

SCHERTZ HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024
6:00 PM
MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members in Attendance:

Becki Babcock Christopher Hormel Maggie Titterington
Roz Wise

Committee Members Absent:

Tricia Whitman

City Representatives in Attendance:

Mayor Ralph Gutierrez Councilmember Tiffany Gibson Councilmember Robert Westbrook
Brian James Cyndi Simmons

Guests:

Lauren Dalton Sophie Rodriguez
Marc Thornton and Samuel Clemens History Club

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at **5:59 PM** by Chairperson Maggie Titterington.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

- Marc Thornton and the Samuel Clemens History Club
- Sophie Rodriguez, resident of Schertz, and is looking at the hotel/former hospital for development

1. Introduction and Discussion with Mayor Ralph Gutierrez

- The committee asked that he attend so he could clarify and share what the heart of the Council is for the direction for the SHPC
- Expressed his appreciation and gratitude for the contributions of the committee
- There are two things that came to mind when thinking about how the SHPC could assist the City:
- Project with Parks & Rec – fiberglass shirts art project. They will be purchasing 20-25 t-shirts for residents to submit sketches of what art they would like placed on the shirts. The shirts will then be installed at various locations around the city. They would like the committee (and the History Club) to help judge and vote for the final selection of designs.
- He ran into the nephew of Mayor Bueker, the 3rd mayor of Schertz. He is 99 years old and will be 100 years old on July 4. He has asked if he would be the Grand Marshall for the Jubilee parade. This made him start thinking about the past mayors who were the trailblazers who had the vision and dedication that shaped this city. It's important that these initiatives set the stage for the events that we have, the parks, the neighborhoods,

and even the commercial that's around our city. Their legacy is just a chapter in our history. It influenced what we have here today -- part of our daily lives that we see. What he's noticed is that we don't know what each mayor accomplished. We never documented what each mayor's big accomplishments were during their time. Hal Baldwin was involved with getting HEB and Walmart to Schertz. He'd like for the SHPC to start with our first mayor in 1958 and upwards. Right now, we're seeing a lot of development and in the four years he'd been here we have The Gateway and Schertz Station and Saddlebrook and Carmel neighborhoods -- all of these are part of his legacy.

Maggie Titterington asked if there is any documentation within the City of Schertz where this information can be pulled from. Cyndi Simmons commented that the minutes from Council meetings are all archived on the website. Newspaper articles from the San Antonio Express News can be accessed at the library. Another example is the 3009 expansion to I-10. He will probably not be mayor when it's completed, but he was mayor when the vision was introduced. Maggie Titterington would like to collaborate with the history club on this project. Roz Wise asked how many of the former mayors are currently living and Maggie and Mayor believe there's only three -- Mayor Bueker, Mayor Carpenter, and Mayor Gutierrez.

DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

2. Minutes – Consideration and/or action regarding the approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of January 25, 2024.
 - Chris Hormel motioned and Roz Wise seconded to approve the minutes as written. *Motion passed unanimously.*
3. SHPC Membership Updates
 - Approval of Committee Applicant Lauren Dalton. Lauren Dalton introduced herself. She is a Cibolo resident; however, she spends a of time and Schertz and has only lived in this part of Texas for about 3 years. She's super interested in history and thought meeting with this group would be a great way to learn and help document history. She was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. Chris Hormel motioned and Roz Wise seconded to approve the minutes as written. *Motion passed unanimously.*
 - Acknowledgement of Resignation of Miguel Vazquez. Maggie Titterington commented that Miguel has stepped down. She sent him an email and thanked him for everything he's put into the SHPC and stepping into the gap and how much we appreciate everything that he did.
4. Nominations/Voting for Vice-Chair
 - Maggie Titterington commented that some of you are up in March and she received noticed of the approval of whether everyone will extend their term on the board. Is this something that we need to table until whether they will stay on or not? Brian James commented that we can move forward. Currently the way that it stands is that Maggie is Chair and Miguel was Vice-Chair and with his resignation that leaves the Vice-Chair position open. For the board to know, Maggie Titterington is definitely in this for the long haul if anyone is not comfortable at this point voicing any desire to become Vice Chair, she will be in the position for as long as everyone feels confident in her to carry it

on until someone wants to throw their hat in for Vice-Chair. Chris Hormel is not able to take the role. Because there are potential new members joining, we may want to table until the March meeting.

- 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.*

5. Review of Financial Statement

- Roz Wise motioned and Maggie Titterington seconded to accept the financial statement. *Motion passed unanimously.*

6. Updates

- Dedicated page for SHPC in Schertz Magazine to include format and articles. Maggie Titterington did a mock-up of what the page will look like in the magazine. She created the page using Canva. The page will have sections for memories, promotion to join the committee, and upcoming events. Roz Wise will send Maggie all the articles she has prepared and Maggie can determine what will fit.
- Hard Drive Archives – Thank you to Chris Hormel for all his hard work on the hard drive archives that were obtained from Dean Weirtz. The thumb drive has been turned into the City for storage and Maggie Titterington and Chris Hormel both have copies for their records. None of the items are catalogued – they are just put in folders. Some time will need to be spent going through and labeling and organizing the pictures and documents. He did spend some time to eliminate some personal pictures that were on the disks and drives.

