

SCHERTZ HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024
6:00 PM
MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members in Attendance:

Maggie Titterington
Roz Wise

Dr. Miguel Vazquez

Tricia Whitman

Committee Members Absent:

Becki Babcock (Unexcused)

Christopher Hormel (Unexcused)

City Representatives in Attendance:

Councilmember Tiffany Gibson

Councilmember Robert Westbrook Cyndi Simmons

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at **6:02 PM** by Chairperson Miguel Vazquez.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Introduction of Councilmember Tiffany Gibson. Tiffany introduced herself as Councilmember, Place #4. She is looking forward to contributing and hearing what the committee is doing in our great city. She is newly elected as of December 2023 and she is prior Army and is vastly interested in making sure we preserve all the landmarks and rights to the city that we see fit and continuing the beautiful legacy so that we have generations to come to see that flourish. She has been in Schertz for 4 years. She lived in Selma before she came to Schertz.

DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

1. Minutes – Consideration and/or action regarding the approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of October 26, 2023.
 - Maggie Titterington motioned and Tricia Whitman seconded to approve the minutes as written. *Motion passed unanimously.*
2. Voting on 2024 Bylaws
 - Roz Wise had asked for the title of 1.2 Ordinance 06-R-35. Cyndi Simmons researched online and found that it is not actually an Ordinance, rather a Resolution 06-R-35, and there is no title associated with the resolution. Roz Wise motioned and Maggie Titterington seconded to approve the bylaws with this one correction. *Motion passed unanimously.* It will now be taken to Council to ratify.
3. Voting for 2024 Officers
 - Nominees have been submitted – Maggie Titterington for Chair and Miguel Vazquez for Vice Chair. Miguel Vazquez asked if there was a vote to approve by acclamation. Roz

Wise motioned and Tricia Whitman seconded to accept these nominations. *Motion passed unanimously.*

4. Landmark Plaque for Samuel Clemens High School – Complete (Miguel Vazquez)
 - The plaque has arrived and will be presented to the principal, Amy Sirizzotti, next week. Miguel Vazquez will make contact and is requesting that the plaque be installed inside rather than outside, but it will be up to them. The students from the High School History Club assisted with getting the information together and the proclamation was read last May so the seniors could be part of the ceremony. We don't need another ceremony necessarily, but Miguel Vazquez will ask them if they'd like to have an "unveiling" and the SHPC members could be present. Maggie Titterington offered to deliver the plaque since she will be meeting with the Community Advisory Committee in two weeks.
 - At this point, Councilmember Robert Westbrook arrived. Robert grew up in and around San Antonio, graduated Churchill High School in 1987. Moved to Schertz looking for a great place to raise his son and daughter who both graduated from Clemens High School. He has a great appreciation for the district. He works for the San Antonio Fire Department.
5. Update on Collaboration with Schertz-Cibolo Cemetery Association regarding historical marker dedication 11/18/23 (Miguel Vazquez, Rosalyn Wise)
 - Miguel Vazquez provided pictures of the event. There were 170 attendees. They sold \$170.00 worth of brown books. They also obtained numbers/emails from folks to reach out and share their stories. Mayor Gutierrez, Michael Carpenter, and Victor Contreras were all present to assist with the unveiling.
6. Financials
 - Cyndi Simmons reports that she did not receive a financial report from James Walters.
7. Work Plan for 2024 (All)
 - a. Landmark Properties/Institutions – January-December
 - Looking for additional properties in the coming year.
 - Maggie Titterington commented that she was at the Main Street Committee meeting recently and she has a concern that we're losing the last of our historic buildings. Currently on Main Street we have the hospital, which is currently an apartment complex; the Masons who have the old Schertz Mercantile (which has a floor plate in the doorway that marks when it opened); the house on Exchange that was the first telephone building; and a couple of others – The Vineyard that used to be a church and looks like it's about to be condemned and there's no one in that building; but what we have is few and far between. Her talk with them on Tuesday evening is can the City of Schertz not put something into place that there's an ordinance or something that can provide guidelines to protect the last of these historic buildings that will prevent them from being leveled or destroyed. There is still a pulley elevator in the old Schertz hospital that you have to operate by hand. There is a basement. The 2nd level has some of the original hospital tiling.
 - Councilmember Gibson remarked that one of her questions for tonight she was going to pose was if there any threats to historical significance in areas of the city and what is being done to address it. Maybe there is another avenue to find available resources or

incentives for these property owners so that we can preserve these historical elements. We already have the “local flavor” grant, but something to incentivize property owners to prevent them from destroying the historical value.

