

HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



Thursday, February 23, 2017
Hays County Courthouse
111 East San Antonio Street, Suite 101
San Marcos, Texas 78666

The February 23, 2017, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC) was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson. A quorum was met as the following members were in attendance: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Eric Beckers, Linda Coker, Luanne Cullen, Robert Frizzell, Irma Gaitan, Eddie Gumbert, Dorothy Gumbert, Kate Johnson, Richard Kidd, Jo Landon, Jo Ann Lowe, SarahAnn Lowther, Cindy Meyer, Ralph Meyer, Jerry T. Moore, Henry Oles, Marian Oles, Trisha Randow, and Ralph Randow. One guest also attended.

Welcome & Announcements—Kate Johnson welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the 2017-18 HCHC biennium. She asked members to introduce themselves and describe the area of the county they are from and why they wanted to serve on HCHC. For the new members, she described the meeting sites, the current projects, such as the 1884 Hays County Jail and the 1917 Kyle Depot, and opportunities for training sessions and conferences. She described the new Oral History committee and asked those interested to sign up on the form that was sent around. She encouraged everyone to participate in the various committees in order to learn more about various aspects of our county. She also gave each member a reference packet for types of Historic Designations that could help in advising people about the application process for markers. An education session will be held in April or May to further discuss the designations. The next HCHC meeting was scheduled for March 23 in Dripping Springs.

1. **Vote on accepting minutes from December 15, 2016**—Delbert Bassett moved to accept the minutes; Irma Gaitan seconded the motion. Motion passed.
2. **Kyle RR Depot and Heritage Center Report**—Trisha Randow reported that the Kyle Railroad & Heritage Center celebrated the 100th Birthday of the Depot on February 11 (the depot opened on February 10, 1917). Refreshments, tours, showings of the documentary, and presentations to donors were included in the day's events. The Kyle Depot had been chosen as one of nineteen historic restoration and rehabilitation projects that Presentation Texas would be recognized at its 2017 Honor Awards Ceremony in Waco, Texas on February 27.

Events are being planned for an Easter event. Henry Oles recommended Harold Schroeder to provide advice on restoring the caboose.

3. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jo Landon said that money for Kyle Family Pioneer Cemetery was in the mail. She summarized various accomplishments from the 2015-16 biennium: 7 cemeteries were cleaned; 3 HTC applications were submitted; 3 HTC application were approved and deeds registered; various fields trips to cemeteries were held; 4 cemeteries were researched; many replies to inquiries about cemeteries were provided; assistance to Chris Lyman for his Eagle Scout project at Antioch Cemetery had been provided; Cheatham Cemetery had been identified as a possible scout project; and coordination with the HCC Historic Marker Committee to apply for markers had continued.
4. **Horticulture Report**—Delbert Bassett described the condition of the Kyle Auction Oak. He had recently met with Jordy Hagen and the arborist of “Tree Wise Men” who, last year, had removed a large portion of the woody materials to lighten the load and to prevent the crack in the crotch from widening. All signs were positive as the gap in the crack had lessened, the cuts had healthy callus growth with no signs of disease, and the growth sprouts were 6” to 18” inches long. Another check-up would be held in another year. The other tree event was the relocating of the Buda Heritage Oak. He asked Eric Beckers to describe his account of the process and thanked Eric for his work on the project.
5. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Marie Bassett said that the Kyle Family Pioneer Cemetery and the Stringtown markers have both been approved by the Texas Historical Commission (THC). The Coronado Cemetery medallion order was to be sent to the foundry in San Antonio on February 10 and should be ready about six weeks after that date. Jerry Moore is working on an application for a subject marker to Jacob’s Well. He said that he is considering asking the Hays County Naturalist Group at Jacob’s Well for leads in raising \$1800 for the subject marker. Marie said that she and Jo Landon were working on an application for an underfunded marker for the Antioch Cemetery and that the window to submit is May 1-June 15. Application forms for 2018 will be posted on the THC website by August. The window to submit these is September 1-November 15, 2017. THC recommends the following themes for this year—World War I topics; Transportation; and Recorded Texas Historic Marker (RTHL) designations.
6. **Hispanic Committee Report**—no report was available.
7. **Courthouse Committee Report**—Linda Coker reported that Christmas at the Courthouse was successful with weekend partners Dixie Cream Donuts, CASA, Main Street, and the San Marcos Public Library. She gave members Main Street event cards and noted that we participate in Swing, Wine and Art Walk, Love Downtown Awards, Wine and Wassail Walk. She described the usage of the courthouse with various groups using the meeting room, people researching family and buildings, school groups touring the building, and ongoing walk-throughs by people attending the Farmers Market each Saturday and Art Squared on the second Saturdays of the month. She gave a talk to CVB Volunteers and discussed what the HCHC does, plans for the Old Jail, the museum, and history stories such as Anna Hauptrief, Serial Killer. The committee is also considering the possibility of a mermaid statue.
8. **Old Hays County Jail Report**—Kate Johnson said that over \$500,000 has been raised for the interior Jail restoration of the jail. The RFQ will be submitted to the

county for their specifications and then it will go out for bid. After that process, we can select our architect and exhibitor. The name of the museum will be the *Original Outlaw Museum of Texas*.

9. **History of Ranching Report**—Richard Kidd said that the documentary is in the production stage and that they will be interviewing the people who are restoring the murals in Pennsylvania.
10. **Buck Winn Murals Report**—Kate Johnson said that the conservator that would be restoring the two sections of the “History of Ranching” mural is Hartman Fine Art Services from Carlyle, Pennsylvania. We raised \$125,000 for the restoration. She, Richard Kidd, and Robert Frizzell hoped to go to Pennsylvania in the next few months to film the process and interview the conservators.

Adjourn—Delbert Bassett moved that the meeting adjourn; Dorothy Gumbert seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m. Supper followed. Linda Coker provided a history of the courthouse with stories about its timeline, people, and secrets.

Respectfully submitted,
Luanne P. Cullen, HCHC Secretary
(Photos courtesy of Luanne Cullen)

