

CITY OF BLANCO
Blanco Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for Monday, January 31, 2022

Meeting was called to order by Chair Roxanne Sorrell at 6:05 pm.

Roll Call was taken:

Present: Roxanne Sorrell, Billie Jean Kutzer, Wendy Cambridge, Gail McClellan

Present via internet: Pamela Capps, Rudy Nino HPO

Absent: Hollis Boatright

Also Present: City Administrator, Warren Escovy.

A quorum was established.

Call to Approve Agenda by Chair.

- Motion to approve agenda by Billie Jean Kutzer, seconded by Gail McClellan. Motion unanimously approved.

Presentation by Linda Howard: Linda Howard was scheduled to discuss “Undertold Markers Application” submitted to the State for the Girl Scout Camp Blanco. She will not be attending tonight due to illness. Wendy will give a brief description of the application and “Undertold Markers” under “Old Business, 8. Other Committee reports”.

Public Comments:

- Retta Martin was scheduled to present but is ill and will not be attending.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. October 2021 minutes were not available for review. December 2021 minutes were reviewed and approved with spelling correction in last sentence.
6:10 pm Motion to approve minutes with spelling correction was Wendy Cambridge, seconded by Gail McClellan. Motion unanimously approved.
2. HPO recommendation for a UDC review workshop on February 28 was discussed. It was decided to hold our regular meeting at 5:30pm followed by the workshop.
Billie Jean Kutzer motioned to approved meeting at 5:30pm regular meeting, to be followed by the workshop. Wendy Cambridge seconded. Motion unanimously approved.
3. A list of possible goals were emailed to the commissioners by Rudy Nino HPO for their review. Wendy Cambridge passed out the existing 2021 goals. Roxanne Sorrell suggested because the list was lengthy, perhaps we should go over them at our workshop in February. After discussion, commissioners decided to table discussion until next meeting February 28, so they will have time to review. It was agreed that whatever goals are chosen, they should be realistic regarding the ability to accomplish them. Wendy Cambridge motioned to review prior to our February workshop and discuss then. Gail McClellan seconded. Motion unanimously approved. Wendy Cambridge thanked Rudy Nino HPO for the “great list”.

OLD BUSINESS:

1.
 - a. Retta Martin and Eric Burkhart have been working together on the Pittsburgh Land history and historic marker. Gail McClellan volunteered to ask them if she can work alongside them to help with its completion.
 - b. Information regarding the Henry Beckmann Historic Subject Marker progress was unavailable. It appeared that the marker had been discussed years ago, and current commissioners did not have any information.
2. Wendy Cambridge shared that collecting stories from the past will not only bring knowledge to all who now live in Blanco, but also help in identifying people, places and things to be identified and considered for markers. Involving the community will bring together multiple generations and a sense of community and civic pride, as found

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in the UDC goals: Foster civic pride in the accomplishments of the past. A lengthy discussion and ideas occurred and can be seen/heard on the video recording of the meeting.

a. Billie Jean Kutzer had emailed the owner of the Blanco Newspaper, and they will allow us to run regular articles about Blanco History. Stories to be written and provided by individuals recalling experiences or events and sending them to Billie Jean. The committee has broken down the last 200+/- years into specific time frames: 1880's-1899, 1900's-1949, 1950's-1999, 2000-current. The focus will be on stories from the 1950's through 2000's. A discussion about stories followed. She will secure a PO Box for them to send their stories to and will be reimbursed by BHPC. City Administrator Warren Escovy was asked by Roxanne Sorrell if the city was going to provide a BHPC email address, and he replied that the City was working on it and he would have more information soon.

b. Wendy Cambridge and Sandy Switzer are hoping to work with local schools by asking the students to interview family or friends to get their living history of Blanco. Sandy Switzer has contacted the Middle School principal to ask if we could meet with a few teachers and he approved. Wendy Cambridge has emailed two teachers: Michelle Davis and Michael Seales to see if they would participate with their class. No response has been received at this time.

