

Minutes

Bexar County Historical Commission

Wednesday, May 3, 2023
100 Dolorosa, 2nd Floor
Double Height Courtroom

Members Attending

Hector Cardenas
Joseph de León
Tim Draves
Alan Ernst
Mickey Killian
Jeremy Landin
Corky Rubio
Pauline Rubio

Associates Attending:

Scott Baird
Robert Garcia
Kay Hindes
Gary Houston
Jack Reynolds
Virginia Rutledge
Jose Jimenez
Christopher Fullerton

Unable to Attend:

Angelica Docog
Michael Gallegos
Sue Ann Pemberton
Mario Salas
Sharon Skrobarcek
David Carlson
Frank Faulkner
Brother Ed Loch
Clinton McKenzie
Rick Reyes

Guests

Eddie Gutierrez,
Briscoe Museum
D'Ago Morales-
Ferrari, UTSA

Staff:

Noah Barshop
Mari Tamez

- I. The meeting was called to order at 1:05 P.M., followed by roll call, and declaration of a quorum.
- II. The Historical Commission approved the minutes with corrections of the April 5, 2023, meeting.
- III. Mr. Draves reported that on May 4, 2023, the Bexar County Commissioners Court approved a resolution to recognize the 48-year effort of Dr. Felix D. Almaraz with Jose Jimenez, Scott Baird, and Tim Draves in attendance along with staff from the Bexar Heritage Department.
- IV. Gary W. Houston read the Felix D. Almaráz proclamation as approved by the Bexar County Commissioners Court.
- V. Discussion regarding informal brainstorming meetings, formal meeting minutes, and preservation of Zoom meeting recording.
- VI. Mr. Draves reviewed the year's budget allocations and invoices. See addendum.
- VII. The Historical Commission passed a resolution to allocate \$100 for Bexar County Parking Garage validation tags.
- VIII. Alan Ernst recommended the Historical Commission develop a policy that is transparent and fair to all for community organization sponsorships potentially encompassing:
 - 1) An established policy for criteria for eligibility;
 - 2) That organizations make requests in person;
 - 3) That organizations give adequate time for approval, say 90 days;
 - 4) That members identify any relationship with a proposed recipient and any benefit they would receive from the grant such as a dinner ticket;
 - 5) Grantees should provide a written follow-up regarding the event and the benefits of receiving the allocation;
 - 6) Guidelines should be published.
- IX. Joseph de León reported that he attended SAISD Grant Dunbar meeting regarding a marker for 2024. Applications submitted to THC Marker Committee for Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright and for the Mattie Lewis Limited School.
- X. Jack Reynolds reported that the Education Committee is focusing efforts on K-12 projects via continuing dialog with Social Studies Coordinators at a number of Bexar County ISDs. TEKS, delivery methods, workshop participation.

- XI. Jack Reynolds introduced D'Ago Morales-Ferrari who is the UTSA summer intern assisting the Oral History Committee in developing an inventory of existing recording collections. Robert Garcia further illustrated the priorities of the committee.
- XII. Christopher Fullerton informed the group that in the fall, a US World Heritage Office (ICOMOS) will conduct a World Heritage Water conference in Bexar County.
- XIII. Scott Baird conveyed the disappointment of one Bexar County Commissioner at the small Historical Commission attendance at the Felix Almaráz commemoration, and he reminded members and associates that one responsibility is attendance at ceremonial functions. In addition to the Almaráz ceremony, Dr. Baird attended funeral services and the April meeting. Mr. Draves reminded the group to include attendance at those events in our monthly hours report to Alan Ernst.
- XIV. Corky Rubio described the history of San Jose Genealogy day and said that the members and associates attending with him were Mickey Killian and David Carlson. He said there was good interest in our Historical Markers survey booklet, and said additional brochures will help promote Historical Commission work.
- XV. Virginia Rutledge is working on a Historical Commission overview pamphlet and will ask members for input later in May. A project to identify the topics and focus of our 315 Historical Markers will begin this summer particularly to determine what communities and topics have adequate representation and which areas are under-represented. There was discussion about the Native American Cultural Center and the Brackenridge Park/ San Antonio River heritage tree removal/relocation project and Texas Historical Commission role. The Historical Commission was not invited to offer input or to attend; City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation was involved. Tim Draves indicated that THC does not supervise Texas CHCs, and its role is one of advising.
- XVI. Kay Hindes met with SAWS as an advisor on the Arnold Cemetery on Strauss Medina Rd along the Medina River where a 1936 centennial marker and a Texas Historical Marker detail the significance of the site.
- XVII. Mr. Draves reiterated that committee chairs have the prerogative to both add willing members to their groups, and to recruit volunteer assistants as Oral History has.
- XVIII. The meeting adjourned at 2:43 PM.

