

## HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



The April 26, 2018, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC) was called to order by Chairman Kate Johnson at 6:38 p.m. A quorum was met as the following members were present: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Eric Beckers, Linda Coker, Luanne Cullen, Robert Frizzell, Irma Gaitán, Eddie Gumbert, Dorothy Gumbert, Kate Johnson, Richard Kidd, Jo Landon, SarahAnn Lowther, Jerry Moore, Henry Oles, Marian Oles, Trisha Randow, and Gina Rogers. Five guests also attended.

**Announcements**—Kate Johnson thanked Dick and Dodie Scott for hosting the meeting and presented them with our book, *Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges*, as well as our eight HCHC-produced documentaries. A sign-up sheet was passed around for those members who were interested in attending the May 4 *Cinco de Mayo* luncheon at the Cuauhtémoc Hall in San Marcos. Kate mentioned that work continues on the Blanco River Documentary that focuses on the Wimberley Memorial Day Flood of 2015. She asked that, if any HCHC member or anyone they know has photos or video footage of the event, to please send those images to the email address: [wimberleyfloiddoc@gmail.com](mailto:wimberleyfloiddoc@gmail.com) She also asked members to please go to [www.facebook.com/Wimberleyflood.doc](http://www.facebook.com/Wimberleyflood.doc) and “Like” the page. That site has more information about what is needed for the documentary.

Kate announced that the next HCHC meeting would be held at the Four Winns Ranch in Wimberley on May 24, 2018.

1. **Vote on accepting minutes from March 22, 2018**—Jerry Moore moved that the minutes be accepted; Jo Landon seconded the motion. Motion passed, and the minutes were accepted.
2. **Report on the Buck Winn Murals**—Kate reported that the Hays County Cultural Arts Committee had approved cutting each of the two murals into three sections and mounting those sections on aluminum panels to make them more lightweight and easier to handle than wood. Also, instead of hanging the panels in the atrium of the Hays County Government Center, the decision was made to move them away from sunlight and hang a section on the back wall of the first floor and another section possibly on the third floor. Mr. John Hartman, the conservator for the mural sections, will be arriving in late summer to give advice on the location and pre-installation work.

3. **Discuss and take action to amend the bylaws**—Kate asked if there were any questions about the bylaws that had been amended and sent to the members for preview. Without questions or suggested changes, Linda Coker moved to accept the bylaws and Marian Oles seconded the motion. Motion passed and the bylaws were accepted.
4. **Historic Kyle RR Depot Report**—Trisha Randow reported that the March 31 Easter event was very successful with Willie Tenorio as Mr. Bunny, goody bags for the children, and lemonade and cookies for guests. The estimated attendance was 200-250. Trisha thanked Willie and Daphne Tenorio, Jo Landon, Jo Ann Lowe, Henry and Marian Oles, Dorothy Renteria, Teresa Tobias, and Larry Simone for their help during the event. Trisha also thanked Diane Hervol and Daphne Tenorio for sharing the event on their social media pages. The Caboose project is running a bit behind schedule because of additional work needed, so the completion date will be in August or September. A special event will be held for its opening. Kate also said that the exterior of the caboose would be painted soon. Trisha thanked Henry Oles for his help and expertise in the restoration process. Dick Scott said that he is very interested in trains and cabooses and would share his stories with HCHC and visit the Kyle Depot.
5. **Old Hays County Jail**—Kate said that it took about 2½ weeks for Mark Kennedy to review the contract with **Hutson | Gallagher** architect firm. The contract was accepted by the Commissioners' Court on April 24. The current focus is on the interior, and other services will be included soon, such as landscaping, bathrooms, parking, and restoring the old Wooden Jail. A meeting with architect Tracy Hutson will be set up to discuss the next part of the project.
6. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jo Landon reported that the medallion with the name and date had been installed at the Cocke Cemetery by Aaron Jones with the Hays County Transportation Department. Jo met with Jane Heffelfinger to discuss her thesis on cemeteries and made a quick visit to Antioch Cemetery. Research and documentation for the HTC application for Middlebrook Cemetery had continued. Jo thanked everyone who had helped with the clean-up at the James-Duran-Alba Cemetery on April 14. Byrd Owen-Payne Cemetery had been mowed and cleaned again. The marker application for the Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) medallion with name and date for the James-Duran-Alba Cemetery was continuing. On Saturday, May 5, the committee would visit Cementerio del Rio and Hector Cemeteries.
7. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Marie Bassett reported that the markers for Stringtown Cemetery and Kyle Family Pioneer Cemetery had been ordered and should arrive in May. She said that HTC name and date plaques could be applied for all year round, and Gina Rogers is applying for one for the James-Duran-Alba cemetery which received its designation in January. Gina provided a description of the various activities that have been accomplished there. Marie was pleased to announce that the Cheatham-Hohenberg Cemetery marker text arrived during the last few days for editing. Also, the 2018 Undertold Marker application form was online and completed applications would be accepted from May 1 to June 15. The applications are not required to be approved and sent by the CHCs, but it is highly encouraged. If approved, the THC Marker Staff will work closely