Gail McClellan asked about the type of markers were being proposed. At this time, primarily local/community markers because they do not require State approval, costs can be shared (private party, community groups, Chamber of Commerce, etc.) and the process should go quicker. But they will check into THC Subject Markers to learn what their requirements are, as well as their conditions/restrictions.

4. Billie Jean Kutzer presented her report regarding activities and suggestions for National Historic Preservation Month (NHPM) in May. Libbey Aly, Executive Director, Blanco Chamber of Commerce, has offered the Chambers support with advertising. One of many suggestions was for a community potluck in Bindseil Park with long time resident families bringing pictures, stories and memorabilia to share with new residents as well as old. Roxanne Sorrell suggested possibly having a workshop to discuss ideas for NHPM.
5. Discussions about sharing the responsibility for the Gateway signs have occurred during many meetings in 2021. Kelly Kuentler, Interim City Administrator, had offered to contact TXDOT about using the 281 dividing island south of town, for the location of the southern Gateway. Results are unknown. All commission members have previously agreed that they'd like to see a stone gateway sign on 281, as you enter the city from the north and the south. The same type of gateway sign seen in many small to medium Texas towns. To do this the commission agreed that we should share the project with the community, and Pamela Capps agreed to lead this project to encourage community involvement both in the development and contributing financially. Pamela will provide information as it becomes available to Billie Jean Kutzer so she can write an article for the newspaper.
6. Judy Langford, Langford Community Management firm has prepared and presented a grant to the City of Blanco for the repair of the rock wall behind Cranberry's. Warren Escovy, City Administrator, reported it has been submitted and the city will match 20% of the costs. The City of Blanco will be undertaking the repairs with the approval of City Council. Exact location of repairs was not available at this time.
7. Rudy Nino, HPO, will submit the approved Paint Guidelines to Laurie Cassidy, City Secretary and will request Wendy Cambridge be put on the next P&Z agenda to present them for approval on March 7.

- Rudy also commented on a few other items.

a. Chisholm Trail: Wayne Gosnell emailed him with information regarding a request to City Council years ago, to erect a trail marker. The city did not approve it at that time.

b. There is no residential block where all homes are historic in Blanco. So, it would be difficult to create another Historic District. He had learned from a training, attended with Roxanne Sorrell, that you can create a Conservative District, instead of an Historic District, which has less restrictions and conditions.

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Both the state and city do not address interiors of buildings, only the exteriors. Preservation is not intended to create a financial hardship or burden.

8. Historical Markers: Wendy Cambridge explained types of markers and the request for an Undertold Marker at the Girl Scout Summer Camp from 1939-1948.
 - a. Types of Markers:
 - National Registry
 - Texas Historical Commission (THC):
 - Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL);
 - Subject Markers;
 - Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC);
 - Undertold Markers. An example of the Undertold Marker is found at the Peyton Colony. Undertold Markers: "Funds are intended to address historical gaps, promote diversity of topics, and proactively document significant underrepresented subjects or untold stories." THC.
 - Local/Community Markers: purchased and displayed by individuals or communities.
 - b. Girl Scout Camp: Application for an Undertold Marker has been prepared and submitted by Jacqueline Drayer (Mulberry History Advisors) for property owner Rick Cofer. The application has been received by the THC and is under review. The approval process will include Linda Howard, Blanco County Historical Commission Chair, for review of facts.
9. No one was elected as Commissioners Secretary, so minute taking will continue to be rotated between commissioners until a secretary is found. Gail McClellan will take the minutes for the February 28 meeting. Minutes will not be required for the workshop that will follow.

Roxanne recommended commissioners send agenda items to both herself and Rudy Nino by February 14.

7:11 pm Motion to adjourn meeting by Wendy Cambridge, seconded by Billie Jean Kutzer. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Cambridge