

# Hays County Historical Commission

## Minutes of May 26, 2022

The meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission was held May 26, 2022 at The Rock House in San Marcos. Kate Johnson, chair, called the meeting to order 6:19 p.m. (CST).

### **Roll Call**

A quorum was present at roll call.

Present: Cynthia Allison, Eric Beckers, Linda Coker, Anthony Davis, Robert Frizzell, Jeremy Garrett, Hoot Gibson, Kate Johnson, Lila Knight, Jo Landon, Cindy Meyer, Ralph Meyer, Ryan Patrick Perkins, Sally Ramirez, Rosina Valle,

Absent: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Cindy Hunter, Daphne Tenorio, Willie Tenorio, Vanessa Westbrook

Citizens present: Joe Ramirez

### **Citizens Comments**

There were no citizens comments.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Ralph Meyer made a motion to accept the minutes from April 28, 2022. The motion was seconded by Jo Landon and passed unanimously.

### **Announcements from the Chair**

The Chair announced that seven HCHC members attended the meeting at the Courthouse regarding the possible formation of a chapter of the Camino Real de los Tejas National Trail Association. Signage along the route on SH 21 has not been completed because that road is under construction at this time.

### **Committee Reports**

#### 1884 Hays County Jail Restoration Committee

Committee Chair Ryan Patrick Perkins reported he meet with Isabell Nuckels from The University of Texas School of Architecture regarding a future paint analysis by the students in her class this fall. They toured the jail and she is very excited about the project. Liability waivers must now be signed by any member of the pubic visiting the interior of the jail.

Committee Vice-Chair, Lila Knight, passed out her research on the jail to each of the committee members on a thumb drive.

### African American Heritage Committee

Anthony Davis gave the committee report in the absence of Vanessa Westbrook. The Juneteenth essay contest is in process and the committee will be judging them at their next meeting. The committee will meet on June 4th.

Hays County Commissioner Mark Jones will sponsor an announcement of the winners at a future meeting of Commissioners Court. All members of the HCHC are encouraged to attend.

There will be a Proclamation for Juneteenth by the City of Kyle on June 11th at 9:00 am at the beginning of the Market Day Celebration. The Juneteenth essays will also be read at this time. Other events for Juneteenth include:

June 11 - Juneteenth Celebration Market Days from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm (Downtown Park)

June 17 - Peace and Progress Symposium (Kyle City Hall)

June 18 - Juneteenth celebration in Buda

Vanessa Westbrook attended the AYA Conference on May 20th and spoke on our support for markers, research and diversity.

### Cemetery Committee

Committee Chair Jo Landon gave updates on the recent work at our historic cemeteries:

1. SAN VICENTE - review of marker narrative and editing of the grave stone inscriptions worksheet.
2. ANTIOCH - Visited with Minnie Nelson about trespassing issues on the 1.7 acres of the cemetery. A neighbor is having a pool installed, using the cemetery property for access despite the "No Trespassing" signs. She spoke with the neighbor who stated the pool should be finished by July. The incident has been reported to the Buda police.
3. BYRD OWEN-PAYNE - on-going maintenance with R. Gomez. Recently fallen trees were removed, in addition to mowing of the cemetery.

### Certified Local Government Committee

Committee Chair Knight reported the committee is continuing its work on a re-survey of the historic buildings in Kyle. A meeting will be held next month to review the work accomplished thus far by the Resurvey Subcommittee.

### Courthouse Museum Committee

Committee Chair Linda Coker reported there was a recent San Marcos Leadership meeting at the Courthouse. There will be a meeting on June 14th of all the museums in San Marcos to plan greater co-operation between everyone. The San Marcos Convention and Tourism Bureau has offered to sponsor a brochure with information on each of the museums.

