

**Agenda for Bastrop County Historical Commission
Fourth Quarterly Meeting – March 9, 2023, at 2 p.m.
Bastrop County Courthouse, Bastrop, Texas.**

- Call to Order, Chair Ken Kesselus
- (2:00 – 2:20)**
- Roll Call by means of individual introductions
- Declaration of Quorum
- (2:20-2:25)**
- Recognition of visitors
- Notification of Possible Action – All items listed, unless noted otherwise, are subject to action by majority vote of those present.
- (2:25- 3:00)**
- Orientation Video and Discussion

[faces of the texas historical commission - Google Search](#) 2:20-2:26

nano's email 20 minutes

(3:00-3:02)

- Correction to Minutes of March 2022 meeting, as approved at the December 2022 meeting - Proposed by Treasure Kysar:

Be it resolved that the minutes from March 2022 be amended to reflect the following change to the Finance Committee and Treasurer's Report. Contrary to the report, there was no gift of \$200 to the Mary Christian Burleson House for marker ceremony. There was, however, a gift in the amount of \$1,000.00 to that entity for purchase of a storage building to aid in the rehabilitation of the Mary Christian Burleson house, and the account balance as of the March 2022 meeting was \$8,338.89, not \$8,338.98.

(3:03-3:05)

- Approval (as presented or amended) of the minutes from the December 2022 meeting:

Bastrop County Historical Commission
4th Quarterly Meeting Minutes -- Thursday, December 8, 2022

Meeting **called** to order at 2 pm by Vice Chair Sandy Chipley, who presided over the meeting in the absence of Chair Ken Kesselus. Secretary, Galynn Fogle called the roll. The following members, responded by indicating their presence at the courthouse Annex.

Sydna Arbuckle, Sandy Chipley, Geoff Connor, Judy Davis, Galynn Fogle, August Fuchs, Kehren Baah (sitting in for Rebecca Gleason), Ron Ramirez, David Robinson, Robbie Sanders, Carol Kysar, Amy Miller, Dianne Mills, John C Smith, Debbie Wahrmund

Vice Chair Sandy Chipley declared a quorum with 13 members in attendance with Geoff Connor arriving shortly thereafter, making the number of members in attendance at 14.

Approval of minutes – Since both the June and September Commission meetings did not have enough members present to constitute a quorum, to March 10, 2022 minutes were not presented for approval and only a report was given for the June and September meetings. No official minutes were recorded. After review of the March 10, 2022 minutes, the amended minutes (corrected spelling of the names Sydna, Mikki and Wahrmund and correction of the name of Robbie Sanders book to “Historic Homes of Bastrop, Texas”) were approved. David Robinson moved for the Commission to accept the March 10, 2022 minutes as amended. Amy Miller seconded the motion which passed with all in favor.

Introduction of guests – Jake Carter, President of Mary Christian Burleson Foundation MCB & Dan Kleiner, Board Member were present to give an update on the project. Vice Chair moved their presentation to be next on the agenda.

The Mary Christian Burleson Homestead (MCB) Project Update – Jake Carter, President of MCB began by outlining where the project stands today.

- New piers and beams, house is level
- New roof and fascia
- New grant to continue exterior work and planning additional fundraising event “Party for the Porch” with Donna Snowden stepping up to plan the first “Party for the Porch”
- New Board members named
- New visual identity
- New IT system
- NO More trash and brush piles!

Next, he outlined what they are working on.

- Exterior remodeling – bids open 1/16/2023 in the Miller Plan Room to be submitted. Jake noted that the \$1000 gift from BCHC has been used for the purchase of the storage container with delivery to be scheduled in the near future after rain has stopped.
- New storage with mural
- New gate and security – there have been some vandalism done which necessitated the need
- New signage promoting the organization (by March 2023 will be a National Historic site)
- Securing the chicken coop (one area where vandalism occurred)
- Removing invasive species, landscaping
- Developing relationship with Circle Brewing
- New inroads to the Elgin community

Jake then outlined where the MCB project is going.

- The exterior complete and used for events (within next 18 months)
- Wayfinding signage and educational kiosks
- New gazebo, pergola or other structure (through future grants)
- Utilizing the chicken coop and garden space
- More landscaping for event usage
- Interior museum on the walls
- Funding from Circle Brewing

- Sustainable earned revenue program – the foundation will receive revenue from the use of the property as a event venue thereby becoming self-sustaining – no longer needing grant funding for their operation.

