



Bexar County Historical Commission
Bexar County Courthouse
100 Dolorosa #311
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Minutes
Bexar County Historical Commission
Wednesday, January 9th, 2019
1:00 p.m.

Commission Members in Attendance:

Dr. Felix Almaráz
Dan Arellano
Angelica Docog
Joseph de León
Dr. Francis X. Galan
Mickey Killian
Clinton M. McKenzie
Dr. Amy Porter
Jesús R. (Corky) Rubio

Associate Members in Attendance:

Dr. Scott Baird
Brother Edward J. Loch, S.M.
Frank Faulkner
Jose G. Jimenez
Dr. David Carlson
Dr. Sharon Skrobarcek

Guests or County Representatives in Attendance:

Juliette Moke
Tim Draves
Betty Bueché
Olivia Cruz

- I. Welcome: Dr. Felix D. Almaráz, Jr., Chairman presiding
Secretary: Dr. Amy Porter
Roll call and meeting called to order at 1:04 pm.

- II. Introduction of Appointees, Associates, and Veteran Members- Dr. Almaráz welcomed new and current members
- III. Orientation of Bexar County Historical Commission in Public History- Dr. Almaráz provided an introduction to the work of the BCHC; described cooperation of county historical commissions and the work of the historical marker committee; in the past, Dr. Almaráz introduced new standards to make the marker process clearer; In the past, there were debates over brass markers vs. aluminum markers; San Antonio Conservation Society at one time helped out and paid for labor and materials for a marker, and this is what collaboration is all about; BCHC does not deny marker applications; it simply makes recommendations for changes or recommends that applications be sent on to Austin; the BCHC does not pay for markers either; new policy will be that only Commission members and associates can bring forward spending items or projects, and for anything over \$100 there will be a roll call vote, and the member who introduced item will abstain from the vote; at the next meeting in February we will have a formal installation of members and associates.
- IV. Submission of late annual reports for composite pending report to the Texas Historical Commission- If you have not submitted your report, please do so ASAP.
- V. Standing Committee Appointments:
- A. Executive Committee: Chairs of Standing Committees; vote on matters and then the whole commission votes
- B. Historical Markers: Dr. Almaráz, chair; Mickey Killian, vice chair- examining three applications; Shiner application was sent on to Austin, but we need to have someone on committee who is good with technology. Dr. Almaráz sent email to THC, but THC did not have the full application. While this is the applicants' responsibility, we did not remind them. Dr. Almaráz is trying to get the application accepted. The Blue Hole marker application is in progress. Also, we have the Hummel House marker. Finally, there was an application for Station X. It will be installed at the entrance of former Kelly Air Force base. Two more markers had already been installed by Frost Bank, but Frost is moving to a new building, and they wanted permission to remove markers, revise them, and then install them at a new place.
- C. Cemetery Markers: Dr. Scott Baird
1. 12/10/2018 Completed State Cemetery Preservation Survey
 2. 12/10/2018 Field work in Huebner Cemetery (photo shoot)
 3. 12/12/2018 Received link from David Carlson regarding possibility that the Hart Island Cemetery may be the largest pauper cemetery in the United States
 4. 12/16/2018 Received the Coker Cemetery newsletter (Dr. Baird is a member)
 5. 01/05/2019 Worked on American Gravestone Studies (AGS) research paper
 6. 01/07/2019 Conducted phone, then email, interview with Noi Mahoney, free-lance reporter for *Local Community News* regarding state requirements for State Historical Designation and State Historical Marker
- Dr. Almaráz noted that the exhibit table at TSHA might be able to highlight the cemetery inventory project on which Dr. Carlson and Dr. Baird have been working.
- D. Archaeology Appreciation: Mr. Clinton McKenzie- What he wants to do is to highlight any ongoing archaeology projects in the public realm or in the news. He will brief us on these. He will also brief us on anything going on in the private/nonprofit world. Leon Valley Historical Society has

asked for help with a metal detecting survey this Saturday at 8:00 am. If you are interested in helping, let McKenzie know. They have been working on the Huebner Onion House and found much material. It was built over a Native American site. It has a floor with cracks, and many things fell through the cracks. All of this will be turned back over to Leon Valley Historical Society for their museum once it is up and running. McKenzie is working on a database that notes all burials in the Campo Santo and the Cathedral. They are noting all *castas* information and checking marriage and baptismal records if no *casta* is listed. McKenzie can provide this information to Dr. Baird. Last week there was something in the newspaper about hitting the north wall at Mission Concepción.