- Roz Wise mentioned that the owner of the former Dietz home, Michael Armstrong, didn’t want to conform to our requirements. Maggie Titterington advised that he now wants to reapply. The walls have been removed inside so it’s one large space, but the flooring, a lot of the interiors, and other stuff that is still part of the original house. The outside is unchanged. Councilmember Westbrook commented that San Antonio has a program where the exterior remains unchanged, so if we wanted to model something similar to that. Maggie Titterington printed the requirements that we have and between the Secretary of the Interior’s criteria and our criteria, they are really loose. It’s “common sense” type stuff.
 - Would like to see special street signs for the historic neighborhoods.
- b. National Preservation Month – May
- Proclamation at Council
 - Cemetery tour last year
 - Possibility of getting banners with pictures of historic figures/settlers along Schertz Parkway.
- c. Articles for Schertz Magazine: Features, Looking Back – January-December
- We currently have the Looking Back article provided by Roz Wise and will continue to do so through the end of the year.
 - Maggie Titterington spoke with Public Affairs and asked for a full page and we can do 1/3 page for recruitment, 1/3 page for an article, and 1/3 page for advertising an event. We can collaborate at each meeting before the next deadline. Discussion ensued regarding the articles and Looking Back and the location of the page. Maggie Titterington will speak again with Devan Christensen. Cyndi Simmons commented that if there is a designated page for the SHPC content, Public Affairs will need to be assured that they will receive the content by the deadline of the first of the month because a lot of thought and planning goes into the formatting of the magazine.
 - Robert Westbrook suggested that every month towards the end of the month that Public Affairs puts a teaser on social media highlighting the SHPC.
 - Tricia Whitman asked if we had a Facebook page. Cyndi Simmons commented that SHPC has a Facebook page that Becki created, but no one else is an Admin, so if she doesn’t share permissions with that it just sits there. It would be great if we could have her add one or more of the committee members as Admins to the page.
 - Miguel Vazquez commented that the SHPC needs to be on the front page of the website.
 - Tricia Whitman would like to see Schertz have a historical t-shirt that can be sold at different events.
 - Tricia Whitman suggested that they need to make an appointment to go up to AIT (American Indians of Texas) because they have numerous binders of pictures. People donated their family photos and they have binders for Schertz and other cities.
 - Maggie Titterington asked about the pictures that Chris Hormel was putting on a thumb drive. Miguel Vazquez reported that Chris has told him that he’s finished uploading everything. Cyndi Simmons reports that she doesn’t believe the Dropbox has been set up yet but hasn’t seen the external hard drive from Chris.

- Councilmember Westbrook remarked that because we have so many special recognition months, highlighting the different months might bring more recognition to the SHPC. Tricia Whitman explained more about the different tribal nations that are documented to be in Schertz. No one nation claims this area and no one nation can. Miguel has also been helping with the cemetery association because they are doing DNA and genealogy research – we're all trying to reconnect.

d. Participation in July 4th Parade

- We had six cars last year.
- Maggie Titterington is one of the emcees, so she will not be able to ride in the parade.
- Roz Wise attended the car show at Randolph after the 2023 parade and she has about six contacts of cars and they all said they would be glad to be in our parade.
- Tricia Whitman will be in New Mexico at that time.
- Still a question mark as to whether we will participate.

REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Maggie Titterington would like to request to change our meetings to either the third or fourth Wednesdays or second or fourth Mondays because Thursdays are rough for her. Maggie Titterington motioned and Roz Wise seconded to change the meetings to the fourth Wednesday of the month. *Motion passed unanimously.*
- Roz Wise requested additional business cards.
- Maggie Titterington would like a green SHPC shirt and business cards.
- Roz Wise asked for a flyer to advertise the book sales.
- Discussion on Becki Babcock's attendance – out of 10 meetings last year, she missed 7. According to our bylaws, if you miss two unexcused absences we have a procedure for removing members.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING DATE

- Maggie Titterington motioned and Roz Wise seconded to adjourn the meeting. *Motion passed unanimously.* Meeting adjourned at 7:09 PM by Miguel Vazquez, Chairperson.