The ongoing excrement issue (dogs) on the courthouse grounds has led some to suggest the lawn be replaced with astro-turf (or some type of artificial turf). Artificial turf, however, would require a good deal of maintenance and run-off into the street would need to be addressed. Any major change to the courthouse grounds would require an Antiquities Permit from the Texas

Historical Commission as the Courthouse is designated as a State Antiquities Landmark. It may be necessary to do a Landscape Master Plan to address these issues, including some of the trees that are in bad health. Such a landscape plan would also require an Antiquities Permit.

#### Hispanic Heritage Committee

Committee Co-Chair Rosina Valle reported the committee is continuing its work on exhibits in the Courthouse atrium.

#### Historical Marker Committee

Jeremy Garrett gave the report in the absence of Committee Chair Marie Bassett. He reported the 2022 Regular Marker Window closed on May 16th. The successful applicants will be announced at the end of July 2022. Six applications were submitted to the Texas Historical Commission (THC):

PEAL-PLEASANT VALLEY CEMETERY, west of Wimberley

SAN VICENTE CEMETERY, Kyle

THE OLD MILL, San Marcos: Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) application

108 SOUTH NANCE STREET, Kyle: (RTHL)

MAX E. SCHIWITZ HOMESTEAD, 4037 COTTON GIN ROAD, Uhland: (RTHL)

DANFORTH-KERBOW HOUSE, 220 OLD KYLE ROAD, Wimberley: (RTHL)

The new prices for markers were announced on May 3, with the larger size (27"x42") and post now costing \$2,300. A full list can be found at [thc.texas.gov](http://thc.texas.gov).

Committee member Garrett also gave an update on other markers:

KYLE DEPOT - estimated shipping date from foundry of June 3, 2022.

LA SOCIEDAD MUTUALISTA CUAUHTÉMOC — estimated shipping date from foundry of August 12, 2022.

WILLIAM B. TRAVIS LEAGUE — order being placed at foundry.

DON FELIPE ROQUE DE LA PORTILLA — signed off and ready for the foundry.

ALBA RANCH — in the last stages of editing the text.

VAQUEROS, RANCH HANDS AND STOCK RAISERS — THC still in process of writing the marker text.

The Friends of the Pound House have submitted a Request for Review to the THC for a replacement marker for the DR. JOSEPH M. POUND marker outside the Pound House in Dripping Springs. The request went directly to THC from their organization, leaving HCHC with the option of applying for a once-yearly "Request for a Review" for a marker that we feel needs replacing because of inaccuracies in the text, etc. If anyone has suggestions, please let Committee Chair Bassett know.

There were no face-to-face meetings of the committee this month, but the marker committee has been very busy. Using email is a much more efficient way of involving everyone

in the editing process. Committee Chair Bassett wanted to thank all the marker committee members for their input. In addition, Anthony Davis has been working on an on-going project, systematically photographing and filling out inventory sheets on the county's markers which is greatly appreciated.

The 2022 Undertold Marker Window runs from October 1 to November 15. Applications will be online at [thc.texas.gov](http://thc.texas.gov) beginning on September 1st. The updated information has been sent to Vanessa to replace the current one on the marker section of the HCHC Website.

#### Kyle Railroad Depot and Heritage Center Committee

Committee Chair Hoot Gibson reported that the beginning of the month was slow, but the number of visitors to the Depot has since increased. The Depot hosted a tour for 80 children from Kyle Elementary School. H thanked Jo, Anthony and Marie for helping him with the tours.

A new cotton bale will soon be received. It will be placed inside the freight room so it will not be damaged by the weather.

He reported he will be out of state during the month of June and the first half of July.

#### Natural Heritage Committee

Eric Beckers gave the report in the absence of Committee Chair Delbert Bassett. There are now seventeen editions of the newsletter "Happenin' on the Hill." These are available on the HCHC website. A field trip has been planned in June for a visit to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin.

#### Report on Technology and Website

No report.

#### **Adjourn**

Ryan Patrick Perkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Linda Coker seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m. (CST)

Submitted by Lila Knight, Secretary