



Hidalgo County Historical Commission  
Minutes of Meeting: Sunday, December 2, 2018

Meeting Locations: Old Hidalgo Courthouse and Hidalgo Pump House, Hidalgo, Texas

Following a tour, and discussion of the restoration of the historic Old Hidalgo Courthouse, led by Valley architect Eduardo Vela, the Hidalgo County Historical Commission meeting was called to order by chairperson, Alex Moreno, Jr. at 3:02pm.

The following members and guests attended:

Amancio J. Chapa Jr.	Eduardo Vela	Aida Escobar
Dee Lopez	Alex Moreno, Jr.	Harry Rakosky
Valerie Ramirez	Augie Pena	Anita Vela
Jesse De La Fuente	Hilda Y. Thompson	Maria Hurtado
Esther Camacho (guest)	Lawrence Serna (guest)	Esther Vela (guest)

An introduction of members was made as well as a welcome extended to guests.

The minutes from the last meeting was reviewed by the secretary, and accepted by the membership with one correction.

The following topics were presented and discussed by the membership:

- The marker for Bazan Longoria has been installed and a dedication ceremony is planned for the family and visitors.
- The literary work, "The Injustice Never Leaves You", by Monica Martinez was discussed. The incidents of injustice and violence in Hidalgo County chronicled in the book could become an *Untold Story*, with State landmark designation. Further investigation would be required.
- An incident that resulted in a massacre in 1918 in Alamo was suggested as an *Untold Story*, State designation, after further investigation and research. Starting January 31, 2019, there will be an exhibit highlighting this historical fact.
- The chairman reported that the HCHC archivist is developing a graph for the 'special collection' that houses all HCHC landmark designations at UTRGV. A course of action on how to inform the public of the availability of this information is pending.
- The Anzaldua marker is still pending, awaiting a committee from UTRGV to do additional research to determine correct wording for marker.
- Marker for the 'Pharr Riots' needs additional information. The marker application bypassed HCHC, and went directly to Texas Historical Commission in Austin.
- A copy of the HCHC Bylaws will be supplied by Alex Moreno.

- Dee Lopez will inform Faith Fellowship Baptist Church that they can begin the marker application process. It was determined that the church's remodeled exterior will not affect the historical integrity of the structure.

### **Committee Reports:**

- ❖ Website Committee: Hilda Thompson is editing the list of markers in Hidalgo County to classify them by city. She will present updated version to the chairman in the next two weeks.
- ❖ Membership Committee: Valerie Ramirez presented an updated list of HCHC members by precinct. It was determined that new members be sought for precinct 1, because currently there is only one representative. New members under consideration are Lawrence Serna and Rene Guajardo. It was suggested that additional members be recruited to strengthen community involvement in HCHC.
- ❖ Nominating Committee: Valerie Ramirez reported the following members will serve as the new officers for the Executive Board of HCHC for 2019:
  - Chairperson: Adela Ortega
  - Vice Chair-Markers: Harry Rakosky
  - Vice Chair- Preservation: Aida Escobar
  - Secretary: Dee Lopez
  - Treasurer: Aguié Pena

### **Announcements:**

- Members were asked to send their '2018 HCHC Activity Logs' for hours spent on HCHC business to the chair by December 31, 2018.
- The Executive Board will meet in January, 2019.
- Dates for 2019 HCHC membership meetings are forthcoming.

A motion for adjournment was introduced and seconded, and the meeting closed at 2:55pm.

Respectfully reported by Dee Lopez, HCHC Secretary.