

Minutes

Bexar County Historical Commission

Wednesday, May 4, 2022
100 Dolorosa, 2nd Floor
Double Height Courtroom

Revised— May 18, 2022

Attendance

Members:

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

Associate Members:

David Carlson
Robert Garcia
Gary Houston
Jose Jimenez
Brother Ed Loch, S.M.
Paulina Rubio
Virginia Rutledge

Unable to Attend:
Dan Arellano
Hector J Cardenas
Michael Gallegos

Mario Salas

Scott Baird

Frank Faulkner

Clinton McKenzie

Guests:

Christopher Fullerton

Alston Beinhorn

Rose Bud Coffey

Lillian Aurora Rubio-Craig

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 of the April meeting.

III. Comments from the Public. Alston Beinhorn told the Historical Commission about the history of 502 W Mistletoe as part of his plan to apply for either a Texas historical marker or RTHL designation. Rosebud Coffey, Executive Director of the Mission Heritage Partners, introduced herself, made brief comments about her organization and encouraged Historical Commission members and associates to support the group with a membership.

IV. Angelica Docog, the Vice Chair for Program, reported that she is working with Sue Ann Pemberton on the idea of a Fray Olivares monument, and they continue conversations with Dr. Andres Tijerina. Claudia Guerra, Cultural Historian with the City of San Antonio—Office of Historic Preservation, can present an overview of the plan for a cultural strategy statement to a meeting this summer.

V. Alan Ernst, Vice Chair for Advancement, highlighted four important areas of work. First, he reported on planning for a meeting of County Historical Commissions with two or three representatives from the seven counties adjoining Bexar. He is developing the plans with Sue Ann Pemberton and Sharon Skrobarcek. Invitations will go out by phone, email, and letter. Perhaps a main presentation or keynote address will be included. Participants from all counties will present information on their work and there will be discussion. The goal is networking and enhancing our reputation for leadership. Angelica Docog noted that there's potential funding through THC. Mr. Draves indicated that the plan is not to present Bexar as the "teachers or experts" because our county has a large population. This is an opportunity to learn from the experience of the other counties in every area of our work. Second, Alan Ernst mentioned a potential plan to present "Bexar Archives Vignettes" produced in conjunction with David Carlson and the

Bexar Archives. The idea is to summarize various documents in short narrative form and post to a webpage as a form of public education and outreach. Thirdly, Alan Ernst offered a nudge to the members and associates to recommit ourselves to Oral History projects and said potential activities would be 1) initiating interviews, 2) training groups to conduct interviews, and 3) developing an inventory of existing recordings for publication. Also, Oral History will be included on the regional County Historical Commission agenda so everyone can get pointers. Lastly, he encouraged members and associates to keep in mind recruitment of new members. It is important to complete the 15-member roster to help with long-term development of the Historical Commission, and to look ahead to 2023 when the Commissioners Court may well need volunteers to fill out the team.

VI Virginia Rutledge offered that the Historical Commission might consider it a responsibility to initiate a project to promote Land Acknowledgment Statements with numerous local institutions since we, the current inhabitants, are also stewards of the land. Initially with the Bexar County Commissioners Court and the City of San Antonio, there is potential to make this a major project. It is an opportunity to show civic leadership to the County and the larger community of governments in the county. For instance, we could offer a recorded video PSA at baggage claim at the airport to greet visitors. In Bexar, UIW, TAMU-SA, and the National Historic Parks, have statements in complete form or in process. Corky Rubio suggested that including a mention of the history of plant and animal lives over time and how human migration changed the area; also in Bexar we should acknowledge the San Antonio River. Alan Ernst added that the Native American and Indigenous Studies Dept. at University of Texas has adopted a Land Acknowledgment Statement and has proposed that it be adopted by the University of Texas.

VII. Members approved a resolution to allocate \$500.00 to sponsor a panel at the Witte Museum's "Conference on Texas" on May 16 and 17, 2022, and to direct the Chair to communicate the Commission's support to the Witte Museum staff and to request County staff to process payment of the funds.

