

Goliad County Historical Commission

By-Laws

April 2025

ARTICLE I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Goliad County Historical Commission hereafter referred to as the Commission or GCHC.

ARTICLE II: Mission Statement

The mission statement for the Commission: ***To protect and preserve the County of Goliad's historic and prehistoric resources for the use, education, enjoyment and economic benefit for the present and future generations.***

ARTICLE III: Purpose

The purpose of the GCHC shall be to initiate and conduct programs suggested by the Texas Historical Commission, the Goliad County Commissioners Court, and members of the Commission for the preservation of the historical heritage of Goliad County, in compliance with the Texas Historical Commission laws and regulations.

ARTICLE IV: Board of Directors

Any resident or landowner in Goliad County over the age of 21 who is recommended by the GCHC or County Commissioners Court and approved by the Goliad County Commissioners Court shall be eligible to be on the Board of Directors of the GCHC. These members shall be appointed by the Goliad County Commissioners Court in January of odd-numbered years and are appointed for a term of two years.

Each Board member must have an interest in historic preservation and an understanding of local history and resources. The Goliad County Commissioners Court shall provide to the Texas Historical Commission a list of appointed members and their mailing addresses.

There shall be seven Board members, and they shall broadly reflect the age, ethnic and geographic diversity of the county, if possible. Any Board member who is absent from two consecutive meetings shall be removed from the Board, unless they are sick or have a death in the family, or have to be out of town for their employment, but they must notice the Chairman or Secretary before the meeting of their absence or as soon as possible after the meeting.

Resignation from the GCHC Board of Directors will be accepted after a letter of resignation from the member has been read into the official minutes by the Chairperson or Secretary. The Chair must then notify the Goliad County Commissioners Court of this vacancy. The Goliad County Commissioners Court shall be notified of any vacancies and shall fill any vacancy on the GCHC Board of

The County Judge and the County Commissioners shall be Ex-officio, non-voting members of the GCHC. The Board of Directors must also work on GCHC programs and work to help promote these programs. All Board members must take the Open Meetings Training within 90 days of being appointed.

ARTICLE V: Commission Members

Commission members may join at any time during the year. They must attend two consecutive meetings before being allowed to vote, and if they miss two consecutive meetings then they must attend two consecutive meetings before being allowed to vote again. They must also, have the interest in historic preservation and an understanding of local history and resources. The Commission members must be willing to work on programs with the Board members and participate in these programs.

ARTICLE VI: Officers

The Officers of the GCHC shall be Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary. The Chairperson shall be appointed by the County Judge; the remaining officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the voting members present at the annual meeting in January, this being for a two-year term.

These officers shall constitute the Executive Committee.

- **Chairperson:** The Chair person shall be the Executive Officer of the GCHC. His/her responsibility shall be to call the regular meetings under the Texas Open Meetings Act, preside over the meetings, appoint committees, task forces and their chairs, and report to the County Commissioners Court and the Texas Historical Commission. To designate a member to serve on any County/City Board as representative of the GCHC. The Chair will sign any contract any contracts or instruments designated by the Commission. The Chair shall the usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office and shall perform other such duties as designated by the Commission or County Commissioners Court.
- **Vice Chairperson:** The Vice Chair shall preside at meetings in the absence of the Chair.
- **Secretary:** The Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings and perform such other duties normally pertaining to the office.
- **Nomination and Electio of Officers:** Nominations for these officers shall be made by any member. Election shall be either by written ballot or by oral vote. If there is only one candidate nominated, then a motion is made to elect by acclamation. A majority vote of those present and qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election. Proxy and absentee voting are not allowed in officer elections.
- **Resignation and Vacancy:** An officer may resign an office while not necessarily resigning from the Commission, by submitting a letter to the Commission which shall be read into the official minutes. Vacancies occurring in any office other than the Chairperson shall be filled by election at the next meeting following the resignation. If the Chairperson resigns then the Judge shall appoint the new Chair.