Jake then explained the final step in the process as being what is needed to get there.

- Funding from a variety of sources for construction, landscaping, educational artifacts and support
- In-kind donations of heavy equipment, skilled labor, products, services and event supplies
- Board members with diverse backgrounds and experience to contribute as experts and networkers
- Regular and one-time volunteers for labor opportunities, supporting staff and events
- Awareness among the Elgin community and beyond

Committee Reports

- Cemetery Survey Committee Report from September 2022 by Debbie Wahrmond (*included in December 2022 meeting minutes because Debbie was sick and unable to attend the September 2022 Commission meeting*)
 - Mikki Meyer completed several verifications and typing of cemeteries on map
 - Dianne Mills and Allison completed the Alum Creek (black) cemetery, and are starting Westbrook Cemetery in Elgin.
 - Galynn Fogle completed the Rosanky Family Cemetery with family members and is starting the Rosanky Cemetery.
 - Mapping for THC to cross map with BCHC cemetery list has begun thanks to Galynn and Allison helping Debbie W the last couple of weeks. 27 cemeteries in Map 6 were submitted to Jenny McWilliams.
 - There have been about 5 questions received through email and phone contact with Carol Kysar which Debbie is trying to close out plus one ongoing discussion with the Gotcher Family for access to their cemetery located on private property.
 - The Old Mexican Cemetery in Elgin is supposed to be agreed to by the City of Elgin to finalize a scope with the city engineer to map a “metes and bounds” diagram for the county to add a property Id. Debbie met with the City Manager and is waiting for their draft. Juan Gonzalez, a local resident is helping.
 - Cemetery tours in Elgin: One canceled at Elgin Cemetery due to association concerns. Westbrook, lead Gwen Johnson provided a list of people for the historic Black Cemetery is in process - target date October. Latin Cemetery, lead Juan Gonzalez sent draft script and list to Debbie - target date November. Additional volunteers are welcome to join.
- Cemetery Survey Committee Report by Debbie Wahrmond
 - Cemetery Tours: Debbie wrote 3 scripts for the Elgin 150th Sesquicentennial Cemetery Tours. The Westbrook Tour in October, the Elgin Mexican Cemetery Tour and Elgin Latin Cemetery conducted in November. Special thanks to Gwendolyn Johnson as lead for Westbrook and Juan Gonzalez as lead for the two Hispanic Cemeteries. Amy Miller edited an article published in the Elgin Courier. The Cemetery Tours were well received.
 - Update on Elgin Mexican Cemetery. Debbie provided comments to THC 12-1-2022 for #63 Elgin Mexican Cemetery – Exhibit A presented for review
 - City of Elgin contracted with a surveyor to determine the cemetery boundary & document adjacent landowner deeds - report was produced in May and I sent it to THC in November. Ms. Hammons replied on 11-14-2022 *“This should be exactly what we*

needed. Let me review carefully and I'll keep things moving along in the process." Ms. Hammons sent a draft for review which Debbie returned 12-1-2022 for #63 Elgin Mexican Cemetery – Exhibit A presented from THC for review

- Update on **Cemetery 274 BCHC# 274** previously “Old Latin” aka “Old Cedar Creek Mexican Cemetery” is on Map 1 near FM 812 and Hwy. 21 From Pat Cunningham: *"The corner posts have been confirmed by 4 Ward Surveyors. They were surveying for the CTX Developers, and I went out and met with them. They agreed that the corners I had found were indeed the corners for the cemetery. Because they were working for the developer, they could not give me the exact longitude and latitude coordinates. They estimated that they could return and survey the cemetery for us for about \$1,000 to \$1,500. "*
- Most common questions asked of THC are: 1) Who owns a cemetery? 2) How do you access a cemetery on private land, and 3) How do you apply to get a marker? (and also of our cemetery survey committee members)
- **Executive Committee Report** by Sandy Chipley – Chair Ken Kesselus will meet with the new County Judge Klaus in January to determine the future of the Commission under his term. Our hope is that he decides to keep the Commission intact with its current Officers and membership. An update will be given at the March 2023 BCHC quarterly meeting.
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- **Historic Tourism Taskforce** headed by April Daniels has been a great success and has meet its initial objective. April Daniels has resigned as chair of the taskforce upon new job responsibilities. This taskforce has now been renamed the Historical Education and Resource Taskforce.
- **Historical Education and Resource Taskforce** – With the transformation of the Historic Tourism Taskforce into the new Historical Education and Resource Taskforce, Ken Kesselus will be heading the committee as their temporary Chairman until a replacement can be found. This committee is excited to begin its new focus on education and a resource for the county.
- **Historical Markers Committee Report** by Robbie Sanders
 - Donna Deleon is seeking to apply for a marker for Jose Miguel de Arciniega Land Commissioner in San Antonio in Mexico and worked with surveyor Samuel Williams. Window for submitting an application is March 1st through May 15th. Needs a place to place the marker – Donna DeLeon is working on finding a location.
 - The Leah Moncure Marker – honoring the first Texan female licensed professional engineer who received license #2250 in April 1938. The dedication date will be set once the marker is received by BCHC. Rewording changes were sent back to THC in February 2022. Sandy has located a descendant, Leah's niece, and will contact her to make arrangements for Leah's descendants to attend the ceremony.

