



BEXAR COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Meeting of Wednesday, October 7, 2020
Bexar County Courthouse
Double-Height Courtroom
1:00 P.M.

Minutes

Commission Members in Attendance:

Dr. Felix Almaráz
Mr. Joseph de León
Hon. Alan Ernst
Dr. Francis X. Galan
Mr. Mickey Killian
Mr. Clinton McKenzie
Prof. Sue Ann Pemberton
Dr. Amy Porter
Mr. Jesús R. (Corky) Rubio

Commission Members with Excused Absence:

Mrs. Angelica Docog
Mr. Dan Arellano
Mr. Hector Cardenas
Hon. Professor Mario Salas

Associate Members in Attendance:

Dr. Scott Baird
Mr. José G. Jimenez
Brother Edward J. Loch, S.M.
Dr. Sharon Skrobarcek

Associate Members with Excused Absence:

Dr. David Carlson
Mr. Frank Faulkner
Mr. Gary W. Houston

Guests or County Representatives in Attendance:

Ms. Juliette Moke, Manager Bexar County Heritage Center
Ms. Mari Tamez, Bexar Heritage Outreach Manager

- I. Welcome by Chairman Dr. Felix D. Almaraz, Jr.
Roll Call of Members and Associates to determine presence of a Quorum. Meeting called to order at 1:02 pm. There was a quorum.

- II. Approval of Minutes of the Commission's Meeting of September 2, 2020. Almaráz noted that he would like for the Commissioner's Court to provide a stenographer in the future. Motion made by McKenzie to approve minutes with one correction. Seconded by Ernst. Motion passed.
- III. Approval of the By-Laws (aka Guidelines), as revised: Almaráz passed out "References to a Memorandum from the Attorney General's Office on a Need-to-Know Basis." Judge Alan Ernst noted that we need 2/3 of voting members present to vote on the by-laws. There were 2/3 present. Almaráz provided background to explain why the by-laws are necessary. There was a historical precedent where the Historical Commission did away with the rules and spent money without proper procedures. This was detrimental to the Historical Commission. Almaráz would like to change the word Administrator to Moderator in Article III on page 2. He would like to add a requirement that Commissioner's Court appoint a stenographer to record minutes. He would also like to allow for non-Bexar County residents to be appointed by Commissioner's Court if necessary. Ernst suggested that we keep the by-laws as written so that they are broader and provide some flexibility. Ernst moved that we accept the by-laws as written. McKenzie suggested that we reword the phrase at the end of Article III concerning the Administrator so that we are not telling Commissioner's Court what to do. Ernst amended his motion to include this edit. Pemberton seconded the motion with the friendly amendment accepted. Motion passed.
- IV. Appointment of Judge Ernst as Ad Interim Chair of the Annual Report for 2020 to be drafted from voluntary submission of individual summaries of activities and achievements related to the role and scope of the Bexar County Historical Commission. Obviously due to the impact of the pandemic of Coronavirus upon the Nation, State, and County, the composition and submission of the mandatory Annual Report will not be as comprehensive as desired by THC of county historical commissions. Nonetheless, in light of the expiration of appointments to the BCHC for the biennium 2019-2020, whatever summaries are submitted will be appreciated and integrated into Document transmitted to the Texas Historical Commission. Submit reports to Juliette Moke.
- V. Succinct commentaries from Members and Associates on the reqt by Ms. Amy Hammonds of TCH on HUD-Funded Projects in Bexar County.
- VI. Chairman's closing remarks of gratitude to Members and Associates for services rendered to the BCHC for the biennium 2019-2020.
- VII. Announcements: (Two-Minute Rule)
- A. Archives Committee Report- Brother Loch provided a brief update on archives. There have been few meetings and many archives have been closed due to Covid, but some are reopening now.
 - B. Pemberton noted that she wrote guidelines for the Historic Sites and Structures Standing Committee. See Appendix B.
 - C. Ernst asked Almaráz if this Commission has been invited or asked about the Alamo Master Plan or the Cenotaph. Baird was asked to bring this up as an agenda item, but never had the opportunity to meet with the group (due to Covid).
 - D. De Leon said that he had an inquiry from a citizen about a cemetery called Panteon de Guadalupe, off of Upper Seguin Road because there was a Haunted House or some type of attraction that looks to be on the cemetery. Baird noted that there are laws that would relate to this situation. The Cemetery Committee is meeting with a group about a similar issue.
- VIII. Adjournment and Farewell: Meeting was adjourned at 1:44 pm.

Appendix A: Cemetery Committee Report
Scott Baird, chair; Hector Cardenas, David Carlson, Clinton McKenzie

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION RECOGNITION.

HERRITAGE CEMETERY. A family member, Jenna Kent (Hawaii), has submitted the Historical Designation paperwork to the Texas Historical Commission. David Carlson and Scott Baird have met extensively with Herritage family members over the past three years – both on site and at family reunions – and have encouraged this submission for historical designation.

PRESERVATION PROJECTS.

ALAMO (CEMETERY). During the past month, articles in the *San Antonio Express News* (by Elaine Ayala and by Scott Huddleston) have documented the ongoing differences between Texas State politicians' desire to focus only on the Battle itself and by the Alamo Citizen Advisory Committee's resolve to include the lives of Americans, African Americans, Europeans, Native Americans, Spaniards, Tejanos – as well as other ethnic and cultural groups.

ALAMO CENOTAPH. Also, during this past month, both the *Express News* and the *Rivard Report* (now called *The San Antonio Report*) published individual articles commenting on the controversy regarding the ongoing restoration and movement of the cenotaph. On September 09, 2020, The Board of the Texas Historical Commission voted 12-2 to keep the Cenotaph in place.

RESEARCH

HECTOR CARDENAS has joined the Cemetery Committee. At present, he is working on burial sites of San Antonio Firemen.

CLINT MCKENZIE has been asked by the San Antonio African American Community Archive and Museum (SAAACAM) to participate in a Virtual Open House on Saturday, October 24 – from 10:00 -11:30. Everett Fly will discuss the discovery of the Hockley Cemetery. SAAACAM has honored McKenzie's suggestion that Scott Baird and David Carlson be invited also – to share our collective expertise in the THC's antiquities codes, protection laws and preservation procedures for cemeteries.

SAAACAM is selling tickets for numerous visits to Black cemeteries in City Cemetery #3, on Friday evening October 30 and again on Saturday morning October 31. Baird is on board for the 10:00am Saturday morning tour.

Appendix B: Historic Sites and Structures Standing Committee (submitted by Sue Ann Pemberton)

This Committee advocates for historic structures, archaeological sites, and landscapes that are subject to planning efforts and/or potentially impacted by development projects within Bexar County. Advocacy efforts include: tracking the status and designation of municipal, county, state, and national landmarks and historic districts within Bexar County; the identification of historic structures, sites and related features that merit documentation, conservation, preservation, and/or restoration and to prioritize their landmark designation and protection; provide guidance for research and preparation of State and National Register landmark nominations for submission to the BCHC and Texas Historical Commission; and provide reviews of such nominations and recommendations for action by the Commission.