ARTICLE VII: Financial Administration

- **Fiscal Term:** The Fiscal Term for the GCHC shall coincide with the Goliad County Commissioners Court, which is October 1 through September 30 of each year.

- **Disbursements:** Funds authorized by the GCHC shall be disbursed by the County Treasurer/Auditor upon request of the GCHC with the concurrence of the Chairperson. If the item was not on the current budget for that year, the funds are to be taken from GCHC's funds that they have raised and are A from where the funds are to come.
- **Receipt of Gifts:** The GCHC shall be authorized to accept gifts of monies or other property from any source in the furtherance of lawful purpose. All monies are to be turned in to the County Treasurer with a receipt for the monies.

ARTICLE VII: Meetings

- **Meetings:** There shall be a minimum of four (4) meetings in any calendar year for the general membership, but may be held every month. All general membership meetings must comply with the "Open Meetings Acts," as well as all committee meetings. This means that an agenda must be posted at the Courthouse on the inside bulletin board and outside bulletin board, on the Museum window or door, and with the County Judge's Secretary on the Website.
- **Annual Meeting:** The Annual Meeting shall be held in January. On odd years the Annual Meeting shall include the election of officers.
- **Quorum:** A quorum shall be required for any business at any meeting. A quorum at any meeting shall consist of a minimum of four (4) voting members.
- **Parliamentary Procedure:** Parliamentary procedure will be according to Robert's Rules of Order.
- **Special Meetings:** The Chair may call special meetings as needed.

ARTICLE IX: Committees

Committees: The Chair person may create standing ad hoc committees or task forces as needed.

Chairperson of Committees: The Chairperson of GCHC shall appoint a chair person for each committee or task force for a one-year term. The Chairperson of a committee may recruit additional committee members from the general membership.

Standing Committees: The Commission has the following standing committees:

- **Market House Museum Committee:** The Curator of this Committee will be the Curator of the Museum, and they may have up to four members, if the Curator so desires.
- **Historical Marker Committee:** The Chair of the Commission may appoint someone to chair this committee or may chair it their self. They may appoint as many persons as they want to work with them on this committee. The committee will perform annual inspections of historical markers in the County as required by THC. They will help anyone who is interested in obtaining a historical marker, or may initiate application for new markers. The GCHC will pay for replacement THC Markers or will help with new markers. If a group needs GCHC's help in getting a marker, they must make application to the GCHC explaining the need for said marker, they must prove to the GCHC Board and members that they are unable to pay for the markers themselves. If there is a Cemetery Association, they must produce their bank statements with the request, if they have no bank statement, then they must attend a meeting and pled their case. GCHC will pay for no more than three markers per year. Anyone may contribute to the markers and help with the costs if they so wish.
- **Cemetery Committee:** This is usually the Chair of the Commission, but he/she may appoint someone to do it if they do not want to chair it. The committee chair will maintain a cemetery directory and oversee the preservation of Goliad County Historical Cemeteries. The chair will ask for volunteers to help with typing the cemeteries that have been inventoried and will seek others to work on the ones which have not been done.
- **Christmas in Goliad Committee:** This is the only fund raiser that GCHC has each year, and the Chair of the Commission may appoint a Chair or may serve as the Chair of this committee. The Chair of Christmas in Goliad is responsible for signing the contract for the Longhorn, and signing any contracts for advertising, making sure the tents (if they are used) are up, that the Fair Association is notified that we want to use the tables and benches, and that these are delivered and returned promptly, as well as, getting the steps for the steer, and the stage in position for both and to make sure both are picked up promptly, also for the Porta-Potties, and trash pickup. There will be a Vendor chair; Entertainment chair; Longhorn

committee (who will put up the corral for the steer); Miss Ruby's Corral Committee Chair, who is responsible to get authors to attend.

ARTICLE X: Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended by two thirds (2/3) vote of qualified members present and voting at any regular or special meeting provided the amendments were submitted in writing to the general membership at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting.

4/21/2025
(date approved)

Lynnda Breeding
Chairperson

Olga Mangrove
Secretary