

HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



January 23, 2020
The Carrington
300 N. Main Street
Buda, Texas 78610

The January 23, 2020, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC) was called to order at 6:25 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson. A quorum was met as the following members were present: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Eric Beckers, Eric Casillas, Linda Coker, Luanne Cullen, Cindy Daugherty, Robert Frizzell, Irma Gaitán, Dorothy Gumbert, Eddie Gumbert, Faye Haskins, Kate Johnson, Richard Kidd, Jo Landon, Jo Ann Lowe, Cindy Meyer, Ralph Meyer, Jerry T. Moore, Henry Oles, Marian Oles, Trisha Randow, Gina Rogers, Griffin Spell, Daphne Tenorio, Vanessa Westbrook, and Lila Knight (ex-officio member). Four guests also attended.

Introduction of Speakers—Kate Johnson introduced Cindy Hunter, the daughter of former Hays County Sheriff, Don Montague. Cindy described the Carrington in its earlier years and told stories of her father's relatives who had lived in the building, which had been a drugstore for many years. Eric Beckers shared memories of his wife's first location of the B&B Quilting in the second floor of the Carrington before building a new store.

Announcements—Kate said that the next HCHC meeting would be held on Friday, February 28 in Driftwood. Centerpoint Station in San Marcos would be holding an auction of their antique signs and artifacts on Saturday, January 25, at the store's location. Also, Tula Wyatt's grandson, Bill Wyatt, would be having a special graveside service for his grandfather, William Wyatt, who was a Texas Ranger. The Texas Rangers would be holding a special ceremony at the San Marcos Cemetery on February 22 at 11:00 a.m. Kate encouraged everyone to attend if possible. The Art Reception at the Government Center would be held on February 10 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Vote on accepting minutes from December 12, 2019—Luanne Cullen added information to the Tejano History report. Delbert Bassett moved to accept the minutes as amended; Dorothy Gumbert seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

1. **Historic Kyle RR Depot & Heritage Center Committee**—Trisha Randow said that Christmas at the Depot on December 14 was successful with Santa and Mrs. Claus (Willie and Daphne Tenorio) offering conversations, pictures, train whistles, and lollipops to the children. The lights (which did not win the city contest) and decorations were taken down and stored by the county crew. Regular hours had returned after the holiday season (10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays). Bids for repairs to the roof of the caboose had gone to the Commissioners Court for approval as well as for the purchase of a picnic table and bench. “B Sweet Cupcakery” celebrated National Pie Day at the Depot on the afternoon of January 23 by offering slices of pie to visitors. Trisha concluded by saying that 158 visitors were counted at the Depot during December.
2. **Old Hays County Jail Committee**—Kate Johnson reported that HCHC did not receive the grant of \$150,000 for the exhibits and that the Burdine Johnson Foundation would like to focus on the repair of the building. Lindsey McClune, county grant writer, and Vanessa Westbrook would try to locate grant money for the exhibits from organizations such as the Summerlee Foundation. Erin McClelland’s museum services contract was ready to be closed. The Old Jail Committee had submitted comments to Erin that she incorporated into the program. The Hutson|Gallagher architect team would be completing the construction documents for the further restoration of the jail and new restrooms which would require additional funds. The architect team also suggested that dedicated outlets should be installed at telecom exhibit locations and provide Cat 6 lines for every exhibit location. Simple track lighting will be used for exhibits. The committee will meet again in March.
3. **Cemetery Committee**—Jo Landon said that the Peal-Pleasant Valley Cemetery had received the HTC (Historic Texas Cemetery) designation. She also described the discovery of a broken headstone near Kyle and its return to the rest of the headstone in a Calhoun County cemetery. The story had been documented in the *Hays Free Press*. Jo also said that Leonard Cochran from Houston had wanted to visit Barton Cemetery where his mother is buried but needed information as to access and location of her grave. Jo contacted Jeff Barton for more information to share with Mr. Cochran. The Pitt Cemetery had been cleaned by several members of the committee on January 21.
4. **Historical Markers Committee**—Marie Bassett said that the historical marker program was still in abeyance but the 2019 Undertold Marker applicants would be announced at the next THC quarterly meeting. Lila Knight was working on submitting a Marker Review Request to THC about the wording of the Thompson’s Island Homeplace marker in San Marcos. Jeremy Scroggins of Treaty Oak Distillery on Fitzhugh Road, north of Dripping Springs, was interested in applying for a marker. The Jacob’s Well Chapter of NSDAR had completed two marker

refurbishments for Wimberley Cemetery and Schlameus House. The ladies hope to refurbish the markers for John R. Dobie House and Wimberley Mills in the spring. The Don Felipe Roque de la Portilla marker was in Judge Becerra's office in order to help remind him to apply for a replacement marker.

5. **Natural Heritage Committee**—Delbert Bassett outlined the committee's goals for 2020, including locating the naturally growing Texas madrones within Hays County; locating the small collection of Texas Barberry in the Devil's Backbone area; visiting a small sliver of native prairie between San Marcos and Kyle; visiting Camp Young Judaea's meadows; and viewing the listed historical trees of Hays County to measure their growth points.
6. **Tejano History Committee**—Kate introduced Gina Rogers as the new Tejano History Committee Chairman and thanked Irma Gaitán for her dedicated work as previous chairman. Gina reported that the committee was interested in continuing oral histories. The committee also continues to update Cuauhtémoc Hall Board Members on their pending application for a historical marker. When THC begins receiving applications, the committee is prepared to submit the application for an Undertold Historical Marker for the Duran Ranch near Dripping Springs. The Mermaid Society invited the committee to share their work with the community at the Mermaid Society fall event. Gina also introduced guest Dr. Espinoza, Director of El Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos. The next committee meeting would be held on February 18.
7. **Courthouse Committee**—Linda Coker said that there would be a Texas Independence Day Concert on March 7, and she was meeting with the Hays CISD Choir Director and with Anita Collins to review logistics. Mainstreet San Marcos would be having music concerts on Thursday evenings during April. The Colonel Woods' fountain was being restored with new paint to match the original color. She asked for a volunteer to oversee the courthouse museum on February 8 for about three hours.
8. **HCHC Website**—Vanessa Westbrook described a new feature on the website, "HCHC Highlights." Stories will be included that are written by HCHC members or citizens of the county; are accurate; have Hays County as a part of the narrative; and educates the public. Marie Bassett's story, *Returning the Tombstone*, would be the first one posted. Vanessa also described the website interaction for 2019, with 8,284 visits and 92,462 hits; and for January, 2020, with 1,627 visits and 20,629 hits.
9. **Certified Local Government (CLG)**—Kate Johnson described the various projects that had been reviewed in the last month, including the Programmatic Agreement between the THC and the Texas General Land Office; a review of the archeological and historic reports on the most recent segment of FM 110 being constructed on the east side of San Marcos; a notice for review of two proposed projects (a telecommunications tower at the Hays County Public Safety Building

and a proposed wastewater treatment plant on the eastern side of the county). Kate also described the HCHC's participation in the CLG for new members. HCHC was certified by THC and the National Park Service to review and comment on different types of projects, such as proposed roadway construction and National Register of Historic Places nominations.

Announcement—Linda Coker announced to the members that Kate Johnson had been selected to receive the John Ben Shepperd County Historical Commission Leadership Award at the Real Places Conference banquet on January 30 in Austin. Because Linda had completed the nomination, she read the text of the nomination which outlined Kate's accomplishments in preserving Hays County history and in focusing attention on projects throughout Texas. The HCHC members gave Kate a standing ovation for this award.

Adjournment—The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. Supper followed.

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

