



BEXAR COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Meeting of Wednesday, September 2, 2020
Bexar County Courthouse
Double-Height Courtroom
1:00 P.M.

Commission Members in Attendance:

Dr. Felix Almaráz
Mr. Dan Arellano
Mr. Hector Cardenas
Mr. Joseph de León
Hon. Alan Ernst
Dr. Francis X. Galan
Mr. Clinton McKenzie
Dr. Amy Porter
Mr. Jesús R. (Corky) Rubio

Commission Members with Excused Absence:

Mrs. Angelica Docog
Hon. Professor Mario Salas
Mr. Mickey Killian
Prof. Sue Ann Pemberton

Associate Members in Attendance:

Dr. Scott Baird
Dr. David Carlson
Mr. José G. Jimenez

Associate Members with Excused Absence:

Mr. Frank Faulkner
Brother Edward J. Loch, S.M.
Dr. Sharon Skrobarcek
Mr. Gary W. Houston

Guests or County Representatives in Attendance:

Ms. Betty Bueché, Director, Bexar Heritage and Parks Department
Ms. Juliette Moke, Manager Bexar County Heritage Center
Ms. Mari Tamez, Bexar Heritage Outreach Manager
Mr. Ed Mata

MINUTES

- I. Welcome and Roll Call: Dr. Felix D. Almaraz, Jr., Chairman.
Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm with a quorum of 9 members at the current time.
- II. Reading and approval of the Minutes of June 3, 2020.
Minutes approved.
- III. Reports pertaining to Standing Committees will be suspended, due to extended absence fomented by the onslaught of Coronavirus. However, if a Chair of a standing committee requests an opportunity to submit an oral (or written) summary of activities that transpired during the summer months, the Chairman, without objection, will permit an addendum to the Minutes for the Meeting of September 2, 2020.

DeLeón reported that OLLU received an NEH grant for the university archives. They plan to open up the archives to people and small organizations who might not normally have access to archives (community outreach), and they will have presentations to bring community members in to train on opening community archives/archiving materials properly. The grant also supports preserving the Spanish archives collection there.

Baird submitted a written report for the Cemetery Committee. Report is included in Appendix A.

Cardenas offered to assist with the Cemetery Committee work, and he suggested that there should be a marker for la Villita.

Cardenas noted that we received an email about applying for participation and funding in a workshop. Moke said that the THC should have sent an email confirming registration, so call them if you did not receive confirmation.

Almaráz reported that it has been a slow year for markers since the application process opened up. Almaráz noted that the THC said they did not receive any applications this year- maybe due to the different deadlines/windows or because of the need to secure a new foundry.

- IV. Old Business: Review and final approval of Guidelines (or By-Laws) of the Bexar County Historical Commission, as presented by
Judge Alan Ernst, chair of the BCHC Guidelines composition.
Ernst noted that the bylaws were voted upon and accepted at the March meeting. This was recorded in the minutes of the March 2020 meeting. The chair wanted to allow for the appointment of members who reside outside of Bexar County. The Commissioners Court needs to decide on this issue. Ernst noted that we would need 2/3 of the members present to vote on an amendment to the by-laws, and we only have 9 members present today. Bueché noted that the Commissioners have noted that they want appointees to reside in Bexar County, but they have appointed members who live outside of the County in the past. They would like the BCHC to present by-laws for their consideration, but the Commissioners do have the appointment authority. Ernst said that an amendment could

be suggested under Article III- Membership. The first sentence would delete “and who are residents of Bexar County” from the sentence. Ernst said we need to revise the March minutes to say the by-laws were not approved, and we need to vote at the next meeting on the by-laws with this amendment (and any other amendments). McKenzie recommended that we move to reconsider accepting the by-laws so that we have time to get the by-laws in order and not have to continue to return to this work. Ernst agreed and said rather than revise the March minutes, let’s note in this month’s minutes that we are reconsidering the by-laws due to the residency issue. Almaráz noted that we have been working under unapproved by-laws, and it won’t be a major issue unless we have a major budget issue on which to vote. McKenzie moved to reconsider the adoption (vote) of March 2020 to approve the by-laws. Ernst seconded the motion. Voice vote. The motion passed. The original motion was then laid on the table.

V. New Business:

Almaráz noted that the BCHC has developed strong relationships with archives in Coahuila. A delegation is coming to San Antonio on September 16, 2020 and have requested an audience with Judge Wolff. There will be a detailed resolution in Spanish and English to document the strong relationship. Tourism is increasing in northern Mexico. One of these towns in the north has a strong connection to San Antonio. This is San Juan Bautista/Vicente Guerrero. Guerrero has a pueblo mágico status (this is a designation created by the Mexican Congress). There is a young entrepreneur who is financing the project. There were three missions founded in this community- San Juan Bautista, San Francisco Solano, and San Fernando. San Francisco Solano was later transferred here and renamed San Antonio de Valero. Almaráz has proposed two museums at the site- one for the mission and one for the battle site. The individuals from Mexico are coming here due to the connection between the two communities. There will also be an Ambassador from Spain and maybe other elected officials. We have not had many activities in which to participate in this year, so this is an event in which we can be involved. The time of the meeting has not yet been identified, but we will be notified of the time.

