



City of Corpus Christi

1201 Leopard Street
Corpus Christi, TX 78401
corpuschristitx.gov

Meeting Minutes - Final

Landmark Commission

Thursday, April 23, 2026

4:30 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers.

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chairman Pruitt called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm and a quorum was established to conduct the meeting with Commissioners McLaughlin, Mumme, and Underwood being absent.

Present: 8 - Gordon Landreth, Veronica Wilson, Elizabeth Riggle, Melissa Espinoza, James Pruitt, Bobby Moreno, Jillian Becquet, and Sondra Meyer

Absent: 3 - Cheryl McLaughlin, Jeff Mumme, and Clark Underwood

II. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

III. Approval of Absences: Commissioner Wilson, Becquet, and Underwood (3.26.2026 meeting)

Chairman Pruitt stated for the record that the approval of absences would be amended on record to include his name.

Vice Chairman Landreth made a motion to approve the absence of Chairman Pruitt, Commissioners Wilson, Becquet, and Underwood from the March 26, 2026, meeting. Commissioner Riggle seconded. Vote: All Aye. Motion passes.

IV. Approval of Minutes: March 26, 2026 DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Moreno made a motion to accept the March 26, 2026, meeting minutes as presented by staff. Commissioner Wilson seconded. The Vote: All Aye. Motion passed.

1. [26-0587](#) Landmark Commission Meeting Minutes DRAFT 3.26.2026

V. Discussion and Possible Action:

2. [26-0584](#) Updates on Subcommittees

No updates on subcommittee currently.

Chairman Pruitt discussed old Bayview cemetery would be conducting a tour on 5.2.2026 at 10:00am. Stated he would be sending out an email to forward to the commissioners.

3. [26-0585](#) Discussion on Historical Preservation Award Nominations

Commissioner Wilson suggested making more than one nomination in the specified categories due to the number of people and/or organizations who meet the criteria for a Historical Preservation award.

Commissioner Pruitt stated there is no limit so it would be at the commission's discretion how many can be nominated to accept the award.

Buildings/Properties:

Vice Chairman Landreth stated for building category the Art Museum meets the timeframe needed for the preservation award. Commissioner Becquet stated the museum has applied for the national historical registry this year which means they meet the full criteria of award nomination.

Chairman Pruitt asked if Commissioner Becquet could make contact with the art museum staff so they can be present to receive the award if nomination goes through.

Vice Chairman Landreth made motion to nominate the Art Museum of South Texas for the 2026 Historical Preservation Award in the buildings category. Commissioner Meyer seconded. The Vote: All Aye. Motion passes.

Architects/Organizations:

Commissioner Riggle suggested architect John Wright who passed away last fall. She stated his work specialized in preservation and renovation. Some of his projects worked and designed were Harrison's Landing, the North Beach Arch, the Corpus Christi Cathedral, and the Six Points Transfer Station. Research will be done to contact his widow to be present to receive the award if nomination goes through.

Commissioner Riggle made motion to nominate John Wright for the 2026 Historical Preservation Award in the architects and organizations category. Commissioner Meyer seconded. The Vote: All Aye. Motion passes.

Education:

Commissioner Becquet stated that Dr. Mark Robbins, a Del Mar College professor, has played an integral part of education for his work in engaging students at the school on local history. She also stated Dr. Christine Robbins just did an exhibit for Texas A & M University-Kingsville regarding the 100-year history of Kingsville.

Commissioner Wilson said the Daughters of the Republic of Texas most notably the Clara Driscoll Chapter have been an outstanding organization who continues to reach out to educate the local public schools in the area. The conduct Texas history contests in

grades 4-7 for the past few decades. The focus of the education is so school aged children can have a greater appreciation for the state of Texas.

Commissioner Pruitt mentioned nominating Bill Havelka for his work on the history of South Texas. He was member of the Nueces County historical commission, Texas Archaeological Society, Friends of old Bayview cemetery, and Nueces County historical society.

Commissioner Wilson made a motion to nominate Dr. Mark Robbins, Dr. Kristen Robbins, the Daughters of the Republic Texas-Clara Driscoll Chapter, and Bill Havelka for the 2026 Historical Preservation Award in the education category. Riggle seconded. The Vote: All Aye. Motion passed.

History Books:

Chairman Pruitt made a motion to nominate Captain John Dix: A Texas Pioneer, 1796-1870 by Dan R. Manning and A Man from Corpus Christi by Dr. A.C. Peirce for the 2026 Historical Preservation Award in the history book category. Commissioner Riggle seconded. The Vote: All Aye. Motion passed.

Special Recognition-Thank You Award:

Commissioner Wilson brought up the idea of bringing up a new category to meet the criteria of students who have brought light to historical preservation. Chairman Pruitt said that if they add a new category, it would be added and introduced at the following year's historical preservation award.

Commissioner Meyer made a motion to nominate Eli Oliver for a special one-time award from the Landmark Commission. Commissioner Becquet seconded. The Vote: All Aye. Motion passes.

Upon clarification and amending the commission decided the following:

In honor of historical preservation month, the commission decided to award a special commendation award Eagle Scout Eli Oliver for his contribution to historical preservation due to his research and development on the Tracking Station Project Interpretive Panels now installed at Bill Witt Park.

Chairman Pruitt also stated that the commissioners would be in charge of the award summary to be given at the 2026 Historical Preservation Award ceremony.

The following list was compiled by the Commissioners for next year's preservation nominations:

- Metro E (formerly Wynn Seale Junior High School)
- Del Mar College-Heritage Campus (Memorial Classroom which was renovated by Gignac)

- Texas A & M University-Corpus Christi (Round Building formerly the library)
- Ritz Theater
- Texas State Aquarium (once it reaches the 50-year timeframe)
- Soloman Oritz Buildings (possibly honoring the restoration the Port has completed)
- Chapel at Violet Rd.

4. [26-0601](#) 2026 Preservation Awards Art Contest Nominations

Attachments: [2026 Preservation Award Art Contest](#)

Discussion was in order of the contest categories.

For digital art, the commission was all in favor of awarding Daniel Rohde's submission

For painting & drawing, the commission was all in favor of awarding Tony Armadillo's "R. Galvan Ballroom.

For photography, a majority of the commission was in favor of awarding Jenna M. Guerra "The Castle," Lake Corpus Christi Park. For the record, Commissioner Espinoza and Chairman Pruitt chose Steven Hambley's courthouse submission.

VI. Historic Preservation Officer Report: None.

VII. Future Agenda Items: None.

VIII. Adjournment

Being no other business to discuss, Chairman Pruitt entertained for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Wilson made motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Commission Meyer seconded. The Vote: All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 5:43 pm.