Debbie Wahrmond asked what to do with narrative and photos taken at marker dedication ceremonies. Vice Chair Sandra Chipley will defer that question to Chair Ken Kesselus to respond.

- Latino Heritage Committee update by Ron Ramirez
 - The 75th anniversary of Delgado vs BISSD/EISSD is scheduled for September 20, 2023; location TBD – hoping to have it at the Jerry Faye Wilhelm Performing Arts Center. This date coincides with Hispanic Heritage month. Planning committee has been formed.
 - Need schools involved • Met with Dr Lee BISSD Superintendent from Elgin. • Develop a small play about the event • CELEBRATE & EDUCATE!

- Ron is working with the Bastrop Museum to develop a temporary exhibit on Latino contributions to Texas and Bastrop, specifically, with plans for it to become a permanent part of the museum's exhibits. Ron was provided the names of 7 longtime residents of Bastrop that were invited to meet to discuss the project. Only 2 people showed up for the meeting. Robbie Sanders suggested getting a more comprehensive list of Latino families from Ken Kesselus for Ron to contact.
- Oral Histories update by John C Smith
 - 52 interviews completed; 20 interviews were selected for inclusion in a book; seeking approval from the Oral Histories Board to add the oral histories on the Commission's website
 - Moving forward with more interviews
- Website update from Fran Hunter – The Executive Committee voted to approve allowing Fran to proceed with preparing a website design proposal. There is no cost to the Commission. Fran has completed 3 years of the Texas Travel Alliance's Tourism College. This is the Capstone Project approved for Fran's final certification. Fran sent out a 10-question survey to all members of the Commission, select Government staff, Historic Tourism Committee and the Tourism industry contacts. Based on the responses obtained from the survey, it was found
 - That, while the website was very informative, specific information may not be easy to find
 - A search function would help
 - Redesign of the Home Page – clearly featuring local history & attractions and retain information most needed by locals (such as Historical Marker Committee's work.
 - Address lack of diversity on the populations of Bastrop County
 - Add additional information and links to other assets, historical (museums) and interesting (art and natural history)
 - Add a Request section for people to volunteer for the various committees

Proposed changes were given to provide a more modern, interactive design for easy navigation and to interest younger viewers, keeping them reading and looking at photos on the site. Proposed changes included Sitemap categories:

- Home header on all pages,
- Top Tab Bar
 - Home
 - About Us (Historical Commission – history, mission, reports and bylaws)
 - Committees (include purpose and project summaries)
 - County History (Overview, Baron de Bastrop, Communities – Towns, Railroads, Industry, Historic Districts; Oral Histories, Books/Photography)
 - Visitors
 - Museums
 - Historical Sites – County Courthouse, Rosenwald Schools, Downtowns
 - Self-Guided Tours
 - Other Places – Military, Natural History (The Colorado River, The Lost Pines Region), Art
 - Self-Guided Tours
 - Other Places
 - Cemeteries
 - Historical Markers – Locations, How to Apply
 - Donate – Funding, Assets, Volunteer

- Contact – (the Commission members list, includes direct email section to Chairman)
- Home Page Design suggestions
 - Header – LOGO with name, Tab Bar, Search Bar
 - Information Blocks – Photo (as “buttons” for people to click on the subject), Brief Paragraph, LINKS to subject page
 - Suggested Blocks – County History, Museums, Courthouse, Self-guided tours
 - Facebook Feed (to capture Commission social media posts and events – events should include for tourism, Commission & Committee meetings, post/event shares from other assets like the museums. Will allow more Commission members and Community Organizations to add information)
 - Social Media Share Button – allows people to share the page link onto their social media
 - Footer (on all pages)

Fran encouraged members to still complete the survey if they did not originally submit it. The link is provided in Ken’s email about the project. You may contact Fran Hunter at frances.hunter@co.bastrop.tx.us with any questions, suggestions, input, etc.

