was coming but with little result from effort in 2022 the strategy will be reconsidered. Draves continues to press the idea of a community history event calendar, as well as the idea of developing a BCHC Five-Year Plan.
- X. Angelica Docog committed to planning heritage tourism promotion using the THC outlines and support system. Further, she will attend the online meeting of the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) to begin the County's commemorative celebration 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Hector Cardenas noted two disruptions to successful heritage travel. First, VisitSA's Alamo Plaza visitor information center is closed, and second, during Covid-19, VIA scuttled its cultural bus routes to both the missions and to the Witte Museum and the McNay. Pauline Rubio and Angelica Docog will join Hector Cardenas in attempting to bring pressure on officials to restore those important community resources.

- XI. Alan Ernst asked the group to report hours, committee meetings and projects. He will head up a review of the BCHC Bylaws this year, saying that we should consider a process for funding community history events that would include an application, a presentation, and reports on results of our contributions.
- XII. Robert Garcia reported that the Oral History group will recruit an intern help to develop inventory of existing collections and that several Historical Commission members will register for the 2-day Baylor Oral History online training when it is announced.
- XIII. Christopher Fullerton reported on his participation at the International Water Conference at the United Nations Water and Heritage Working Group that is part of the U.S. International Council on Monuments and Sites. Worldwide experts presented heritage and water as cultural traditions. Fullerton reviewed the San Antonio acequia system and how the Food Bank, SARA, and the Army Corps of Engineers carry on 300-year tradition of agricultural irrigation. ICOMOS is now named World Heritage USA, and Claudia Guerra from COSA World Heritage Office is a board member; they will meet in San Antonio in September as part of the World Heritage Week. Mr. Fullerton reported that despite the early February ice storm, the Real Places Conference in Austin was very worthwhile and noticed that Comal CHC was well represented.
- XIV. Jack Reynolds reported that the Education Committee will work with the Region 20 Education Service Center (ESC-20) and various school district Social Studies Coordinators to introduce Bexar history into social studies curricula for grades 4, 7, 8, and 11. Paulina Rubio mentioned that transportation to local museums and historic sites is an important potential role for the Historical Commission.
- XV. Joseph de León attended the THC webinar to learn about updates for the Historical Marker application window. To date, the committee has received no applications for the 2023 cycle.
- XVI. Scott Baird offered the Heritage Cemeteries Report in written form (attached). Hector Cardenas now serves as the co-chair for the committee.
- XVII. Tim Draves directed all members to make sure they receive Bexar County Historical Commission Fiesta Medals, there will be an independent studies project at Trinity University in the fall to analyze diversity in markers, indicated that we will meet at the Pilgrimage to the Alamo, and that an informal lunch meeting invitation will be coming.
- XVIII. The meeting adjourned at 2:43 PM.

**BEXAR COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Cemetery Committee**

April 5, 2023

Co-Chairs: Scott Baird and Hector Cardenas

Member: David Carlson

Feb. 01 Baird BCHC Monthly Meeting Transportation 40", Meeting 120"

Feb, 01 Cardenas agreed to serve as Co-Chair of Cemetery Committee 10"

Feb. 10 Baird Wall Street Journal "Burials Are Overwhelming Cemeteries" p. 8 15"

Mar. 01 Baird BCHC Monthly Meeting Transportation 40", Meeting 150"

(Oct. 31 Baird San Antonio Express News "History professor[Joe Alvarez] gives new life to the city's Graves." Pp. A1 & A4 15")

Apr. 05 Baird BCHC Monthly Meeting Transportation & Meeting