

HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



May 23, 2019
Ted & Thea Dake
220 N. Johnson Street
San Marcos, Texas 78666

Agenda:

The May 23, 2019, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC) was called to order at 6:18 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson. A quorum was met as the following members were present: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Eric Beckers, Gary Bryson, Eric Casillas, Linda Coker, Luanne Cullen, Robert Frizzell, Irma Gaitán, Dorothy Gumbert, Eddie Gumbert, Faye Haskins, Kate Johnson, Richard Kidd, Jo Landon, Jo Ann Lowe, Ralph Meyer, Jerry T. Moore, July Moreno, Marian Oles, Gina Rogers, and Griffin Spell. Two guests also attended.

Vote on accepting minutes from April 25, 2019—Delbert Bassett moved to accept the minutes; Dorothy Gumbert seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Introduction of hosts—Kate Johnson thanked Thea and Ted Dake for hosting the HCHC meeting and presented them with the eight HCHC documentaries, Hays County history book *Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges*, as well as several items from the Kyle Railroad Depot and Heritage Center--two mugs, postcards, refrigerator magnet, and a set of notecards.

Committee Reports

1. **Historic Kyle RR Depot & Heritage Center**—Marian Oles reported that the budget for the caboose had been approved by the Hays County Commissioners Court and that purchase orders had been given to Chris Deichmann, County Wide Facility Maintenance Manager for Hays County, who would be issuing them soon. Chris had also received the drawing of the sign for the depot that was approved by the City of Kyle and was asked to check with the low bidder for any changes in costs. On Saturday June 1 at 8 a.m., For the Love of Go's Jennifer Crosby will lead a "Get Off the Couch Meetup" walk/run from

the depot to Kyle Library and back. Afterwards Jo Landon will provide a tour of the depot. This free event will also encourage good hydration and nutrition.

2. **Old Hays County Jail**—Kate Johnson said that the committee met on May 20 with the architect, Tracy Hutson, and Angela Davis and Megan Harvey of MuseWork, an exhibit planning and design firm. Angela described each downstairs room and how low tech (such as flip books, keys, and information in desk drawers) and high tech (such as monitors with videos) features would tell stories of the Old Hays County Jail, its sheriffs, and its preservation. After the presentation, the committee discussed which plans were feasible or not and which high tech items could be eliminated. Kate would be speaking with Erin McClelland, museum specialist, and her staff about the committee's decisions. Kate was also writing an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for Museum Specialists and would submit it to the County the next week.
3. **Cemeteries**—Jo Landon said that the field trip with committee members on May 17 was well attended with visits to Allen, Antioch, and Cocke Cemeteries and a stop at the Carpenter Log Cabin. She, her husband, and Robert Frizzell visited the Cheatham-Hohenberg Cemetery and found it very overgrown. Linda Coker spoke with the San Marcos Parks Department about caring for the Hector Family Cemetery.
4. **Historical Markers**—Marie Bassett reminded members that the Undertold Story Marker Application window was open until June 15. Linda Coker had forwarded two email requests for information on the marker application process which Marie had answered. Marie contacted Billy Huckaby of Wild Horse Media, now owners of the Eakin and Nortex presses. He responded with some options and quotes for a third volume of Hays County Historical Markers and for a book encompassing all county markers. Marie asked for assistance in locating someone with expertise in publishing to help with this project. The next committee meeting is scheduled for May 25.
5. **Horticulture**—no report was given.
6. **Tejano History**—Irma Gaitán said that the Mermaid Society had been honored with the support of San Marcos City Leaders in passing the resolution that declared San Marcos as the “Mermaid Capital of Texas.” The state version was pending with Senator Judith Zaffirini. Irma recognized HCHC member and committee member July Moreno as the founder of the Mermaid Society and thanked her for her hard work. Irma also noted that the Cinco de Mayo celebration at the County Courthouse on May 4 was a day filled with activities. HCHC member and committee member Gina Rogers had been invited to speak about her Alba family and the research that had been completed for the Alba Ranch. She displayed posters she created, and with HCHC member Faye Haskins, described the research and

documentation process. Irma had been invited to attend a neighborhood meeting that was held to address issues, complaints, and suggestions. She said that her guest, Estella Enriquez, a Commissioner with the San Marcos Neighborhood Commission, was a granddaughter of Mr. Salvador Flores, a founder of Cuauhtémoc Hall. Also the San Marcos Mural Committee contacted Irma about community outreach for feedback concerning a mural project for the Barrio del Pescado neighborhood. Irma was also asked to be an advisor on the food selections at the Summer Day Camp sponsored by the Indigenous Cultures Institute and hosted by Cuauhtémoc Hall on June 24-27. Gina added that work had continued on the Alba Ranch's request for an Undertold Marker that was being worked on in coordination with the Historical Marker Committee since April.

7. **Courthouse**—Linda Coker said that a committee meeting had been scheduled for June 15 to organize materials in the courthouse office storeroom. Also some pieces of historic furniture from an upstairs room had been moved to safe keeping for future use. Linda had received a request to use the Antioch Cemetery as park land for a new subdivision. She said that would not happen now or ever into the future.
8. **Oral History**—Luanne Cullen said that she, Jo Ann Lowe, and Gina Rogers had attended the TOHA (Texas Oral History Association) conference at St. Edward's University in Austin on April 26-27. Sessions included presentations on oral history projects, resources for guidance, and contacts who would be good advisors, such as Dr. Dan Utley, professor at Texas State University--San Marcos, who teaches a class on the Fundamentals of Oral History. The committee would meet during the summer to purchase equipment, discuss the project focus, write a new waiver, and create a set of procedures.
9. **Certified Local Government (CLG)**—no report given.
10. **Buck Winn Reception**—Kate said that the plans for the reception on June 1 were being finalized and included the Horticulture Committee's involvement in preparing the outside of the Government Center. Because the trees are in poor condition, Vincent Debrock, a certified arborist with Heritage Tree Care, was donating his time and expertise in saving the trees. The Art Committee had bought some small plants for table and foyer decorations that would enhance the southwestern décor.

Announcements—Kate reminded the HCHC members about the presentation about El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail on June 18 at 9:00 a.m. in New Braunfels which would be hosted by Cindy Coers, Chairman of the Comal County Historical Commission. Lynn Young, presenter, is a board member of El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association.

Kate also said that Senate Bill 1221 passed in the Texas House on May 22 and would become a state law in 30 days. The Hays County Commissioners' Court and/or private donors would need to raise the funds for the two signs that will be placed on FM

150 designating it as the “William B. Travis Heritage Trail.” Kate thanked Casey Cutler for organizing the project and Senator Donna Campbell for supporting SB1221.

The next HCHC meeting will be held in Driftwood on Friday, June 21, to accommodate several people who will be out of town on June 27.

Adjournment—Eddie Gumbert moved that the meeting adjourn; Delbert Bassett seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Program--Thea Dake spoke about the history of her house built in 1906 by J. H. Barbee for his wife Abbie. Thea described unusual details in the house, such as the stained glass Tiffany windows and the central fireplace that offers heat to five rooms, and described the various changes to the house over the course of a century.

Respectfully submitted,
Luanne P. Cullen, HCHC Secretary
(Photos courtesy of Luanne Cullen and Eric Beckers)



