

## HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



**Wednesday, May 20, 2015**  
**Ruby Ranch Lodge**  
**292 Bartlett Drive**  
**Buda, Texas 78610**

The May 20, 2015, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC) was called to order at 6:27 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson. A quorum was met as the following members were present: Delbert Bassett, Eric Beckers, Sue Cohen, Linda Coker, Jim Cullen, Luanne Cullen, Robert Frizzell, Irma Gaitan, Eddie Gumbert, Dorothy Gumbert, Betty Harrison, Shelley Henry, Carmen Imel, Kate Johnson, Richard Kidd, SarahAnn Lowther, Jerry Moore, Karen Moore, Trisha Randow, Ralph Randow, and Ofelia Vásquez-Philo. Four guests also attended.

1. **Announcements**—Kate Johnson announced that the next HCHC meeting would be held on June 18 at the Narrows and that there would be no meeting in July. Directions and visitors' permit forms for the Narrows would be sent soon. She also told members that a new series on the History Channel would be starting on Monday, May 25, called "Texas Rising"—a story about the Republic of Texas Revolution. On June 14, Flag Day, the HCHC and Heritage Association of San Marcos would be showing the documentary on General Edward Burleson at 2:00 p.m. in the Marc Theatre across from the County Courthouse. Volunteers would be needed to set up tables and chairs and to serve ice cream and cobbler.
2. **Vote on accepting minutes from April 23, 2015**—Jerry Moore moved to accept the minutes; Ralph Randow seconded the motion. Motion passed.
3. **Buck Winn Murals**—Kate said that the Request for Proposal was in the County's Purchasing Office and that we were gathering a list of conservators to present bids for the restoration of the murals. So far, over \$20,000 had been raised toward the restoration. Ryan Willett had asked about the possibility of a short film being made that would trace the 65-year history and locations of Buck Winn's "History of Ranching" murals from the Pearl Brewery in San Antonio to the present.
4. **Courthouse Committee Report**—Linda Coker said that the Western Swing Festival was well attended, and she thanked Jeff Jordan, Charlie Willis, and Diana Baker for helping

cover the courthouse that day. She also presented to Kate a framed document of the Proclamation declaring May, 2015, National Preservation Month which recognized HCHC's donation of thousands of volunteer hours to the historic preservation of Hays County. The HCHC gmail account had been busy with various inquiries: whether or not Joseph Wood was a brother or nephew of Col. Wood and was a County Tax Collector; three cemetery questions; a question asking if a certain safe had been used in the movie "The Getaway." She planned to have a meeting on June 20 for the Courthouse Committee. The Chamber of Commerce was presenting another "After Hours" on the square on May 28. Our Facebook page had almost 500 "Likes" so she asked everyone to "Like" it in order to reach that number.

5. **Flowers, Shrubs, and Trees Report**—Delbert Bassett reported that the rain had stopped work on the trees. He said that early botanists had discovered plants in the area and that one had been identified as having lived in New Braunfels. He hoped that he and his committee could begin researching botanists.
6. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Luanne Cullen reported for Jo Landon that the Antioch Cemetery's HTC designation was #22 in the queue. The Scout's Eagle Scout Project was progressing since he had met with the County Extension Agent on weed control (which herbicide to use, which kinds of plants/trees to remove, such as chinaberry), and on Easter weekend, he pulled 6 huge bags of "bastard" mustard weed. Jenny McWilliams, Texas Historical Commission, was in the process of creating the *Declaration of Dedication* for the Kyle Family Pioneer Cemetery. Jo thanked those on the committee who had helped clean up the Byrd Owen Payne cemetery.
7. **Oral History Committee Report**—Sue Cohen said that the committee will schedule interviews for the first week in June. New members will observe and learn how to use the recording equipment in order to increase the number of interviews.
8. **Hispanic Committee Report**—Ofelia Vásquez-Philo invited everyone to "Like" the Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos on Facebook in order to receive current notices and photos. Also the Alex Flores art exhibit would be available for viewing through June 30<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday through Friday, 2:00-6:00 p.m., and Saturdays, 10:00-2:00 p.m. The Little Engineers program will be held from July 1-17, and Summer Camp Fun will be held from 1:00-5:00 p.m., June 16-July 5.
9. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Because Marie Bassett was in Scotland, Betty Harrison (former Historical Marker Committee Chairman) reported that she and her husband would be moving to Lake Bridgeport in North Texas at the end of May but that she would be attending some HCHC meetings until the book on the history of Kyle is completed by the deadline date on July 21. She asked members to help search for old photos of Kyle to include in the book.
10. **Cultural Arts at the Government Center**—Linda Coker reported that a call to artists had been made for the next exhibit. They are hoping for new artists to participate.
11. **Woods Memorial, east lawn of the Courthouse**—Kate said that a group consisting of several citizens from San Marcos had met to see about restoring the Woods Memorial Fountain. Once they decide the best course of restoring it, they will go out for bids, hopefully in June. Linda Coker said that a fountain in El Paso which is similar to our Woods Fountain might provide a key to the original paint color. Richard Kidd added that the Burleson documentary is 28 minutes long and that it and any of the other

documentaries (including the one of Col. Woods) can be presented to groups in the area.

12. **Adjourn**—SarahAnn Lowther moved that the meeting adjourn; Dorothy Gumbert seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

After the meeting, Madelyn Uresti, owner of the Ruby Ranch Lodge, spoke about the history of the property and lodge including its notable visitors (such as Lyndon Baines Johnson) and its growth from a hunting lodge to the current event center. Supper followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Luanne P. Cullen, HCHC Secretary

*Photos courtesy of Jim Cullen*