Reports from County Subgroups

- Bastrop County African American Cultural Center – Dianne Mills not present to give report
- Bastrop County Historical Society update by Sandy Chipley – Bastrop Homes Tour is Saturday, December 10th; planning a spring cemetery tour
- Elgin area update by Amy Miller – Elgin’s Sesquicentennial event update
- Sayersville Historical Association update by David Robinson – working on correctly identifying a cemetery on 1704. The name Hogeeye and Litton have been associated with the name of the cemetery but appears this may not be the correct name.
- Smithville Area – Faith Franklin not present to give report

(3:05-3:10)

Finance Committee and Treasurers Report by Carol Kysar

As of today’s date, there is \$8,310.39 in the account. A reference book was purchased for \$28 for the Latino Heritage Committee.

Meeting adjourned by Vice Chair Sandy Chipley at 3:47 pm

(Note from Secretary – after low attendance for the last 2 quarterly meetings, it was great to see more members in attendance and we met the quorum requirement! YAY! It was a great meeting! Galynn Meuth Fogle

End of minutes

Committee Reports

(3:10-3:20)

Cemetery Survey Committee – Debbie Wahrmond

1. Mikki Meyer completed several verifications and typing of cemeteries in map

2. Dianne Mills (and Allison) completed the Alum Creek (black) cemetery, and are starting Westbrook Cemetery in Elgin.

3. Galynn Fogle completed the Rosanky Family Cemetery with family members and is starting the Rosanky Cemetery.

4. Mapping for THC to cross map with BCHC cemetery list has begun thanks to Galynn and Allison helping Debbie Wahrmond the last couple of weeks. 27 cemeteries in Map 6 were submitted to Jenny McWilliams.

There have been about 5 questions received through email and phone contact with Carol Kysar which Debbie is trying to close out plus one ongoing discussion with the Gotcher Family for access to their cemetery located on private property.

5. The Old Mexican Cemetery in Elgin is supposed to be agreed by the City of Elgin to finalize a scope with the city engineer to map a metes and bounds diagram for the county to add a property Id. Debbie met with the City Manager is waiting for their draft. Juan Gonzalez, a local resident is helping.

6. Cemetery tours in Elgin: One canceled at Elgin Cemetery due to association concerns. Westbrook, lead Gwen Johnson provided a list of people for the historic Black Cemetery is in process, target date October. Latin Cemetery, lead Juan

Gonzalez sent draft script and list to Debbie target date November.

(3:20-3:25)

Executive Committee

- Report to Commissioners Court by Ken Kesselus and Ron Ramirez
- Resolved that the BCHC designates the Bastrop County Historical Society as the repository for BCHC files, as long as space at the Society's archives remains sufficient.

(3:25-3:30)

Finance Committee and Treasurer's report – Carol Kysar

- ordinary expenditures since last meeting
- other

Historic Tourism Taskforce – inactive

(3:30-3:35)

Historical Education And Resource Taskforce (HEART)

Report: This group appears to be operating without single chair, but rotating ones.

It met at the Courthouse 2nd Floor Law Library, Elgin Library, and Kerr Center

Sense of purpose

- *Focusing on history with Bastrop County*
- *Networking through shared communications and monthly meetings*
- *Working together to strengthen our capacity to educate the public and provide resources*

- *Sharing resources with one another*
- Identifying and promoting Bastrop County History.*
- Meetings -- 11 am each second Tuesday of the month, at rotating places by invitation*
- *Encouraging the host to provide a program for its meeting or a topic for discussion*

Discussions and information:

