

Minutes

Bexar County Historical Commission

Wednesday, March 2, 2022
100 Dolorosa, 2nd Floor
Double Height Courtroom

As approved April 13, 2022

Attendance

Members:

Hector J Cardenas
Joseph de León
Angelica Docog
Tim Draves
Jeremy Landin
Alan Ernst
Mickey Killian
Sue Ann Pemberton
Mario Salas

Associate Members:

Scott Baird
David Carlson
Gary Houston
Robert Garcia
Jose Jimenez
Virginia Rutledge

Unable to Attend:

Dan Arellano
Michael Gallegos

Jesus R. (Corky) Rubio
Frank Faulkner
Brother Ed Loch, S.M.
Clinton McKenzie
Sharon Skrobarcek
Paulina Rubio

Guests:

Christopher Fullerton

I. The meeting was called to order at 1:01 P.M., followed by roll call and declaration of a quorum in accordance with the bylaws and Texas Local Government Code Chapter 318. Tim Draves announced the Commissioners Court appointment of Jeremy Landin as representative of Precinct One who made introductory comments. There was no action regarding the approval of minutes.

II. Christopher Fullerton, member of the US/ICOMOS working group on Water + Heritage, described key elements of the project which is part of the UN Water Action Decade. Angelica Docog agreed to help with the Historical Commission's response. Sue Ann Pemberton, Gary Houston, and David Carlson commented and voiced support.

III. Sue Ann Pemberton reported that on behalf of the Historic Sites and Structures she had responded to a cell tower location inquiry. Robert Garcia said the Fr. Antonio Margil de Jesús statue is now at Mission San Jose. It is located near the priest's convento, and not in a location easily accessible for visitors and tourists. He met with the park superintendent who is willing to explore a potential relocation to increase its profile. Mickey Killian commented that it stood at San Juan for about eight years. The National Parks moved it because of a perception that it did not advance the ambiance of the Colonial experience. Killian agreed that it should be displayed more prominently, and that the inclusion of a Native American statue would be fitting. Angelica Docog added that it's important to develop a holistic story within the cultural landscape to advance the Indigenous perspective and the global context of the Mission Era. Indigenous individuals that could be represented are Juan Rodriguez and José Damacio de la Cruz, the last *Gobernador* of Mission San Jose y San Miguel de Aguayo. Hector Cardenas reported about the Fr. Hidalgo statue, a gift to San Antonio in 1941 by Mexico's President Ávila Camacho, and its isolated location at HemisFair Plaza. Also, located at Nueva and the San Antonio River, is a Madero monument that is important because of the community's role in the 1910 Revolution. One potential action for the Historical Commission would be a position paper on placement of such monuments in prominent locations. Cardenas agreed to write a summary of the situation. Finally, a Friends of Milam Park plaque seemingly implies that *Campo Santo* is the oldest Catholic Cemetery. And perhaps misleads about location. Sue Ann Pemberton recommended that the entire Commission work on the monuments issue beginning with a county-wide inventory.

IV Joseph de León reported that there had been efforts regarding the Medina Bridge, but no progress. The John Smith Marker on Kingsbury is waiting for the application. Robert B. Green Hospital and the Porterfield-Roberts Markers await dates for marker dedication ceremonies. The committee has offered revisions to Joske House application, while the application for 202 King William will be submitted this month. Work continues with the sponsors of both the Jacob's Chapel United Methodist Church and Friedrich Refrigeration Complex markers on drafting their applications. The Station 'X' marker dedication is set for May 24. Finally, the committee is working with THC on the Pajalate Language Marker to draft the historical narrative and incorporate documentary evidence held by the Old Spanish Missions Archives Collection at OLLU.

V. David Carlson reported that on President's Day KSAT-12 videotaped an event on researching African American family history and genealogy. Also, the DRT and the County Clerk are making progress on reopening the DRT Collection in the Presidio Gallery.

VI. For the Cemeteries Committee, Scott Baird said the recent "discovery" of the second largest African American cemetery in Virginia in Richmond correlates with the work over the last ten years in Bexar County to identify our community's hidden history of African American cemeteries. In a similar vein, the Somerset Historical Society reported finding the graves of six or seven people who died from hanging. Finally, we plan to publish online Frank Faulkner's inventory of Bexar cemeteries presented in January after thorough review by the Cemeteries Chairman. Tim Draves added that Frank's inventory of historic bridges is underway, and he encouraged everyone to stay alert to structures to include.

VII. Angelica Docog reported that she is crafting a Cultural Context Statement for the Historical Commission and will be asking members for input. Also, the ad hoc Fray Olivares monument committee will meet this month with Dr. Andres Tijerina.

VIII. Alan Ernst reported that he had submitted the Annual THC Report and noted that Bexar County Historical Commission recorded 3,200 hours of volunteer work. He said that a weakness in our report was the lack of group effort on projects, and he encouraged the Commission to commit to group efforts over the rest of 2022. As always, it is important to record and report volunteer hours. The goal is to get back on track with Bexar being regularly recognized by THC with the Distinguished Service Award as we were in 2017 and 2020. He noted some of the activities of Tarrant CHC and Comal CHC and how our efforts compare. Notably, those groups participate in THC training to a much greater degree than we do.

VIII. The Historical Commission approved a resolution to create an ad hoc committee to advise Pct. 4 Commissioner Tommy Calvert on the County's Buffalo Soldiers Monument.

IX. Tim Draves reported that he will attend the 'unofficial' unveiling of the Station "X" marker on March 2 and that he attended a meeting of the Old Spanish Trail historical group that is working to commemorate the Centennial of the Military Plaza OST marker in March of 2024. Mr. Draves offered a summary of his activities over the month as an example of the type of activity report that is appropriate. He will ask all members and associates to report their volunteer hours for March and review that at the April meeting. He then reviewed his goals as Chairman for 2022, including goals for committees, reports to Commissioners Court, and clarifying the Historical Commissions finance procedures. Further, Draves committed to attending THC training and to standardizing controls for Historical Commission reporting procedures to build group cohesiveness, and to increase attendance by members and associates at ceremonial occasions such as marker dedications and community events.

X. The meeting adjourned at 2:28 P.M.