7. Discussion/Actions

- SHPC Strategic Plan of Action for 2024 – Maggie Titterington compiled a list of ideas from the committee. There were general ideas from the last meeting and then suggestions from the committee members. Brief discussion to see if we can narrow the scope to the top 3 things. Do we want to do an event and if we're going to do an event, it needs to be a majority that agrees to do it because if it's just one or two then why are we doing it? And secondly, does it fit the mission of what we're trying to accomplish with our committee which is promoting history or gathering more historical information. The example of Movin' on Main in April – an idea had been thrown about having an ice cream stand in front of the Ole Bossy's original location for the event. We could video citizens sharing their memories and then possibly share the presentation with the Council.
 - i. Becki Babcock suggested a City-Wide Historic-Based Scavenger Hunt. She's met with the Escape Room gentleman **Aubi?** several times and they've talked about how San Antonio will do that sometimes during the historic month. It needs to be walkable. **Aubi** was explaining how they did it in San Antonio but it sounded like a cool idea. And once they made it back to him, you'd win a medallion or something of historic nature. The clues would be historic-based. Maggie asked if this would be something we'd want to do this year or pursue this project for next year? Chris Hormel asked if we'd want to tie it to a holiday or an event?

Councilmember Tiffany Gibson suggested we tie it in with Halloween. Chris Hormel suggested that clues could be published in the monthly update in the newsletter. This will be a pretty decent sized project. They asked the students what they think about this kind of project. Marc Thornton suggested bringing that more to life come Halloween – have students dress up in costumes. Chris Hormel commented that if we are going in front of people’s homes or businesses, we should consult with them and the city attorney for liability issues, etc. Possibly have it be a trick-or-treat event as well.

Another question from a student about the Schertz Shirt project – are we going to have a contest for the designs? Brian James explained that the idea is to get businesses and organizations to sponsor a shirt and then they would come up with the design to decorate. A number of shirts would likely be given to various groups to decorate. The idea would be for the SHPC and students to judge the designs.

Since we’re not participating in any other events, this could be the focus for this year. Sophie Rodriguez commented that in her business plan she has the grand opening planned for the Halloween time frame. Marc Thornton also suggested that their other history sponsor is a seamstress and could make costumes.

Becki Babcock will be the Champion for this event. Chris Hormel then suggested that we have a Subcommittee and they can meet beyond this monthly meeting. They would bring back items for the committee to vote on so we’re not violating any of the rules. Chris Hormel also suggested getting Steele High School students involved.

- ii. Councilmember Tiffany Gibson suggested that we have a history trivia night. She would like it to be a range of all ages. She asked the students if they would like to see it where food is available. One student suggested Randy G’s ice cream shoppe – it’s been a popular hangout, however, it is pretty small. Marc Thornton has sound equipment available to support the trivia night. Another student suggested an outdoor event at Pickrell Park pavilion and having food trucks. Suggestion to possibly tie-in with the Movies in the Park event. Marc Thornton advised he would email some “Did you know?” questions that he’s already compiled. Councilmember Gibson envisions that the trivia portion would last approximately one hour and be comprised of only 20-30 questions. The only question is a budget for the event for prizes. Brian James advised we would need to speak to the Parks Department if we’d like to tie-in with one of their events. Once you start developing the questions, those ideas would come easily and the budget is not really an issue. Cyndi Simmons commented that she just looked up the Movies in the Park series and there they schedule 6 events, however, they move from park to park. This summer’s schedule hasn’t been published, so we would have to consult with them to see when the event would be held at Pickrell Park.

iii. Chris Hormel asked what the City of Schertz wants from the SHPC. After two years he doesn't have a firm grasp of what it is that the city itself wants from the SHPC. Maggie Titterington responded that based on her conversations with the Mayor, they want to keep it loose. They don't want it to be so general that we need to do historical landmark signs, do an event once a year, etc. Basically, what he conveyed to her is whatever it takes using our discretion to maintain and find the history of Schertz – basically protect and promote the history of Schertz. Whatever way we see fit in doing it that we all agree upon and can execute, that's what they want and what they'll support. Chris Hormel commented that this information is important for his work on compiling the rules and procedures for the committee – something like "The preservation of the history of Schertz and what is building our future." Brian James commented that it is documenting and promoting the history of Schertz and that can take a number of different forms. It can be some of the more traditional things such as going through and organizing the documents and pictures, but it's the other things we're talking about – the Scavenger Hunt, trivia night, Ole Bossy's, etc. Chris Hormel suggested that is important to have this discussion so that everything we do should be in support of what the city wants.

- Champions for Areas of Strategic Plan for 2024
 - i. Becki Babcock – Scavenger Hunt in October
 - ii. Councilmember Gibson – Trivia Night in the summer
 - iii. Need Champion for Mayor's project – long-term project
- Bid/possible new storage for archived historical items – Maggie Titterington would like to ask Schertz to put out for three bids because she knows we can do better in price than what we're paying right now. And there are some facilities that will allow 24-hour access. Maggie would like to request quote for a 10 x 10 and a 10 x 15. We currently have a 10 x 10. Brian James will get the criteria from Maggie Titterington to make sure the bid meets all criteria. Discussion to add shelving as well.
- Finalize event participation in designated City events – already discussed.

REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Chris Hormel suggested that committee positions not be printed on the business cards. His have Vice-Chair and he's no longer Vice-Chair, so he's been marking through that designation.
- T-Shirts – Roz Wise has t-shirts/polo shirts and needs to know sizes from everyone that needs one.
- Artifacts – In speaking with Dean Weirtz, Chris Hormel reports that there used to be a lot more but when we no longer had a storage facility, he gave stuff back out.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING DATE

- Roz Wise motioned and Chris Hormel seconded to adjourn the meeting. *Motion passed unanimously.* Meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM by Maggie Titterington, Chairperson.