- Idea for Bastrop museum to do a temporary exhibit on all of the county library histories (Fran). Nicole wants to explore this idea since she does those exhibits.
- Texas Association of Moving Images will accept personal video film and digitize; they keep a copy for the Texas Archive. (Adena)
- Need to create a countywide Resource Directory (Amie)
- If we all had a listing of our resources, we could share with each other.
- Bastrop library is digitizing. Uses Apollo for cataloging and Preservicata (cloud based, developed by archivists) for scanning
- Elgin library doesn't have these programs (Paula)
- BCHC can create a page with Resource listings countywide. (Fran) Paula thinks this is the best place for this information.
- Ancestry Library Edition \$1,200+/ year and only on 1 server but could have multiple connections on that server.
- After historic jail renovation, a space there. (Adena)
- Bastrop library would house multiple computers connected to the server (Amie)
- Paula agrees that Bastrop Public Library is a good central location.
- The active Cemetery Committee is mapping headstones and locations now. (Fran)
- There is a genealogy society in Bastrop. (Amie)
- Local newspaper still being digitized, but funding is on hold. Company is waiting for more funds to finish project. (Amie)
- Freedom Colonies exhibit at Kerr Center now but was displayed around County in recent years. (Pam) Elgin Library wants to use exhibit again sometime. (Paula)
- BCHC is creating list of authors and books about local history with page on the website. Fran working on redesign of website now for state certification program. (Fran)
- Rosanky history book has been written by Gaylynn Meuth Fogle with many photos of families in the area. (Adena)
- Bastrop Museum is hosting a history of fashion exhibit in January with pieces on loan only. Will reach out to Cherry Ray (DAR) for more. (Nicole)
- Asks that exhibit be digitized so that it can be used everywhere and shown online. (Paula)
- Nicole plans to do stills and create a presentation.
- BCHC Facebook is available to post and "share" all historic and BCHC activities including committee meetings.
- Bastrop Museum has active Facebook; posts 5x week. (Nicole)
- Posts can be shared onto BCHC Facebook with website committee. (Fran)
- March's meeting will be at the Bastrop Library discussing digitization.
- Sandy mentioned she would like to digitize the Depot Museum's catalog.
- Send list of local historical authors with links when available to Fran to be included on the website.
- Bastrop County African American Cultural Center and Museum will provide a Memory Jug event at Kerr Center during Bastrop Juneteenth Celebration

Questions?

(3:35-3:40)

- **Historical Markers and Research Committee – Robbie Sanders**

(3:40-3:50)

Delgado v. Bastrop ISD Event

- Up date - Ron Ramirez, chair
- Résolution:

Whereas certain actions are necessary to allow the BCHC to actively participate in, promote, and conduct the commemoration, the BCHC therefore resolves

- to approve the establishment of an Executive Management Team, consisting of Ron Ramirez, Ken Kesselus, and Carol Kysar to oversee BCHS financial efforts in this project.
- to recognized that the purpose of this effort is to aid in soliciting donations, cash and in-kind, to support the event and that likely expenses could include exhibition materials, research materials, speaker expenses, catering, and the like.
- to authorize the BCHC treasurer to open a separate checking account at Roscoe State Bank, requiring two Executive Manager signatures on each check, and
- to authorize the Executive Managers to designate categories of expenses and pay for such expenses, accordingly, utilizing the following procedures:
 - making and keeping copies of each financial contribution and expenditure, with attached backup information.
 - sending acknowledgements and “thank you” letters for all donations, whether in cash or in-kind.
 - presenting monthly reports of expenditures and income to the BCHC Executive Committee and quarterly reports to BCHC meetings.

Oral histories

- Updates
- John C. Smith

(3:45-3:50)

Website – Fran Hunter, Ex Officio Member, and liaison with the county government

- Update
- Request for readers
- Need for task force to provide direction along the lines of Ms. Hunter’s report at the December meeting and for procurement of data for entry in the website

(3:50-4:00)

Reports from County Subgroups

- A. Bastrop County African American Cultural Center and Museum– Dianne Mills
- B. Bastrop County Historical Society – Sandy Chipley
- C. Elgin Area – Amy Miller
- C. Sayersville Historical Association – David Robinson
- D. Smithville Area –
- E. 250th anniversary of the establishment of the U.S. (2026) throughout Bastrop County – Sandy Chipley

Adjournment
ADDENDUM – March 4, 2023

Finance Committee and Treasurer’s report – Carol Kysar

- ordinary expenditures since last meeting
 - other
 - **Addendum to Agenda**
- Discussion and possible action regarding associated with a BCHC website