

HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

**Thursday, January 24, 2013
Hays County Courthouse
111 East San Antonio
San Marcos, Texas 78666**



The January 24, 2013, HCHC meeting was called to order by Kate Johnson, Chairman, at 6:10 p.m. A quorum was met with these other members present: Dorothy Gumbert, Jim Cullen, Jo Landon, Joe New, Clemmie New, SarahAnn Lowther, Stephen F. Austin, Delbert Bassett, Ida Miller, Marie Bassett, Betty Harrison, Sue Cohen, Carmen Imel, Jerry Moore, Luanne Cullen, Charlie Willis, Jude Prather, Ralph Randow, Matt Floyd, Jeff Jordan, Shelley Henry, Ofelia Vásquez-Philo, Robert Frizzell, Marianne Moore, Linda Coker, Bonnie Eissler, Celeste Zygmunt, and Richard Kidd. Four guests were also in attendance.

Linda Coker handed out the forms with the various HCHC committees listed and asked the members to indicate which ones interested them. In order to provide the new members with some background of HCHC, Richard Kidd presented a DVD which is compiled of many of the documentaries and oral histories produced by HCHC. Linda Coker said that this DVD has been shown to several local organizations to inform the community about the HCHC productions.

1. Announcements: Kate Johnson announced that another swearing in of new HCHC members would be held on Tuesday, January 29 in Judge Cobb's office at 8:30 a.m. The ceremony would be held for those members who could not attend the January 22 event or whose names were not included on that list. She also said that the next HCHC meeting would be held on February 28 in Dripping Springs at 6:00 p.m. The location will be announced as the date approaches. She also said that, because of the large number of HCHC members, there may be certain meetings when guests will not be invited because of space limitations. In order to plan for the meetings, members are asked to RSVP to Luanne Cullen, secretary, at least two days before the meetings. Members were also encouraged to attend meetings and to avoid having three unexcused absences. Kate also reviewed the process of listing property on the National Register of Historic Places from the preliminary determination of eligibility by the Texas Historical Commission through the actual designation and plaque purchase. She

had attended the State Board of Review at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center on January 19 when the THC staff presented the National Register nomination of the Dripping Springs Historic District which was passed unanimously.

2. Vote on accepting minutes from December 6, 2012: Betty Harrison offered a correction of H.C. Kyle's name (instead of H.D. Kyle). Jeff Jordan moved to accept the minutes as corrected; Shelley Henry seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
3. Historical Marker Committee Report: Betty Harrison said that March 23 has been selected as the date to dedicate the marker at Southside School (Bonham School). The marker for Cementerio del Rio will also be installed as soon as a location is determined. We are still waiting for updates from the Texas Historical Commission as to the status of the markers for the Bunton Historic Bridge and the Stagecoach House in Buda.
4. Cemetery Committee Report: Jim Cullen said the Eagle Scout project that a Boy Scout was interested in at Guadalupe Cemetery did not work out, but they are looking at San Vicente Cemetery as a possible location.
5. Kyle Auction Oak: Kate reviewed the process of stabilizing the Kyle Auction Oak Tree under which the auction of the town lots was held on October 14, 1880, by the International and Great Northern Railroad Company. The vote for renewing the contract to provide care to the tree was tabled until March in order for new HCHC members to see the tree and consider the specifics of the contract as presented on the handout.
6. Kyle Hanging Tree: Kate also described the Kyle Hanging Tree which is located in the Kyle Cemetery on Old Stagecoach Road and is currently in very poor health. The vote for paying a portion of the cost to provide care to this tree was also tabled until the March meeting in order for members to visit the tree and consider the contract details on the handout.
7. Kyle Depot: Kate provided an update on the status of the Kyle Train Depot. By the end of January, the exterior painting should be completed; the newly fabricated freight door will be hung as soon as the hardware arrives; existing signs will be painted; the window bars will be installed; and gutters and downspouts will be installed. Final approval of the TxDOT enhancement funds should enable the next phase to begin. Floor plans of the depot were passed around for examination by the members.
8. Treasurer's Report: SarahAnn Lowther distributed the report outlining the Operating Funds, Funds for Documentaries, and Funds for Jail Restoration and discussed the various entries.

9. Kuykendall Documentary: Richard Kidd reported that the latest part of the documentary project is the interviews with members of the Kuykendall family. A preview of the documentary “The Story of the Kuykendall Family” was shown to the members.

10. Hays County Courthouse Museum: Linda Coker reported that HCHC, along with the Heritage Association of San Marcos, hosted a table at the San Marcos Education Fair on Jan. 12. Family Trees and sample oral history questions were distributed with their education message history isn’t “out there” but is a personal heritage. She also described the meeting on Jan. 22 with a group of students from the TxState Public History Program and are in Dr. Denton’s Exhibit Design class. Several of the students will research and design an exhibit for our museum after selecting a topic from those provided: churches, schools, roads, abandoned towns, and historic natural areas. Also, the county will be installing a plaque at the site of the Courthouse Time Capsule. She said that research is ongoing on the Wood Water Fountain and is looking for pictures that show the original fountain. Because volunteers are needed for museum duty, she passed around a sign-up sheet with days and hours listed.

11. Old Hays County Jail: Kate reported that HCHC will be going out for bids in early March for possible construction at end of that month which will include the completion of the exterior of the building with new paint, 19 windows, 2 doors, and a porch. More information will be provided at the February meeting.

12. Announcements: Linda Coker announced that a public program and discussion will be held on March 5 at the San Marcos Public Library about the Edward Burleson Homestead at San Marcos Springs sponsored by the Moon-McGehee Chapter, San Marcos, of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.
Shelley Henry reminded members of the Friday meals at the Cottage Kitchen each Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Also, the ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly refurbished gazebo would be held on January 31.
Marie Bassett reported that Betty Rogers gave a selection of historical magazines to the Courthouse Museum and the Heritage Circle of Dripping Springs donated a DVD of the Driftwood Cemetery program from last October.
Jim Cullen announced that the memorial service for Bob Barton would be held on Saturday, January 26, at the Ernest Kimbro Building at Kyle Elementary School.

13. Adjourn: Ofelia Vásquez-Philo moved that the meeting adjourn; Marie Bassett seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. by Kate Johnson.

Respectfully submitted,
Luanne Cullen, HCHC Secretary

Please see the next page for a photo collage of the meeting.

