

Hays County Historical Commission

Minutes of March 23, 2023

The meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission was held March 23, 2023 at the Hays County Courthouse, Room 101 in San Marcos, Texas. Linda Coker, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:004 p.m. (CST).

Roll Call

A quorum was present at roll call.

Present: Frank Arredondo, Jonafa Banbury, Linda Coker, Anthony Davis, Johnny Flores, Robert Frizzell, Irma Gaitan, Jeremy Garrett, Hoot Gibson, James Herbert, Lila Knight, Cindy Meyer, Ralph Meyer, Sally Ramirez, Robert Rizo, Echo Uribe, Rosina Valle

Absent: Cynthia Allison, Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Nico Costilla, Faye Haskins, James Herbert, Jo Landon, Ryan Patrick Perkins

Citizens Present: Joe Ramirez

There were no Citizen Comments.

Announcements:

March 24 - Jericho Brown, Pulitzer Prize recipient, will give a reading of his poetry at the Katherine Anne Porter Literary Center in Kyle

April 7 - Third Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Courthouse grounds. Volunteers are needed to help fill eggs. Contact Anita Collins for more information.

April 8 - Easter Celebration at the Kyle Railroad Depot and Heritage Center in Kyle. The Easter Bunny will be available for photographs (free of charge).

April 15 - Artists will be painting at the Kyle Railroad Depot and Heritage Center in Kyle (sponsored by the Kyle Arts Commission).

Cinco de Mayo Celebration at Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos (table sponsorships available)

June 17 - Juneteenth Celebration in San Marcos sponsored by the Dunbar Heritage Association

September 16 - Hispanic Heritage Walk in San Marcos, sponsored by LULAC and Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos

Anita Collins announced the sidewalks on the perimeter of the courthouse will be under repair from May 8th until early June. There will be no events scheduled during this period.

The Katherine Anne Porter House in Kyle was highlighted on the THC website this month.

Ralph Meyer moved to approve the minutes from January 26, 2023. The motion was seconded by Hoot Gibson and passed unanimously (several people abstained as they were not present at the meeting).

The secretary noted that there are no minutes from February 17, 2023 as no quorum was present

Hoot Gibson moved to approve the minutes from February 23, 2023. The motion was seconded by Anthony Davis and passed unanimously (several people abstained as they were not present at the meeting).

Lila Knight moved to approve the Chair's nomination of Rosina Valle as Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by Frank Arredondo and passed unanimously.

Frank Arredondo moved to approve the Chair's nomination of Lila Knight as Secretary. The motion was seconded by Rosina Valle and passed unanimously.

Jeremy Garrett moved to approve the Chair's nomination of Cindy Allison as Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Hoot Gibson and passed unanimously.

Rosina Valle moved to approve the Chair's nomination of Delbert Bassett as Parliamentarian. The motion was seconded by Ralph Meyer and passed unanimously.

Lila Knight moved to approve the Chair's nomination of Anthony Davis as Information Technology Officer. The motion was seconded by Frank Arredondo and passed unanimously.

Linda Coker announced her appointments of committee chairs for the committees. She gave a brief description of each.

Marker Committee - Jeremy Garrett

Cemetery Committee - Jo Landon

CLG Committee - (to be announced)

Kyle Depot Committee - Hoot Gibson

Courthouse Committee - Rosina Valle

Historic Jail Restoration Committee - Ryan Patrick Perkins

African American Committee - Jonafa Banbury

Hispanic Committee - Frank Arredondo

Ad Hoc Committee to review the Bylaws - Delbert Bassett

Jeremy Garrett, chair of the Marker Committee, gave an update on the status of markers that are in process. THC has finally caught up with their backlog of markers following the pandemic and the selection of a new foundry. He thanked the former Marker Chair, Marie Bassett, for all of her tireless work over the last six years. She will continue to be a member of the Marker Committee.

William B. Travis League - awaiting shipment from the foundry. The sponsor has already planned a marker dedication for April 2 at Vista Brewery during the Driftwood Heritage Festival.

Alba Ranch - the marker text has been approved by the committee and the sponsor. THC will approve the text at their next quarterly meeting and then it will be sent to the foundry

Vaqueros, Ranch Hands and Stock Raisers- awaiting the first draft of the marker text from THC for review by the Marker Committee

Peal-Pleasant Valley Cemetery - awaiting the first draft of the marker text from THC for review by the Marker Committee

San Vicente Cemetery- awaiting the first draft of the marker text from THC for review by the Marker Committee

108 South Vance St, Kyle- awaiting the first draft of the marker text from THC for review by the Marker Committee

Max E. Schiwitz Homestead- awaiting the first draft of the marker text from THC for review by the Marker Committee

Danforth-Kerbow House- awaiting the first draft of the marker text from THC for review by the Marker Committee

San Marcos' Mexican American Community and Urban Renewal - we will begin the review and editing of the narrative for this Undertold Marker, sponsored by the Council for the Indigenous and Tejano Community

The THC recently opened their window to apply for a historical marker and the deadline to submit to the THC is May 15. This is for standard historical markers paid for by individuals or organizations. These applications must be approved by the HCHC Marker Committee before being submitted to THC. A press release was sent to all county-wide news outlets. People who demonstrated an interest for a marker in the past also will be contacted. We are expecting to receive applications from the Wallace Mountain Cemetery Association and Henry Oles who owns the Old Mill in San Marcos.

Garrett described the work of the Marker Committee, which is limited to seven people. The committee reviews and edits both the longer narratives (documentation), as well as the actual marker texts (which are written by THC staff). Much of the work is done via email as there are very strict deadlines to submit reviews and edits to the THC. For this reason, it is very important for committee members to submit their reviews and edits as quickly as possible. He encouraged anyone who is interested in historical research, writing, editing, and/or fact-checking to sign-up. If anyone has any questions about the marker committee, they can ask him after the meeting is over.

The members were informed that everyone must sign up for at least two committees. Committee chairs may set a maximum number of participants for their committees, per the bylaws. Sign-up sheets are available on the table for members to select their preferences.

Knight reminded everyone that the number of volunteer hours should be reported to her each month. Time sheets are not required. Please remember to include the attendance at any HCHC meetings. We are required to report the total number of volunteer hours at the end of the year to THC.

Everyone is required to take the Open Meetings training video from the website of the Texas Attorney General. The video is about one hour long and you can follow the instructions at the end to receive your certificate of completion.

<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open-government/governmental-bodies/pia-and-oma-training-resources/open-meetings-act-training>

Hoot Gibson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Anthony Davis and passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lila Knight, secretary