Addendum A Chair Report:

Allocation	Purpose	Invoices paid
\$200	Poster tripods-qty 2	\$139.40
\$600	Two Wreaths: Almaráz & Pilgrimage	\$390
\$750	Fiesta Medals	\$750
\$5200	Real Places Registration and travel	0
\$1200	Baylor Oral history training	\$ 0
\$2500	Cactus Blossom sponsorship	\$2500
\$300	Bexar Printing Dept.	0
\$10,750 Total		\$3779.40 Total

Addendum B Members and Associates in attendance:

- Services for Felix D. Almaráz attended by Scott Baird, Gary W. Houston, Ricky Reyes, Jack Reynolds, Ed Loch, Alan Ernst, David Carlson, and Tim Draves.
- Titos informal conversation attended by Joseph de León, Alan Ernst, Hector Cardenas, Robert Garcia, David Carlson, Jack Reynolds, Paulina Rubio, Virginia Rutledge, Frank Faulkner, and Tim Draves.

- Pilgrimage to the Alamo attended by Alan Ernst, Tim Draves, Rick Reyes, Joseph de León, Sharon Skrobarcek, David Carlson
- Mission San Jose Genealogy Day attended by Mickey Killian, David Carlson, Corky Rubio, Robert Garcia, Tim Draves
- Bexar County Commissioners Court May 4 attended by Scott Baird, Jose Jimenez, and Tim Draves.

Addendum C Bexar County Commissioners Court Proclamation

Resolution
Honoring
Dr. Felix Almaráz, Jr.
1933-2023

Whereas, Bexar County Commissioners Court deems it necessary to honor the accomplishments and bestow honor on county citizens who have contributed to educating and preserving the rich history of Bexar County; and

Whereas, Dr. Almaráz was, from its beginning, the key scholarly leader who dedicated 48 years of service to the Bexar County Historical Commission and was awarded the prestigious Hidalgo Award for his service to the Commission; and

Whereas, Dr. Almaráz was a recognized veteran who proudly served in our Armed Forces during the Korean War; and

Whereas, Dr. Almaráz was an internationally recognized scholar, mentor to thousands of students, and inspiration to dozens of colleagues as a respected authority on the history of San Antonio and South Texas borderlands; and

Whereas, Dr. Almaráz's dedication to a nine-year community campaign to have the San Antonio Missions designated as the first UNESCO World Heritage Site in Texas; and

Whereas, Dr. Almaráz's commitment as a renowned professor and scholar to encourage students of all ages to be inspired by history to have a better future. He once stated, "History, if it stays the same, then it's no history. And so we hope that we make changes;" and

Whereas, Dr. Almaráz brought an "Old World" courtliness to his daily interactions and formal speeches which will be missed by the greater Community; and

Whereas, for over 50 years, Dr. Almaráz contributed to the education and preservation of Bexar County and became known as "everybody's professor in many ways;" now therefore, be it

Resolved that we, the Bexar County Commissioners Court, do hereby honor

Dr. Felix D. Almaráz, Jr.