

HCHC Meeting—Jan. 25, 2012
Hays County Courthouse
San Marcos, Texas



The meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m. by Kate Johnson. Other HCHC members present included LaMarr Petersen, Lu Hickey, Mary Giberson, Samantha Bellows, Bonnie Eissler, Jim Cullen, Luanne Cullen, Marie Bassett, Richard Kidd, Betty Harrison, Ofelia Vasquez-Philo, SarahAnn Lowther, Robert Frizzell, Celeste Zygmunt, Marianne Moore, Linda Coker, and Dorothy Gumbert, as well as four guests.

1. Announcements

Kate said that the Ribbon Cutting for the new Hays County Government Center and that the time and details would be sent soon. She also gave handouts with the locations for 2012 HCHC meetings: February 22—Historic Kyle City Hall, Kyle; March 22—Buck Winn’s Valley House, Wimberley; April 26—Stagecoach Inn, Buda; May 14—Wonder World, San Marcos; June 28—Dripping Springs; no meeting in July; August 23—Roger’s House, Driftwood; Sept. 27—Manchaca Springs; Saturday, Oct. 27—City of Austin, former Pat Rutherford Jr. Ranch; no meeting in November; and December—Jack Williams’ Residence, Wimberley, for Christmas and end of the year Party.

Texas Preservation handbooks were given to members who did not have them. Everyone needs to read the handbook because it contains the bylaws, etc.

2. Vote on accepting minutes from December 11, 2011.

Marie Bassett moved to accept the minutes; Dorothy Gumbert seconded the motion. Minutes were accepted by members.

3. Web Site Committee Report—Richard Kidd discussed creating a Facebook page for HCHC that would allow people to visit the page which would provide a record of their website addresses in order to build a list. The Facebook page will look similar to the website. When a person becomes a friend of the HCHC, they can receive a coupon to receive \$5 off on a DVD, etc. Richard passed around a suggested page and asked for approval from the Commission members.

Kate called for the motion. Samantha Bellows moved that we accept the creation of a Facebook page for HCHC; Mary Giberson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Vox Pop Report—Richard Kidd said that we have had a stream of Vox Pop showings including Dripping Springs and Buda and the last showing for the month will be next Tuesday at San Marcos Library. We had 250 DVDs and are now down to 15 so we will have to reorder. Vox Pop and Buck Winn DVDs are \$15 and Jack C. Hays is \$10. He felt that the article in Austin American-Statesman newspaper on Sunday, Jan. 15, created interest and brought many people from Austin to the Dripping Springs showing of Vox Pop.
5. Oral History Committee Report—Bonnie Eissler said that our number one priority is to finish the WWII documentary. We have two Air Force veterans and are trying to locate other Air Force combat veterans. Centex Wing, Commemorative Air Force at San Marcos Municipal Airport, is willing to help by allowing taping at their facility. More people are needed to talk about activities on the Homefront in Hays County. Second priority is to continue with the Voices of Hays County.
6. Cemetery Committee Report—Jim Cullen reported a December contact from a parent of a Texas State student reporting a tombstone in a vacant lot near the university. The lot was university property and University Police turned over possession of the stone to Jim. We learned the stone travelled a long way, research determining the stone—that of a 10-year old girl who died in 1902—was originally at Alexander Cemetery in Collin County, Texas (near McKinney). Plans are being made to return the stone to the contact person for Alexander Cemetery in Collin County.

Additionally, we had a contact challenging the description—found in our 1994 Hays County Cemetery Inscriptions Book--of the Johnson Family Cemetery. The contact indicated that before its removal (to Wallace Mountain Cemetery in Dripping Springs), it had been surrounded by an ornate cast-iron fence (not mentioned in the Kerbow-Hearn book). Former HCHC member and cemetery chair Winton Porterfield was contacted, and he has begun filling in the (sad) story of this early family cemetery and its removal from what became Barsana Dahm site off County Road 1826.

7. Historical Marker Committee Report—Betty Harrison said that not much is going on at this time. The time for submission for historic markers closed in November. At this time, the Buda McElroy-Severn House (Stagecoach House), H.C. Kyle (Rylander-Kyle House), and the Bunton Branch Bridge are awaiting the recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) markers. Because of loss of staff at the Texas Historical Commission, the remaining workers are having to work through the backlog of requests.
8. Old Hays County Jail Committee Report—Kate said that we have money for the architects Clayton and Little Associates in the amount of \$85,000 and asked if we want to have another fundraiser in September. We have raised over \$270,000 for the first phase and need \$72,000 for the second phase which is to build 19 new windows, 2 doors, and front porch. We need support to raise these funds so she would like for each HCHC member to team up with a partner to get 10 checks by next meeting in Kyle. She will be sending each member a booklet that can be shown to prospective people who would like to donate funds to our project and to see the progress of what we have accomplished last year for the Old Jail. The checks will be the commission

members' "meal tickets" for supper at Bordeaux's.

A part of the original jail cell has been located. Jaime Page, Assistant Chief of the Sheriff's Department, said that the inmates will fix it. Owner wants to donate it to HCHC as long as a plaque can be included with his family's name as the donor.

9. Treasurer's Report—SarahAnn Lowther distributed pages with information as to the HCHC budget which included the HCHC fund, Historical Commission Operating Costs, the Historical Jail Restoration fund, etc.
10. Discuss and Possible Action to amend the By-Laws—Linda Coker suggested that we amend the HCHC bylaws to describe the number of terms an officer can serve. The current by-laws state that "Each officer shall serve no more than three consecutive terms." A committee will meet before the Vox Pop showing next Tuesday at the San Marcos Library to review those guidelines.
11. Announcements:
Marie Bassett said that the Dripping Springs Heritage Circle is hosting another oral history round table on March 4 about early businesses in Dripping Springs at the First Baptist Church. The program, "From Frontier to Franchise: Dripping Springs Oral History Roundtable," will be from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and admission will be \$5.
Jane Hughson was introduced. As the current president of San Marcos Heritage Association, she spoke about the Hughson family and its presence in Hays County. She also mentioned the 37th Annual Heritage Association Tour of Homes which will offer "A Stroll Through Historic San Marcos," May 5-6, with guided tours of some of the city's most charming homes and historic sites.
Robert Frizzell reminded the members that Vox Pop will be showing next Tuesday, January 31, at the San Marcos Library and the displays of Buck Winn and Vox Pop will be removed after that evening.
12. Adjourn: Samantha Bellows moved that meeting adjourn and Ofelia Vasquez-Philo seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM

Kate introduced speaker Lynn Denton from the TxState Center for Public History who described the creation of the Center and ways it can assist the HCHC in preserving and displaying documents.

Supper followed in the courthouse break room.

Respectfully submitted,
Luanne P. Cullen

Photo collage follows on the next page.