Arrellano noted that he has been asked to be a member of this committee because he has an ancestor who was a member of the Alamo de Parras Company. He has visited the town where the Alamo de Parras company was founded. He noted that he hoped that all of us could come to this great event. There were suggestions to invite several organizations- the Descendants of the Canary Island Families, Los Bexareños, and the Descendants of the Presidial Soldiers (possibly others).

VI. Announcements by Members and Associates (limited to succinct presentations limited to two minutes per announcement)

Judge Ernst asked the Chair what types of reports he received from members about reappointment and interest in future projects. Almaráz noted that our appointments are coming to an end at the completion of 2020. Again, Almaráz asked that we notify him if we would like to be reappointed and note important contributions to the BCHC in the request. Ernst also noted that the by-laws noted that the individual committees have to give an annual report. Do we want to add the requirement that we issue an annual report from the BCHC? This could be the same one that we send to the THC.

Rubio showed Dr. Galan's new book, *Los Adaes: The First Capital of Spanish Texas* which is available through Texas A&M University Press.

Bueché called attention to the Bexar Heritage website. Since the Center has been closed due to Covid, the staff has been creating content. There are many Tik-Tok style videos on cemeteries and markers. The idea is to appeal to young people. Please visit the website to see these. More videos are schedule to be created. If you have feedback, please provide it to Ms. Moke. Regarding the budget for 2021, the Commissioners Court has not accepted a budget yet. They are considering the two grants to the BCHC- the scholarship funds for Casa Navarro and the funds to DRT for archival work. Since BCHC has not requested a budget for this year, the \$10,000 standard was included (this does not include the two previously mentioned items, so the total budget for BCHC is \$14,000). Bueché also suggested that if you want to continue as an appointee you should contact your commissioner. If you do not wish to continue, then you should also notify your commissioner. There will be two new Commissioners on the Court, but that does not mean that a current appointee would not be considered for reappointment. Also, the work of BCHC continues. Mari Tamez has arranged with THC to arrange a training program for new members in January. This will be a chance to learn what is permissible and what other CHCs around the state do. There will be a new budget in place for this commission to use. Items outside of the budget can be put forward as a request as well. She wants to thank Julie and her team for all of the videos they have created, and she thanks Mari for arranging the training with THC. All of the events planned for the centennial of the parks will not be happening since large events are not allowed to occur. There will be one event-socially distanced- at Covington Park. A damaged marker will be replaced/reinstalled. They will be attaining a time capsule. Members of BCHC are invited to place items in the time capsule which will be buried farther off the road. There is not a date set for this yet, but it will be in December.

VII. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 2:01 pm.

Appendix A: BEXAR COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION, Cemetery Committee

Scott Baird, chair; David Carlson, Clinton McKenzie

September 02, 2020

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION RECOGNITION.

Julliette Moke and her staff at the Bexar County Heritage Center have undertaken a project to document all State Historical Markers in Bexar County.

Arnold Cemetery. Texas Historical Commission has finalized the cemetery as a Designated Historical Cemetery. The cemetery has gained permission to request an Historical Marker, if so desired.

Bacon-Beckman cemetery. An interested cemetery neighbor has asked if the family intends to follow through with request for vehicle access to the cemetery and if it wants to stay with San Antonio recognition only. Because this same neighbor initiated the family's involvement three years ago, she volunteered to contact the family again.

Campo Santo. Tim Draves informed us of city plans for the “Removal of Remains from Milam Park” during construction projects.

Dulnig Cemetery. In her column in the *Express News* (08.04.20), Paula Allen wrote a brief history of the family Cemetery.

Eastview Cemetery. THC’s Undertold Stories Program has been inactive. We have been encouraged, however, to resubmit.

El Carmen Cemetery. The family has undertaken the task of restoring a weathered Alamo Defender marker for Enrique Esparza.

LOCAL PRESERVATION PROJECTS.

City Cemetery #4. Recently, Hector J. Cardenas submitted a list of San Antonio Firemen buried in this cemetery. Of his four attachments, only one is legible. Follow through is in process.

Alamo Cenotaph. Both the *Express News* and the *Rivard Report* have published individual articles commenting on the controversy regarding the ongoing restoration and movement of the cenotaph.

Coker Cemetery. Continues to submit its newsletter and occasional obituaries to the BCHC Cemetery Committee.

Herritage Cemetery. The PROPERTY owners who partially destroyed the cemetery have offered restitution. The family, however, is divided on whether to accept.

Milam Park. Archaeologists found two or three small pieces of human remains under Santa Rosa Street near Milam Park, on May 13.

RESEARCH

The Friends of The Texas Historical Commission’s June News and Updates included mention of The Alamo Cemetery controversy.

The World Heritage July and August newsletter mentioned Mission cemeteries.

Annual Meeting of the Association of Gravestone Studies, to be held in Austin, Texas, in June 2020 was cancelled. Baird was scheduled to be a presenter.

The Annual Meeting of the American Popular Culture/American Culture Association, scheduled to meet in Philadelphia in April 2020, has been postponed until next Spring, where we will meet in Boston. Baird’s paper, Government Desecration of Alamo Burial Grounds - already refereed and approved - has now the advantage of additional research and rewriting.