



City of Corpus Christi

1201 Leopard Street
Corpus Christi, TX 78401
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Meeting Minutes - Draft

Landmark Commission

Thursday, May 22, 2025

4:30 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers.

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chairman Pruitt called the meeting to order at 4:31 pm and a quorum was established to conduct the meeting with Commissioners Wilson, Espinoza, and McLaughlin were absent.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

III. Approval of Absences: Commissioners Wilson, Mumme, and Vice-Chair Landreth.

Commissioner Riggle made a motion to approve the absences of Commissioners Wilson, Mumme, and Vice Chairman Landreth from the April 24, 2025 meeting. Commissioner Wanzer seconded. Vote: All Aye. Motion passes.

IV. Approval of Minutes: April 24, 2025 DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Vice Chairman Landreth made a motion to accept the April 24, 2025 meeting minutes based on the revisions provided by Chairman Pruitt. Commissioner Riggle seconded. The Vote: All Ayes. Motion passed.

1. [25-0751](#) Landmark Commission Meeting Minutes DRAFT 4.24.2025

Attachments: [4-24-25 LMC DRAFT Minutes](#)

V. 2025 Annual Preservation Awards Ceremony

Chairman Pruitt opened the ceremony and stated: "Welcome to the City of Corpus Christi's Annual Preservation Awards, where we celebrate individuals and organizations dedicated to preserving our rich cultural heritage. I am James Pruitt, Chair of the Corpus Christi Landmark Commission. The first award will be from the Buildings/Properties category and will be presented by Commissioner Bobby Moreno."

Commissioner Moreno: "It's a pleasure to be here today as we recognize the preservation efforts of the Corpus Christi Independent School District and Moses Menger Elementary School. Since opening in 1929, Menger Elementary has been a place of learning, growth, and community. As the first school built outside of Corpus Christi's central area, it has been a pillar of progress and opportunity for generations of students. This institution carries the name of Moses Menger, an educator whose dedication to

shaping young minds left a lasting mark on Texas education. From his days as a mathematics teacher and principal at Corpus Christi High School, to his tenure as superintendent, his commitment to learning lives on in the halls of this remarkable school. Menger Elementary is not only a place of learning but also a historical landmark. The school's original exterior, constructed in 1928, has been carefully preserved, ensuring that its rich heritage remains intact while modern enhancements support today's students. The recent renovations have focused on updating the interior spaces with state-of-the-art classrooms, a dynamic library, and creative learning environments—all while maintaining the architectural integrity of the historic building. This balance between preservation and innovation reflects the school's commitment to honoring its past while preparing for the future. Accepting the award is Menger Elementary's principal, Dr. Christina Barrera.

Chairman Pruitt: "The second award comes from the Architects/Organizations category. This year we are honoring The Friends of Old Bayview Cemetery... presented by Commissioner Clark Underwood."

Commissioner Underwood: "Friends of Old Bayview Cemetery—whose unwavering dedication has safeguarded a significant piece of Texas history. Old Bayview Cemetery stands as the oldest federal military cemetery in Texas, a solemn and hallowed ground where veterans, pioneers, and heroes of generations past have been laid to rest. It is a place of deep reverence, a site that tells the story of the sacrifices made by those who served. And thanks to the tireless commitment of the Friends of Old Bayview Cemetery, it remains a dignified and well-preserved testament to our nation's history. Through restoration efforts, historical research, and community engagement, this extraordinary group has ensured that the legacy of those buried within Old Bayview Cemetery is never forgotten. Their work goes far beyond maintaining the grounds—it is a labor of love, a pledge to honor and remember the past so that future generations may understand the significance of this sacred site. We know that history, if not properly cared for, can fade into obscurity. But the Friends of Old Bayview Cemetery have refused to let that happen. Their dedication has inspired others to recognize the value of preservation and the importance of honoring those who came before us. We present this award to the Friends of Old Bayview Cemetery. This honor is a reflection of their steadfast commitment, their passion for historical preservation, and their enduring efforts to ensure that the oldest federal military cemetery in Texas remains a place of respect and remembrance."

Chairman Pruitt: "In the History Book category, we are recognizing Dr. Alan Lessoff for his work, *Where Texas Meets the Sea: Corpus Christi and its History*. Commissioner Jillian Becquet will present the award."

Commissioner Becquet: "Alan Lessoff is being honored for his book, *Where Texas Meets the Sea*. Dr. Lessoff's book offers a clear, well-researched account of Corpus Christi's development, exploring its regional identity, economic struggles, and urban challenges. Lessoff presents Corpus Christi as a city shaped by competing influences—between local traditions and outside ambitions, between economic growth

and environmental concerns, and between self-perception and historical realities. His book doesn't simply celebrate the city; it critically examines how it has adapted, sometimes successfully and sometimes with difficulty, to shifting priorities over time. In 2017 he was awarded the San Antonio Conservation Society Publication Award. *Where Texas Meets the Sea* is an important contribution to the study of Texas history, offering insights into how cities develop, struggle, and evolve. Through Lessoff's research, we gain a better understanding of the forces that shaped Corpus Christi and the ongoing conversation about its future. Unfortunately, Dr. Lessoff is unable to be here to accept the award. "

Chairman Pruitt: "Our final category is Education. We are honored to recognize a group whose commitment to history, education, and community engagement has made a profound impact – the Corpus Christi chapter of TABPHE, (pronounced as Taffy), or the Texas Association of Black Personnel in Higher Education. Presenting the award is Commissioner Elizabeth Riggle."

Commissioner Riggle: "TABPHE (Taffy), Corpus Christi, has consistently demonstrated a deep passion for preserving the city's Black heritage, with a special focus on Juneteenth's cultural significance. Their leadership was instrumental in organizing the first Juneteenth celebration in the historic Hillcrest neighborhood, rekindling community engagement with its preservation.

Beyond celebrations, TABPHE emphasizes education, empowering students and community members through lectures, interactive programming, and direct school engagement. This year marks the 160th anniversary of Juneteenth, a milestone that underscores the importance of remembrance and understanding. Corpus Christi holds a special place in this legacy, with documented Juneteenth celebrations dating back to 1866.

The Landmark Commission applauds their commitment to honoring history, educating the community, and fostering a legacy that will continue for generations to come. Accepting the award is the president of the Corpus Christi Chapter of TABPHE, Simone' Sanders.

VI. Historic Preservation Officer Report: NONE

VII. Future Agenda Items

- Fall Art Project
- Ongoing mapping of the Saxet Heights area
- Update on the Hector P. Garcia medical building

VIII. Adjournment

Being no other business to discuss, Chairman Pruitt entertained for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Riggle made motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Commission Moreno seconded. The Vote: All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 5:02pm