Bueché notes that the work we are doing is wonderful. Be sure to give the information to Julie about events so that she can post information on the website.

E. History Appreciation: Dr. Sharon Skrobarcek- see attached report

F. Oral History: Chair TBA

G. Archives: Bro. Edward J. Loch, S.M.- Dr. Almaráz noted that Joseph de León can work with Brother Loch on the archives committee; Next meeting of SARA is in February, and they are looking at having it at St. Paul's Community Center where Brother Loch has the museum. Brother Loch in the Marianist Archives has researchers working on a man who lived in Japan and San Antonio and another researcher from Peru. Another researcher is working on a missionary in Hawaii. The archives have boxes of cassette tapes from Australia and Ireland meetings, but they don't know what is on them. Brother Loch has to listen to tapes to decide if they are worth preserving. De León described the archives at OLLU. They mostly consist of documents from the Spanish colonial period and Mexican period. They do have a 19th and 20th century collection. Most of the collection is of a mutual aid society in San Antonio. Much of it has to do with death benefits and death information such as payouts for headstones. The 20th century collection deals with María Berriobazal who was a city councilwoman. Much of the Spanish collection is digitized. Dr. Almaráz suggests that he prepare a brochure for the archives. Brother Loch could do the same.

H. Public History Projects: Mr. Killian and Dr. Almaráz- Dr. Almaráz notes that we will dispense with this report because it is a work in progress.

VI. Unfinished Business from 2017-2018 Biennium

A. Tricentennial Anthology of Essays Presented in 2016, 2017, 2018- Paul Ringenbach will come back to work with Almaráz and Porter on this anthology. There are still a few who have not sent in their work from the symposium. Almaráz will give a short extension, and then if they don't send them in they won't be included.

B. Progress Reports on outstanding projects- none

VII. New Business:

1) Dr. Skrobarcek introduced a proposal to sponsor a session entitled "Engaging Students with Opportunities in San Antonio and Texas History" at the Texas State Historical Association Annual Meeting on March 2, 2019 for \$500. The publication of individual research will include recognition of Bexar County, including its archival and other primary source materials. Session 36 of the TSHA Annual Meeting specifically raises awareness of the possibilities for historical research in Bexar County. Sponsorship helps to keep as reasonable as possible the cost to attendees, many of whom are retirees, students, and independent scholars of limited means with little or no institutional support. The proposal was originally sent to the executive committee by Francis Galan.

Docog made a motion to accept the proposal. Rubio seconded. Roll call vote: Arellano- yes; Galan- abstain; de León- yes; Rubio- yes; Killian- yes; Docog- yes; McKenzie- had to leave meeting early; Porter- abstain; Almaráz- yes; The motion passed.

- 2) Proposal to support development of the Military Aviation Historical Sites Pamphlet/Guide (Gary Houston)- not discussed

VIII. Announcements (Time Limit: 2 minutes per announcement)

Bueché announced an event on March 9 at 10:00 am in front of the Courthouse to dedicate and unveil the Canary Island Descendants monument. It will have a marker. The monument is life-size bronze. It includes a Canary Island couple, a priest, a soldier, a Native American, and a goat. This installation is by the same artist who created the Tejano monument in Austin. She encourages all of us to attend. Also in March, we will see the opening of the Bexar Heritage Center. She will get back to us with a date.

Tim Draves noted that he is a member of the *Handbook of Texas Online* oversight committee. They are willing to change errors in the *Handbook*. If you see errors, please email Tim Draves. Arellano noted that there is an error in the Losoya entry that says the origin of the town name is incorrect. De León noted that there was an error with the Olivares entry that says it is unknown where he died. Records indicate that he died in Querétaro.

Moke introduced Olivia Cruz who has succeeded Tim Nevil. She came from the DA's office and has the same phone number that Nevil had.

IX. Adjournment- Galan made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 pm.