

Minutes
Bexar County Historical Commission
Wednesday, April 13, 2022
100 Dolorosa, 2nd Floor
Double Height Courtroom

Approved May 4, 2022

Attendance

Members:

Joseph de León
Tim Draves
Alan Ernst
Mickey Killian
Jesus R. (Corky) Rubio
Sue Ann Pemberton
Sharon Skrobarcek

Associate Members:

Scott Baird
David Carlson
Gary Houston
Virginia Rutledge
Paulina Rubio

Unable to Attend:

Dan Arellano
Hector J Cardenas
Angelica Docog
Michael Gallegos

Jeremy Landin

Mario Salas
Frank Faulkner
Robert Garcia
Jose Jimenez
Brother Ed Loch, S.M.
Clinton McKenzie

Guests:

Carrie Brown, SARA
Tony Canez, Bexar County

I. The meeting was called to order at 1:04 P.M., followed by roll call, declaration of a quorum, and introduction of guests.

II The Historical Commission approved the minutes for February 2 and March 2.

III. Carrie Brown, San Antonio River Authority, presented plans for the San Pedro Creek interpretive plan and history panels. Phase One panels now include text in both Spanish and English languages. As the project proceeds, the Historical Commission's input on proposed narratives will again benefit the design. Corky Rubio asked for the design to include aspects focused on children. Tony Canez mentioned that the project will address the right of way issues south of Cesar Chavez to El Paso Street, and that the primary purpose of the work is flood control.

IV Tim Draves began his Chairman's Comments by reminding the members and associates that our terms end on December 31, and that if there are important projects, we want to the Historical Commission to accomplish, there is limited time. He summed up his March activity report and those of the Historical Commission. He reiterated his plan to make a monthly report so all members know about the activities of members of the commission. He amplified our organizational structure under Chapter 318 of the Texas local government code, the Bexar County Commissioners Court, and the BCHC Bylaws, and said that the THC Annual Report provides a straightforward guide to the direction of our activities.

Mr. Draves has proposed to several members the idea of a meeting of BCHC and the Historical Commissions of the seven counties contiguous to Bexar (Detail in Appendix). Alan Ernst, Sue Ann Pemberton, and Sharon Skrobarcek offered to begin an initial outline of the plan.

V. Joseph de León reported on the "very eventful month" for the Markers committee—

- A. He has sent the applications for markers for the Friedrich Complex, the Jacob Chapel United Methodist Church, the Alexander Joske House to THC for approval, as well as an application to replace a damaged marker in Grey Forest, Texas;

- B. He reported that the foundry has cast the Hummel House marker;
- C. He said the committee is crafting the Pajalate Language marker narrative;
- D. He reminded members and associates that on May 21 the Station 'X' marker dedication will occur.
- E. He said the committee declined to accept the inscription for the Undertold Stories East View Cemetery marker after determining that the draft inscription had factual errors and errors of omission;
- F. He reported that the committee found minor spelling and interpretive errors in its review of the inscription for the G. J. Sutton marker and sent comments to the THC;
- G. He received a marker application for the San Antonio River Springs (the "Blue Hole") from the Headwaters at Incarnate Word but after finding errors of omission and interpretation, the committee recommended changes;
- H. He said that THC informed him that the Confederate Tannery marker at 3903 N. St. Mary's near the San Antonio Zoo entrance is missing;
- I. Finally, Mr. de León said that the markers committee work entailed 55 emails, ten phone calls, and nine hours of effort for the Historical Commission.

VI. Sue Ann Pemberton said that the Historical Sites and Structures Committee will develop a protocol for responding to Section 106 requests for public comment. Section 106 requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties. A written procedure may result in a change to the Historical Commission Bylaws.

VII Sharon Skrobarcek reported on the Pilgrimage to the Alamo held on April 4. About 700 attendees honored the March 6, 1836, engagement. The County was represented by Dr. Skrobarcek as well as Judge Wolff, Clerk Adame-Clark, Tim Draves and Joseph de León, who made a recommendation for organizing an effort for more members and associates of the Historical Commission to participate in 2023 as part of the effort to raise public awareness of our organization.

VIII Cemeteries, Scott Baird thanked Alan Ernst for bringing to light former member Teresa Gold's cemetery inventory to help proof and edit the new Frank Faulkner inventory. Sharon Skrobarcek commented that Clinton McKenzie has written a new analysis of three hundred burials at San Antonio de Valero. Finally, Dr. Baird clarified that the THC Historic Texas Cemetery Designation approval process only requires the Subcommittee to visit the cemetery. Working on cemetery preservation is not an official role of the Subcommittee., although we help out at times.

IX. David Carlson described previous activity of the Historical Commission at the Genealogical Day at San Jose and invited all to attend April 30. Mickey Killian, Tim Draves, and Alan Ernst agreed to be present.

X. The meeting adjourned at 2:32 P.M.

Appendix to Bexar County Historical Commission Minutes for April 13, 2022

Meeting of Eight County Historical Commissions

- Kendall, Comal, Guadalupe, Wilson, Atascosa, Medina, Bandera, Bexar (Cindy Coers, the Comal Chair, has heard of the idea via email and thinks it is promising.)
- A Friday morning conference of the seven counties that are adjacent to Bexar county
- Invite all County Historical Commissions to send a limited number of members
- Meet in Double Height Courtroom ; potentially from 9:30 AM to 12:00 noon.
- Refreshments
- CHCs bring their publications and pamphlets
- Potentially a ‘tour’ of the room by County staff.
- Purpose: to facilitate discussions of County Historical Commissions to meet with their peers in other counties
- Historical markers
- Chairmen
- Financial/Budget
- Open Meetings Act considerations
- Partnerships that work
- Cemeteries
- Member training
- Battle of Medina commemoration
- Preservation
- Section 106 reviews
- Relations with County Commissioners Court
- All CHCs can include participation on their THC annual report
- Potentially, the various county chairs and their members get input on the agenda and on leading the discussions (Bexar members are not teachers; we are the hosts.)
- Parking directions