VIII. Members approved of a resolution to allocate \$750.00 to place a purchase order with a vendor for 2023 Fiesta medals in order to increase public awareness of the County Historical Commission and to direct the chair to appoint one member to manage the project with a projected completion date of August 15, 2022, for placing the order. Mr. Draves specified that the vendor would likely be Monarch Trophy of San Antonio, and he appointed Sharon Skrobarcek to manage the purchase, including the design, the order, and the invoicing. Discussion of various attributes of different design options ensued.

IX. Tim Draves reported that members and associates recommended over \$48,000 in project spending for FY 2022/2023, but because our annual allocation has been \$10,000 for many years, it is not prudent to suggest such a large increase. Thus, working with staff, he honed the request to \$15,000. About sixty percent of the total involves promoting Bexar County's "Seed of Texas" at Real Places and at the TSHA Annual Meeting. Mari Tamez is working with the budget office and county auditors to guide the Historical Commission's efforts through the process until Bexar County Commissioners Court votes on the budget in mid-September. Draves said nine members and associates reported April activities with 178 hours devoted to Bexar history work. Further, he said he had appointed Scott Baird to the San Pedro Creek Oversight Committee. He will ask members and associates to help the Historical Commission with input on the San Antonio River Authority narrative panels for San Pedro Creek project.

X. Joseph de León, chair of the Markers Committee, reported:

- An invoice to replace the damaged marker for the Scenic Loop Playground was sent to the City Secretary in Grey Forest Texas.
- The draft inscription for the marker for Blue Hole for the San Antonio Headwaters was reviewed and Markers Committee submitted its concerns to the THC for revision before it is cast.
- A Recorded Landmark Marker for the Hummel House at 309 King William St. was shipped, however, a rather complex series of delivery issues arose, said Mr. de León. Since the oversized

package weighed over 100 lbs., the THC requested someone receive delivery in person. However, the marker was not delivered at the specified time, and the sponsors were greatly inconvenienced. Yet, it has arrived, and the marker will be installed, and a dedication ceremony will follow.

- THC has received payment for the application for the John Smith House.
- The Canary Islanders marker is still in production, and a status check will happen this month.
- On May 21st there will be a marker dedication ceremony for Station X. It will be held at Port San Antonio, and the address is 102 Mabry Drive, San Antonio, Tx. at what is now the San Antonio Museum of Science and Technology. Mr. de León will attend, and if others from the commission and the Markers Committee could as well, that would be greatly appreciated, and of course attending counts toward monthly hours we report.
- Mr. de León said the Pajalate Language marker received favorable press coverage from the *San Antonio Express-News* in an article by Elaine Ayala. It is good this marker has brought public attention to the work of the Historical Commission, as well as recognition for the hard work of Virginia Rutledge and the Old River Heritage Group.
- After he indicated that his activity report totaled 4 hours effort, 3 phone calls, and 48 emails, he turned to Virginia Rutledge, who added that a time to walk the site to choose a location for the Pajalate Language marker will be set, and all members and associates will be invited.
- Mr. de León mentioned that there is a process for making corrections to existing markers with potentially inaccurate information. There followed a discussion of the 1936 Texas Centennial Marker on Mission Rd. near Hansford St. for the founding of Mission San Francisco Xavier de Nájera.

XI. For History Appreciation, Sharon Skrobarcek reviewed Bexar Heritage Center, Alamo Plaza projects and the Museum Planning Committee. Dr. Skrobarcek serves on three committees working to re-envision Alamo Plaza with a goal of telling the complete story of all the people involved in the history of the space. She finished by complimenting the Polish Heritage Center in Panna Maria and encouraging all members and associates to visit.

XII. In comments from members, Robert Garcia noted for the Historical Commission of 1718 history of first week of May and the establishment of the community's two original Spanish institutions.

XII. After calling the next meeting for Wednesday, June 1, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:43 PM.