

## Hays County Historical Commission

### Minutes of April 27, 2023

The meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission was held April 27, 2023 at the Kyle Railroad Depot and Heritage Center, Kyle, 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: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Linda Coker, Nico Costilla, Anthony Davis, Johnny Flores, Robert Frizzell, Jeremy Garrett, Faye Haskins, Jim Herbert, Lila Knight, Jo Landon, Cindy Meyer, Ralph Meyer, Ryan Patrick Perkins, Sally Ramirez, Echo Uribe, Rosina Valle

Absent: Cynthia Allison, Frank Arredondo, Jonafa Banbury, Anita Collins, Irma Gaitan, Hoot Gibson, Robert Rizo,

Citizens Present: Joe Ramirez

#### Citizen Comments

There were no Citizen Comments.

#### Announcements:

Chair Linda Coker conducted a survey of the best meeting day and time for our monthly meeting. Eighteen members responded, indicating support for keeping the meeting on Thursday at 6:00.

The Chair reminded the members that each must take the Open Meetings training, available on a video on the state of the Texas Attorney General, Open Meetings Division. [note: link is <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open-government/governmental-bodies/pia-and-oma-training-resources/open-meetings-act-training>].

Coker also announced that the Commissioners Court approved a Proclamation for Historic Preservation Month on April 25th.

Secretary Lila Knight reminded everyone that we need a report of their monthly volunteer hours to report to the Texas Historical Commission at the end of the year. Jo Landon suggested a form be circulated at each meeting.

Chair Coker gave a tour of the Courthouse for a small group of residents at the Kissing Tree in San Marcos.

She also mentioned she had been contacted by a student at Texas State University who is working on a proposal based on “dark history” as a potential fundraiser.

### Approval of Minutes

Jim Herbert moved to approve the minutes from March 23, 2023. The motion was seconded by Ralph Meyer and passed unanimously.

### Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Cynthia Allison, Chair Coker gave a update on our current fund balance. She also asked each chair to propose any budgets they need for their committee work as soon as possible.

Ryan Patrick Perkins suggests two separate lines for both the Depot and Courthouse museum for exhibits.

### Marker Committee

Marker Committee Chair Jeremy Garrett announced 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 and was carried by both the Dripping Springs Century News and the San Marcos Record. We also were given a brief mention during "All Things Considered" on NPR in Austin.

The first Marker Committee meeting will be held May 3rd at the Kyle Depot to discuss outstanding marker business and projects, solicit new ideas and develop a plan of action for the next two years.

Jeremy also attended the THC's Official Texas Historical Marker Webinar. But not much new was learned as Marie Bassett, our former chair, had already reviewed all this information with me.

### Cemetery Committee

Cemetery Committee Chair Jo Landon reported on their meeting, held at Skyview Cemetery. The Committee discussed the Historic Texas Cemetery Application for Skyview. In attendance were Cynthia Allison, Robert Frizzell, Jeremy Garrett, Hoot Gibson and myself. She also visited the Allen Cemetery in Buda which is in rough shape:

Allen-Good Cemetery - Jo is working with Judy E. From Johnson City on the HTC designation. Judy descends from the Good's buried there. Cemetery is a mess with lots of growth, fallen limbs from the ice storm, etc. Committee members have done some cleaning, but there is still more to do. Jo Spoke with the Plant Manager, Elena Olivieri, at Teasdale (formerly Jardines), they are not interested in maintaining the cemetery. Jo will pursue getting this cemetery added to the list of those maintained by Hays County.

Byrd Owen-Payne - Maintenance is on going. Ryan Patrick Perkins recently visited the cemetery with relatives from out of town.

### Information Technology and Social Media Report

Anthony Davis reported that the Facebook has received 403 views and 81 page visits. There were two big spikes with the Easter event at the Depot and the Arts event at the Depot. Jeremy suggested that each committee chair generate posts for the Facebook page.

He has established a You Tube channel for the HCHC. Most of the documentaries and the oral histories have been transferred and are available for viewing. These items are now of higher viewing quality than DVDs. He encouraged everyone to take a look and please “subscribe,” as well as to “like” the videos. Thus far, the Buck Winn documentary has been the most watched. Future plans include subtitling the videos in Spanish and English.

If any committees have content they would like to add to the channel, please contact Anthony. Work is currently underway on updating the content of the website.

### CLG Committee

There was no report.

### African American Committee

There was no report.

### Hispanic Committee

There was no report.

### Depot Committee

Jim Herbert reported on the Depot Committee in Hoot Gibson’s absence. The visit from the Easter Bunny on April 8th was a huge success with over 323 people in attendance. All of the children received an Easter Egg from the Bunny and his helpers.

An Artists’ Reception was held April 15th, sponsored by the Kyle Arts Commission. Docents were present and gave numerous tours through the Depot. The overall attendance at the Depot is on the rise.

Docent training for the new members will take place next month. We plan on once again being open on Sunday afternoons. Anyone can volunteer at the Depot and HCHC membership is not a requirement. Hoot asks that all of our HCHC members inform any other potential docents of this opportunity.

### Courthouse Committee

Rosina Valle announced we will keep the museum open when there are events downtown on the Courthouse grounds. This Saturday there will be a Dia de Ninos Community Action event at the courthouse. It will take place with the re-scheduled Easter Egg hunt. A tour from the “Kissing Tree” took place and the participants enjoyed it so they will be back for a future tour and picnic on the courthouse grounds.

The Cuauhtemoc Hall exhibit was removed as they will be using the items in their own display in the near future. Plans are underway to replace it, possibly with an exhibit on Hispanic Military Service. Cleto Rodriguez, a San Marcos native, is the only one to have received a Congressional

Medal of Honor in Hays County. Plans are also underway to refresh the exhibits in the two rooms of the museum.

The committee is currently re-organizing the office. The antique meeting table in the meeting room is being removed due to it being damaged from being moved. The Juvenile Detention Department is donating a 60" tv as they are replacing it in their facility with a new 80".

Two trees are being removed from the courthouse grounds for public safety.

#### Historic Jail Restoration Committee

Ryan Patrick Perkins reported the committee has a meeting at the jail in early April to discuss plans for moving forward with the restoration of the interior. Future fundraising will be necessary for landscaping and restrooms. We may be able to get TIRZ funding for parking.

Knight rewrote the history of the jail for the HCHC website. The committee will work with Anthony on developing content for the YouTube channel.

A new exterior sign is underway to announce the project.

The University School of Architecture graduate class conducted a paint analysis on the interior and submitted a report. They will make a presentation at a future meeting.

Coker mentioned that the gate was left open yesterday with a trailer parked inside (but no people in sight). It might have been a county maintenance crew, but she relocked the gate.

A committee meeting will be held in May to discuss the interpretive plan for the jail.

Ryan Patrick Perkins moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jo Landon and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lila Knight, secretary