

## HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



**Thursday, August 22, 2013, 6:00 PM  
The Narrows**

The August 22, 2013, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission was called to order by Chairman Kate Johnson at 6:23 p.m. A quorum was met as the following HCHC members were present: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Sue Cohen, Linda Coker, Jim Cullen, Luanne Cullen, Robert Frizzell, Dorothy Gumbert, Betty Harrison, Shelley Henry, Carmen Imel, Kate Johnson, Jo Landon, SarahAnn Lowther, Ida Miller, Ofelia Vásquez-Philo, Jude Prather, Ralph Randow, and Charlie Willis. Seven guests also attended.

1. **Announcements**—Kate Johnson announced that the Dripping Springs Downtown area is now a historic district. A champagne toast was presented to honor Terri Myers (the historian who wrote the nomination) and the City of Dripping Springs for the successful process of achieving the historic designation. Kate also announced that the next HCHC meeting would be held on September 26 at the Salt Grass Restaurant in San Marcos which is the site of the old Burleson Mill.
2. **Vote on accepting minutes from July 25, 2013**—Delbert Bassett moved to accept the July 25 minutes, and Betty Harrison seconded the motion. The motion passed.
3. **HCHC 2013-2014 Budget**—Kate presented copies of the FY13 Budget which included Operating Expenses, Documentaries, Trust Account, and the Old Jail. Delbert Bassett moved to accept the budget, and Carmen Imel seconded the motion. The motion passed.
4. **Courthouse Museum**—Linda Coker reported that the Courthouse Museum will be participating in the “Passport to San Marcos” on Friday night (23<sup>rd</sup>) which welcomes freshmen at Texas State University with activities and prizes. The Wine Walk will be held September 27 from 4:30-7:30 in downtown San Marcos and will begin at the courthouse. Volunteers will be needed to help during that event. The museum continues to gain new installations due to the work of

- Richard Kidd. New exhibits include Abandoned Towns, Schools, General Burleson, Transportation, and Ranching. A new TV plays oral histories, and the Theatre/Meeting room continues to be used often. Now being offered for sale is the 1938 “A Brief History of Hays County and San Marcos, Texas” by Dudley R. Dobie for \$10. The Courthouse Museum continues to receive positive reviews from visitors and is active with the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce.
5. **Oral History Committee Report**—Bonnie Eissler sent her report stating that the committee has completed transcripts for three recent interviews: Judge Ramsay, Peggy Savage, and Joe Doherty. Committee members are gathering additional information as well as photos from these individuals to include with their print biographies.
  6. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jim Cullen reported that Texas State Intern Rebecca Swaim’s work at Buddy Abel Ranch in old Stringtown approached its conclusion in August as did another intern’s research work at Guadalupe Cemetery in San Marcos. The end result will be a better understanding of both sites’ history and the initial clearing of the Abel Ranch site. Committee member Jo Landon is finalizing an up-to-date list of the county’s various cemetery associations with contact information for them and individual cemetery caretakers.
  7. **Ecology Committee Report**—Delbert Bassett reported that Texas State Archeology contacts will help in locating the Burleson tree.
  8. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Betty Harrison stated that September 1 marks the opening of the new marker application period and will continue until November 15. Dan Utley, from Texas State, is assisting with the subject marker application for the African-American Baptist Church on West MLK drive in San Marcos.
  9. **Old Hays County Jail Report**—Kate Johnson reported that the first window has been installed on the lower level next to the front door and wood frames have been restored or rebuilt. Focus is now on the taller windows in the jail section and adding supporting bricks. Next, the porch, other windows, and the two exterior doors will be installed. Main carpenter, Jesse Garcia, and his assistant are doing an excellent job.
  10. **Kyle Depot**—Kate Johnson reported that the Depot had not received any TxDOT Enhancement Funds. The Depot Board decided that the third phase, the interior restoration, should be divided into several sections: The Board had secured \$200,000 for the renovation of the freight room with the installation of the electrical system, the air conditioning, restrooms, and the outside ramp. Construction will begin in September. Items, such as t-shirts, mugs, magnets, and historic photos, are planned for sale to raise funds for the Depot.

11. **Hispanic Committee Report**—Ofelia Vásquez-Philo reported that El Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos will have a third anniversary celebration on September 21 with dancing, food, and other activities.
  
12. **Announcements:** Phil Lebkuecher announced that the Wimberley Institute of Cultures would be having their quarterly meeting on September 16 at 5:30 p.m. They would be revealing the newly restored Zach House. Luanne Cullen announced that, with the resignations of Celeste Zygmunt and Matt Floyd, the committees would be rewritten without them. She also reminded everyone to view the Open Meetings video and would suggest to Linda Coker that a Saturday might be designated to show the video for everyone who would like to attend.
  
13. **Adjourn:** Marie Bassett moved that the meeting adjourn, and Dorothy Gumbert seconded the motion. The motion passed.

After the meeting, HCHC members were invited to explore The Narrows with the unique rock formations, water features, and Hill Country flora.

Respectfully submitted,  
Luanne Cullen, HCHC Secretary

