



Bexar County Historical Commission

Minutes

Wednesday, January 8th, 2019 – 1:00 P.M.
Bexar County Courthouse
Double-Height Courtroom, Media Briefing Room

Commission Members in Attendance:

Mr. Dan Arellano
Mr. Hector Cardenas
Mr. Joseph de León
Executive Director Angelica Docog
Hon. Alan Ernst
Dr. Francis X. Galan
Mr. Mickey Killian
Prof. Sue Ann Pemberton
Dr. Amy Porter
Mr. Jesús R. (Corky) Rubio
Hon. Professor Mario Salas

Commission Members with Excused Absence:

Dr. Felix Almaráz
Mr. Clinton McKenzie

Associate Members in Attendance:

Dr. Scott Baird
Dr. David Carlson
Mr. Gary W. Houston
Mr. José G. Jimenez

Associate Members with Excused Absence:

Mr. Frank Faulkner
Brother Edward J. Loch, S.M.

Dr. Sharon Skrobarcek

Guests or County Representatives in Attendance:
Juliette Moke

- I. General welcome, introduction of guests, roll call of Members and Associates to determine presence of a quorum.
Dr. Francis X. Galan, Ad Interim Chairman for the Day, presiding.
Pending confirmation of a quorum present by Secretary,
Dr. Amy M. Porter, the chair will call the meeting of the BCHC to order.
Meeting called to order at 1:01 pm.

- II. Approval of draft copy of the Minutes of the BCHC meeting of November 8, 2019.
Pemberton moved to approved minutes, and Ernst seconded.
Minutes approved by vote.

- III. Standing Committee Reports:
 - A. Archaeology: The Honorable Clinton McKenzie. (no report)
 - B. Archives: Brother Edward J. Loch, S.M. (no report)
Vice committee chair, Archivist Joseph de León of Our Lady of the Lake University Library & Archives.
De León reported that last month Rebecca Gonzalez at the Briscoe Center contacted him, and she wants to conduct preliminary research on land grants and cattle ranches in South Texas.
Second, at Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU) they are in the process of applying for an NEH grant for preservation of archival materials. OLLU has to conduct an archival assessment and plans to host an archival workshop. They would like to open the workshop up to the community. This is very preliminary, and it might happen in a year or two.
Carlson noted that the Archivo General de la Nación in Mexico has digitized the José Escandón documents.
 - C. Cemetery: Dr. Scott Baird.
Baird has been writing academic papers on vandalism of cemeteries, and he will write on the Alamo next. In November,

Carlson sent Baird an email about 145 African American burials under a high school in Tampa. In December, Jenny McWilliams informed Baird that the San Antonio Police Department is reviewing the vandalism at the Herritage Cemetery, and McWilliams opened a "Herritage Dropbox" for SAPD. Baird contributed some materials to the dropbox. In December, the DeJana Family inquired about gaining historical recognition for their family cemetery. Also in December, Carlson sent an email about a lost cemetery in Montana. There have been two articles in the *Rivard Report* about the Alamo cemetery. Finally, Baird received some emails from Coker cemetery. Carlson noted that Jana Friesenhahn and Everett Fly might be very close to finding where the Priest Cemetery might be located. Cardenas asked if there was a complete listing of burials at San Fernando #1. Baird has this information, and there are a few other sources.

- D. Historical Markers: Dr. Felix D. Almaráz, Jr. Report appended to meeting agendum (to be read by vice chair, Mickey Killian). The State of Texas has not finalized a long-term contract with a successor foundry to design and cast the historical markers. Markers begun by the Southwell Company of San Antonio WILL be designed, cast, and delivered to the applicants for installation and dedication. Thus, for calendar year 2019, the Markers Committee did not receive any applications to review and recommend for approval to the Texas Historical Commission. All the same, during the hiatus, Chairman Almaráz received several inquiries (via mail and telephone) regarding applications for subject markers. Of particular interest, with assistance of staffers in the Office of the County Clerk, the Honorable Lucy Adame Clark, the Markers Committee resolved the clerical barrier of ownership of the property at the corner of Dwyer Street and Market, i.e., the former St. Paul's Book and Gift Shop, site of the Council House Fight in 1840. Chairman Almaráz and committee vice chair Mickey Killian will consult with the current owner in quest of permission to install a revised and updated subject marker that has been pending resolution during the tenure of three Chairs of the Bexar County Historical Commission.

