

BEXAR COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 6 MEETING

- I. Opening of meeting. Dr. Felix D. Almaráz, Jr. Chairman declares a quorum and welcomes all those in attendance. 1:00 P.M.
 - A. Dr. Galan has an excused absence.
 - B. Dr. Amy Porter has an excused absence due to illness in her family.
 - C. Dr. Sharon Skrobarcek is out of town.
 - D. New members in attendance will not be sworn in until the next meeting.
- II. **Approval of Minutes. Motion made by Mr. Dan Arrellano, seconded by Dr. José Jimenez to accept the minutes of meeting of Dec. 5, 2018. It passed unanimously. The minutes of the January 9, 2019 meeting were passed unanimously, motion made by Mr. Dan Arrellano seconded by Dr. José Jimenez.**
- III. Committee Reports.
 - A. No report for the Archives.
 - B. History Appreciation Report was submitted in paper form and quite detailed for commissioners to read on our own.
 - C. Unexcused absence by Mr. Mario Salas who has not been or offered to be on a committee.
 1. Dr. Almaráz noted the importance of attendance due to requirements for the commission to have collaborative decisions as required by the County.
 - D. Cemetery Report . Dr. Scott Baird noted that every county must make an inventory of all cemeteries. Dr. McKenzie and others agreed.
 1. Leach-Walker cemetery is eligible for state designation but have not responded to committee.
 2. Mr. Dan Oliver of the State Cemetery Preservation Project has been approached to include information to the Commission, but also has not responded.
 3. Gerfers Historical Cemetery included a field trip and photo shoot.
 4. Ruiz Herrera Historical Cemetery. Text messages with Ms. Amanda Nastro (SARA) regarding flood damage from Medina River.
 5. Las Perlas Cemetery has had vandalism and has been reported to the Sheriff.
 6. Herritage Family Cemetery reported by a relative to THC that someone has built a structure over the cemetery. Dr. Scott Baird informed him that this was a desecration that was a civil, but not a criminal offense.
 7. Dr. Almaráz suggests that the female/male gender designation in Spanish needs to be taken into account and corrected for archival reporting.
 8. Mr. Bueno's students from Harlandale made impressions of grave stones which we may use and include in Dr. Baird's committee to see if perhaps other Jr. Historians would be interested in providing information for local cemeteries.
 9. Betty Bueché suggested that we include a cemetery of a current Bexar County Ranch because there is a certain hero of the Battle of Medina buried there.
 10. Dr. Almaráz commended Dr. Baird, Dr. Carlson, and Dr. McKenzie for their work on the Cemetery Committee.
 11. Betty Bueché indicated that this committee is very important for TxDOT to have this information. This would avert mistakes and policy decisions that respect cemeteries. If they knew where they were, problems could be averted.
 - E. Historical Markers Committee.
 1. St. Hedwig marker was approved for a THC marker.

2. The following applications have been submitted or are in progress and are pending with THC. The Hummel House in the King William area. The Robert B. Green institutional marker, The Robert B. Green individual marker, The Blue Hole natural springs on the UIW Campus, and the Station X WWII mechanic and engineering training bldg. (Duncan Field/Normoil on the Old Laredo Highway and Zarzamora by SAS Shoes was Camp Normoil, Known as Station X.)
3. Addendum. Following is discussion from Chair and members.
 - a. Dr. Almaráz was contacted about the possibility for a marker for the Josephine House Restaurant.
 - b. The King-Charles House has been moved and will be placed behind the Angelus Funeral home. It had a 1930's marker.
 - c. Dr. Almaráz was asked for the status of the Woodlawn Theater Marker. He responded that the effort failed due to lacking a more detailed account of the theater.
 - d. Mr. Gary Houston asked for the status of the Shiner House for a historical marker.
- F. Archeology. Dr. Clinton McKenzie absent
- G. Oral History. Submitted attached.

V. Old Business

- A. Mr. Mickey Killian informed the Commission on a renaming opportunity for the founding Tribes of Mission San José of 1720. After secularization, lands were distributed. Damaso De la Cruz, Chief of the indigenous residents or "Chief of the Indians" received lands there and noted the list of "Indios Puros" who received land. Mr. De la Cruz's land is Mission County Park. His descendants have asked why there is not anything named after indigenous people. Mr. Killian and Dr. Almaráz are working on this effort and presented Ms. Betty Beuché for her review and consideration a report submitted. It has a very confidential status.
- B. Dr. Sue Ann Pemberton (new member), was informed by Dr. Almaráz that the Shahan Family has archive holdings from Alamo Village (Movie Site of the Alamo) that Dr. Almaráz has suggested to the family that they be given to St. Mary's University. He will have discussions with her on this effort.

VI. New Business.

- A. Mr. Daniel Arrellano informed the BCHC on his efforts to include historical information of early Tejano History into the classroom curriculum. Namely the first Tejano government. He proposed this resolution. Dr. Almaráz asked (suggests) to Mr. Arrellano to make a proposal with a plan including how this resolution can be "spelled out as historically significant to be included in a public school curriculum." Dr. Almaráz said he will work with him. (resolution attached)
- B. Camino Real de Tierra Afuera del Oriente. Dr. Almaráz indicated that this was a controversial topic. Initially the Camino Real de los Tejas has many flaws and historical inaccuracies in the modern designation of Camino Real de los Tejas concerning the accuracy of this name. The Institute of Anthropology and History confirmed that there is no Camino Real de los Tejas. Only Camino Real de Tierra Afuera del Oriente existed. There is an effort to expunge the inaccurate designation of Camino Real de los Tejas, and change it to Camino Real de Tierra Afuera del Oriente. It is now in the hands of the diplomats before historians become involved.
- C. The controversy over the ability to charge for the use of someone's name. José Miguel Arciniega has been trade marked by Ms. Donna DeLeon who therefore charges for the

use of the name. It is an impediment for historical research. It will be contested next week on a first amendment breach and Dr. Almaráz will testify in that trial. Dr. Almaráz will represent the BCHC. But Dr. Almaráz does not want to create controversy for the BCHC.

- D. Betty Bueché offered funds to invite the group of the Camino Real de Tierra Afuera del Oriente to have a meeting and also offering a location and support for this meeting. She also suggested to Dr. Almaráz to correct this designation because the new Federal Building was to have a marker on the building that indicated the Camino Real before construction on the building begins.
- E. Proposal by Mr. Gary Houston for \$3,500.00 assistance by the BCHC for assistance in the development of a Military Aviation Brochure/Guide. Dr. Almaráz asked for a motion to be made with a dollar figure (\$3,500.00). Betty Bueché gave Gary an idea of those things needed for the initiative to be approved by the Bexar County Commissioners. Gary Houston made a motion to allocate the \$3,500.00 for this initiative, seconded by Mr. Jesus Rubio. The motion passed unanimously.
- F. Betty Bueché indicated that a Centennial Marker at Covington Park was damaged. (Site of Stephen F. Austin's encampment of soldiers on October 26, 1835. It is on Rigsby Street.

VII. Announcement.

- A. March 9, 2019 Canary Island Monument at 10:00a.m. unveiling. Mass next day also at 10:00 a.m. to follow.

VIII. Motion made by Chair to Adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Dan Arrellano. Motion passed, Meeting Adjourned. Approximately 2:45 P.M.