



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

Minutes

1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Bexar County Courthouse, Double Height Courtroom

Commission Members in Attendance:

Dr. Felix Almaráz
Dan Arellano
Angelica Docog
Joseph de León
Hon. Alan Ernst
Dr. Francis X. Galan
Mickey Killian
Prof. Sue Ann Pemberton
Dr. Amy Porter
Jesús R. (Corky) Rubio

Commission Members with Excused Absence:

Clinton McKenzie
Mario Salas

Associate Members in Attendance:

Dr. Scott Baird
Brother Edward J. Loch, S.M.
Gary Houston
Jose G. Jimenez
Dr. David Carlson

Associate Members with Excused Absence:

Frank Faulkner
Dr. Sharon Skrobarcek

Guests or County Representatives in Attendance:

Juliette Moke
Tim Draves
Betty Bueché
Olivia Cruz
Art Martinez de Vara

- I. Welcome: Chairman Dr. Felix D. Almaráz, Jr.
Roll Call: Dr. Amy Porter
Review and Approval of Minutes of Feb. 6 meeting- Galan moved to approve the minutes. Second by Ernst. Motion passes.
- II. Recognition of Members and Associates who attended annual conference of the Texas State Historical Association in Corpus Christi- Dr. Amy Porter, Dr. Francis Galan, Brother Edward Loch, and Dr. Felix Almaráz
- III. Review of the By-Laws of the Bexar County Historical Commission- Dr. Almaráz says we need to have roll call votes on items over \$100, and we need to make sure that the parties are registered vendors with Bexar County; they can fill out a form or register online; Porter asked for a follow up on Western History Association and San Antonio Regional History Day funding; Porter asks if we can get a report when an item is sent to the auditors to be paid
Bueché notes that the Historical Commission's by-laws were never approved by the Commissioners; she said there are 15 positions that can be appointed to the Historical Commission; also notes that the Commissioners don't necessarily want Historical Commission members from outside of Bexar County
Almaráz noted that the by-laws were meant to address issues such as size of the Historical Commission, attendance rules, and expenditure/financial issues.
Galan and Ernst requested that a committee review the by-laws, suggest changes if necessary, and then send the by-laws to the Commissioners for vote. Dr. Almaráz said he would take that under advisement. Almaráz asks that members please read the by-laws.
- IV. Oral Reports of Standing Committees:
 - A. Archaeology (Clinton McKenzie)- no report
 - B. Archives (Brother Edward J. Loch, S.M.)- San Antonio Regional Archivists have not called another meeting yet, so there is no report.
 - C. Cemetery (Dr. Scott Baird)-
Cemetery Preservation Paper- (With help from THC and Trinity University) started a Working Paper with lists of Attorneys, Conservators, and Financial Sources.

Ruiz-Herrera (Somerset) Visited cemetery and Association Board for two hours. Members are now scrambling for control of grant writing process. (Three factions)

Bacon-Beckmann Cemetery (Vance Jackson and 1604) Made a photo shoot of access lane, so overgrown with saplings and heavy brush that it took 30 minutes to traverse 100 yards. Will require legal intervention to clear.

Las Perlas/Griego-Rodriguez Cemetery (Potranco & 1604) David Carlson visited and confirmed extensive vandalism. Ownership of cemetery still not determined.

San Fernando Cemetery #1 (Downtown, west side) Carol Czinskis is trying to locate the burial sites of Navarro descendants.

Herritage Family Cemetery (near Toyota Plant, southside) Linda Sprague is now working with attorney: Riley and Riley.

Eastview Have procured copies of documents from THC, need Dropbox to access.

Medina Battle Marker Lowell Herzog (Brenham, gravestone conservator) is willing to make an assessment.

Bexar County Inventory No coordinated work among Baird, Carlson, and McKenzie so far; awaiting access to courthouse work area. THC is anxious for our input.

D. Historical Markers (Dr. Almaráz)- only three marker narratives have been approved- Robert B. Green Memorial Hospital, St. Hedwig, and Station X (named Station X because in war time they could not name the station; will be installed at Kelly Field)

Annual Report- Dr. Almaráz noted that it took a lot of time, but he finished it before the deadline

E. History Appreciation (Dr. Sharon Skrobarcek)- her reports are going to become a newsletter called *El Bexareño*

F. Oral History (Open and unassigned)- this position is still open, and it takes special knowledge, equipment, and time

V. Status of Trademark Trial: (Dr. Almaráz and Dan Arellano)- it was postponed; there was some newspaper coverage of the issue

VI. Unfinished Business: "Map of San Antonio in 1740" (Dr. David C. Carlson)- these are two maps that Dr. Carlson located in research for Dr. Almaráz; Bueché recommends that Carlson share the maps with the folks on the Bexar County GIS mapping project

VII. New Business: (Spontaneous and unrehearsed)

VIII. Announcements: (2 minutes)- Arrellano noted that on April 6 at 11:00 am at the Spanish Governors Palace, we will be memorializing the Battle of Medina; also noted the film debut in Mexico- *Texas Before the Alamo*; Loch asked about the Heritage Center;

Moke noted that it is still under construction and still coming together; Moke also noted that the Canary Islands monument will be unveiled at 10:00 am, and all historical commission members were invited; there is a Native American blessing at 9:30 am; Gary Houston noted that there is an ongoing effort to save the Woolworth Building due to the GLO's plans for the Alamo; he said the San Antonio Conservation Society is leading the effort to persuade state authorities that the Woolworth building should be saved due to its important role in Civil Rights history; at some point this commission might be asked to weigh in on this issue; the State Antiquities Commission and some other entities are considering it as an endangered landmark though that has not come to pass yet

The Buffalo Soldiers' Marker dedication is being planned for summer or fall.

Joseph de León had a request from Sergio and Melinda Iruegas who were asking for burial records for Mission Valero. Brother Loch said to look in the Alamo book (The San Antonio de Valero church book that is in the Archdiocese). Carlson said to check the publications from CAR at UTSA for physical evidence of burial grounds.

X. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:17 pm.