- E. History Appreciation Committee: Dr. Sharon Skrobarcek. She is at a conference so no report read.
- F. Oral History Committee (inactive committee due to lack of interest and/or availability of a Member or Associate to assume charge of the task).
- G. Historical Structures and Buildings (inactive due to similar explanation ascribed to foregoing committee)

IV. Unfinished Business:

- A. By-Laws for the Bexar County Historical Commission: The Texas Historical Commission advised Chairman Almaráz in late December, 2019, to persuade Bexar County Commissioners Court to direct the BCHC to draft a document of By-Laws for its review and approval for the guidance of the historical commission in the conduct of its normal and special activities in public history. Dr. Almaráz has requested a meeting with Commissioner Justin Rodriguez (a lawyer) to initiate the process. The Trademark Trial will resume on February 3, 2020, at 8:30 am, in District State Court 408, the Honorable Angelica Jimenez, presiding. According to the defense team for Norma Rubio Langwell, the recent demand for a revised Resolution adopted by the BCHC, three years ago, is a ploy for the plaintiff, Donna de Leon, to avow the Trademark is not an impediment to research in the Bexar Archives or in any depository of documents written by, or received, bearing the name or signature of José Miguel Arciniega. In the Bexar Archives alone, there are curated more than 120 documents pertaining to the work of then-land commissioner Arciniega. BCHC Member, Judge Alan Ernst, has volunteered to speak on the implications of the Trademark issue.
- B. The Trademark Trial: Judge Alan Ernst. Ernst provided a summary. He noted that the case centered around José Miguel Arciniega. The descendants of Arciniega formed a society to promote his memory. You had to be a blood descendant to join. There was no image of him from his life. They came up with this idea to make a composite portrait and spent \$15,000 on the portrait. They gave copies to various places and went on a

campaign to have this recognized as the official composite portrait. Langwell became the Vice President of the organization, and she did not think the portrait was good. Langwell went to her own artist and had a portrait made. The organization said that Langwell took proprietary information to do this and badmouthed the original portrait. The organization got a trademark on their portrait. They use it on marketing information. They said it cost them \$100,000 worth of business. The organization filed a lawsuit against her. The trial has been delayed. Almaráz has been listed as a witness by both sides.

C. Annual Report deadline in Austin:

February 1, 2020, before 5:00 p.m. Dr. Amy M. Porter.

V. Announcements by Members, Associates, and Guests:

Succinct and to-the-point not to exceed two minutes per speaker.

- Los Bexareños will have an installation of officers next Saturday at 11:00 am at Luby's on Fredericksburg Road.
- Cardenas noted that he is working with Almaráz on a collaboration with the county to put the timeline that was made during the Tricentennial online. Robert Garcia has published a chronology of the founding of San Antonio, and there will be a book signing at the Twig on the 18th at 10:30 am.
- Docog and Houston are on the coalition for the Woolworth's building. They have been meeting almost monthly to try to preserve the Woolworth Building. They have been meeting with City officials. They are trying to get a meeting with George P. Bush and local delegates. On February 1st there will be a symposium here in the Double-Height Courtroom. Docog will send this out to the BCHC. This is in coordination with the Conservation Society. There is another meeting next Monday.
- Salas asked that Carlson look into a black cemetery on the San Antonio River right off Mission Road.
- Galan noted that this Saturday from 10-12 at Northern Hills Elementary School there will be a roundtable discussion on the Hockley Cemetery.

VI. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 1:56 pm.