

# Hays County Historical Commission

## Minutes of June 23, 2022

The meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission was held June 23, 2022 at the Dunbar Recreation Center in San Marcos. Kate Johnson, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. (CST).

### **Roll Call**

A quorum was present at roll call.

Present: Cynthia Allison, Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Eric Beckers, Linda Coker, Anthony Davis, Robert Frizzell, Jeremy Garrett, Cindy Hunter, Kate Johnson, Lila Knight, Jo Landon, Cindy Meyer, Ralph Meyer, Ryan Patrick Perkins, Rosina Valle, Vanessa Westbrook

Absent: Hoot Gibson, Sally Ramirez, Daphne Tenorio, Willie Tenorio,

Citizens present: Bart Hunter, Susan Reyna, Cynthia Bentley, Natalie Garza, Stephanie Murray

### **Citizens Comments**

There were no citizens comments.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Ralph Meyer made a motion to accept the minutes from May 26, 2022. The motion was seconded by Delbert Basset and passed unanimously.

### **Announcements from the Chair**

Kate Johnson announced that Willie Tenorio has stepped down as the chair of the Hispanic Heritage Committee. Rosina Valle will now be the chair of this committee.

The Chair also reported that Rosina Valle represented the Hays County Historical Commission at the June 21st meeting of the Hays County Commissioners Court for the presentation of the proclamation celebrating the 80th Anniversary of La Sociedad Mutualista de Cuauhtémoc

### **Committee Reports**

#### 1884 Hays County Jail Restoration Committee

Committee Chair Ryan Patrick Perkins reported that no meeting was held in June, but a meeting will be held in July. Ryan has spoken with Mark Kennedy who is adding a list of hazards to include on the liability waiver which must be signed by anyone accessioning the historic jail.

### African American Heritage Committee

Committee Chair Vanessa Westbrook reported that the committee met June 4th to select the winners of the county-wide Juneteenth essay contest: Stephanie Murray (high school division) and Nevaeh Veals (middle school division). The winners were recognized at the June 7th meeting of the Hays County Commissioners Court with a proclamation sponsored by Mark Jones. Next year's contest will be held earlier so the presentation of the winners can be made at their schools.

The first Juneteenth Celebration in Kyle, sponsored by the City of Kyle Parks and Recreation Department, took place June 11th at the downtown park. Committee Chair Westbrook helped organize the event and committee member Anthony Davis re-enacted General Granger's reading of General Order 3 at Galveston on Juneteenth. A video of his performance is on our website. Committee members attended Juneteenth events in Buda and San Marcos. In addition, Vanessa Westbrook and Anthony Davis participated in the City of Kyle's Peace and Progress Dialogue.

### Cemetery Committee

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

1. SAN VICENTE - the review of the grave stone inscriptions worksheet is still underway. She thanked Marie for her work on documenting the history of the cemetery and her work on the inventory.
2. ANTIOCH - Jo discussed with Tim Vandevorde of Hays County the amendment to the maintenance contract to include the 1.7 acres located to the north of the cemetery (a part of the cemetery land)
3. BYRD OWEN-PAYNE - the maintenance has been completed, including clearing of fallen trees.

### Certified Local Government Committee

Committee Chair Knight reported the Kyle Resurvey Sub-Committee is continuing its work on the survey of the pre-1975 historic buildings in Kyle. Thus far, 65 buildings have been recored on survey forms. This information will be input into a database this summer when it is too hot to be outside. Research on significant buildings will also continue through the summer.

Of the 50 blocks in the 1880s original town of Kyle, 21 blocks have been completed. Each block has between five and sixteen lots, with ten slots per block being the average.

### Courthouse Museum Committee

Committee Chair Linda Coker reported on the June 14th meeting with representation from all the museums in San Marcos. The ideas discussed will result in greater cooperation among the different institutions. The first week of each May will be designated "San Marcos Museum Week" with events such as walking tours. She reminded everyone that The Mermaid Society will be celebrating soon and we could participate in that. There will be a new exhibit soon in the courthouse atrium on Cuahatemoc Hall which Rosina has been organizing.

### Hispanic Heritage Committee

Committee Chair Rosina Valle reports that a new exhibit on Cuahtemoc Hall will open July 2nd with an opening in the Courthouse to celebrate 80 years of their history in San Marcos. Committee members are working on a proclamation to be present at Commissioners Court. The Cuahtemoc marker is at the foundry and should be delivered soon.

### Historical Marker Committee

Committee Chair Marie Bassett reported the Kyle Depot marker should be delivered soon. It will require some assembly. Until now historical markers have been delivered in one piece, with the pole welded into the socket of the upper inscribed portion. Now they will come in two parts which the recipient will be required to join together with “tamper-proof screws.”

She also informed everyone that Sarah McCleskey, who has been part of the Texas Historical Commission marker team for many years, is leaving the area. Sarah has been a great help, and was always ready with advice and support. She also produced some very useful, instructive webinars which explain the marker process. Sarah will be missed.

### Kyle Railroad Depot and Heritage Center Committee

Committee member Anthony Davis gave the report in the absence of Chair Hoot Gibson. The new cotton bale from the Burton Gin is now installed in the freight room to prevent damage from rain and birds. Lehmann Farm also donated some cotton plants as educational material for the exhibit.

The wood rot around two of the windows of the Caboose has now been addressed with replacement wood installed. There are ongoing talks with a Kyle resident about the possible donation of an antique switchboard.

Anthony thanked all of the devoted volunteers who donate their time at the Depot.

### Natural Heritage Committee

Committee Chair Delbert Bassett reported that the recent newsletter of “What’s Happenin on the Hill” by Eric Beckers is now on the website. Eric has documented 36 native plants in the issues of the newsletter. The weather has been too hot for other committee activities. But future plans are to replant plants around the base of the Hays statue at a later date.

### Report on Technology and Website

Vanessa gave an update on the website and Facebook page. In the last three months, there have been 6,905 views of the website and 88,000 hits. The Facebook page has 971 followers with 313 likes for the Juneteenth post and 198 likes of the Juneteenth essay winners.

### **Adjourn**

Linda Coker made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jo Landon seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m. (CST)

Kate thanked Cindy Hunter, Linda Coker, Vanessa Westbrook, and Susan Reyna for helping set-up the meeting and the decorations.

Submitted by Lila Knight, Secretary