with the applicant and the CHC. The application form and list of topics that are underrepresented can be found on the THC website. Marie said that Jacob's Well might be able to receive recognition through its geological features and therefore would not need the \$1800 to apply.

8. **Horticulture Committee**—Delbert Bassett said that a meeting/field trip was held at a private area with access to a canyon in northwest Hays County to view one of the small populations of Texas Barberry, scientifically *Mahonia Swaseyi*. Beryl Armstrong was their guide and host. The Committee members that made the trip were Eddie and Dorothy Gumbert, Eric Beckers, and a guest from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Andrew McNeil-Marshall. The canyon is rather narrow, approximately 100 feet deep, and several miles long, and they viewed about one-third mile. Throughout the walk Beryl was constantly relating facts about the different springs they crossed and their unique geological features. The group never took more than ten steps before some beautiful plant was examined and its special features noted. Beryl frequently stopped to call our attention to a chirping bird in the tree canopy and used his bird calling talents to draw birds into view. About two-thirds through the trek, Eric found a *Mahonia Swaseyi*, or Texas Barberry as it is commonly called. This specimen, due to its habitat in the shady canyon, was not a show piece and lacked blossoms nor a full coat of leaves. After ascending out of the canyon, the group came across a lush *Mahonia Swaseyi* full of its trademark seven leaf pattern and with beautiful yellow blossoms twice the size of its cousin, *Mahonia trifoliolata*, commonly Agarita. Another trip was planned for the same canyon but closer to its tail end as it opens and flows out into the Pedernales River. The Gumberts will be the hosts as the group searches for a larger population of *Mahonia Swaseyi*. Also a trip to Eric Becker's home was planned to view over 200 species of native plants he has collected and nourished over the years.
9. **Tejano History Committee Report**—no report was given.
10. **Courthouse Committee Report**—Linda Coker said that fourth-grade students would be touring the courthouse and museum on May 2 and 24. A Captain in the Air Force who is President of a Jack C. Hays fan club sent a letter and ordered six of the Jack C. Hays DVDs. Kate would be ordering reprints of the Hays County Cemetery book. Also, Clint Garza, Hays County Chief of Staff, was beginning the process of restoring the courtroom. Linda said that they were searching for photos of the interior of the courthouse and courtroom for reference in the restoration. Because May is Preservation Month, Main Street San Marcos would be hosting a Preservation Luncheon at the Price Center on April 30. She and Luanne Cullen would be attending.

**Adjourn**—The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

After the adjournment, Kate asked the hosts, Dick and Dodie Scott, to describe their home and the surrounding land. Supper was served afterward.

Respectfully submitted,

Luanne P. Cullen, HCHC Secretary

*(Photos courtesy of Luanne Cullen)*

