

# HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes--September 17, 2020

The September 17, 2020, online meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC) was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Chair Kate Johnson. As determined by the roll call by Secretary Luanne Cullen, a quorum was met as the following members were present on ZOOM or phone—Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Eric Beckers, Linda Coker, Luanne Cullen, Irma Gaitán, Faye Haskins, Kate Johnson, Quincy Kennedy, Jo Landon, Cindy Meyer, Ralph Meyer, July Moreno, Trisha Randow, Gina Rogers, Griffin Spell, and Vanessa Westbrook. Other members were not able to participate because of glitches in the ZOOM program that evening. One guest, Anita Collins, attended.

**Citizens Comments**—no citizens asked to give comments.

**Vote on accepting the minutes from August 27, 2020**—Delbert Bassett moved to accept the minutes; Gina Rogers seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Chair Report**—Kate Johnson reminded members that all communications with the County Commissioners regarding the HCHC should go to her first for review. The HCHC stamp should not be put on any communications that include HCHC without her approval.

## Committee Reports

1. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jo Landon said that the committee was moving forward with the HTC (Historic Texas Cemetery) designation for Byrd Owen-Payne Cemetery and that the Gravestone Restoration Workshop on Sunday, September 20 was ready with tent, chairs and tables, lunch, etc.
2. **Certified Local Government (CLG) Report**—no report given.
3. **Courthouse Committee Report**—Linda Coker said that Vanessa Westbrook was going to have a conversation with Rose Brooks about the Beat, an African-American establishment on the business block of Comal Street (now MLK) in San Marcos from the 1930's to the 1960's. Daphne Tenorio and July Moreno had ideas about using items from Centro Cultural for displays and would visit with Dr. Espinoza and staff.
4. **Historic Kyle RR Depot & Heritage Center Committee Report**—Trisha Randow said that the Scavenger Hunt held on September 5 was deemed a success as 15-17 people participated. Also the HVAC unit had been repaired, and the leaks in the Caboose were being addressed through better sealant on the siding. The outdoor furniture had arrived and was being assembled by county maintenance workers. Plans for Christmas were to be discussed with Chris Deichmann and the committee. The Depot Narrative written by Faye

Haskins was being finalized for inclusion onto the web page. Plans for the virtual tour with Vanessa Westbrook were continuing.

5. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Marie Bassett reported that second edits had been submitted to the THC on the Kyle Depot Marker text; the Cuauhtémoc Board had not yet submitted their edits on the second version of the text for La Sociedad Mutualista Cuauhtémoc; and the committee was working on the narrative to accompany a Marker Review Request for submission to THC by the end of September for the Don Felipe Roque de la Portilla marker.
6. **Natural Heritage Committee Report**—no report given.
7. **Oral History Committee Report**—no report given.
8. **Technology Report**—Vanessa Westbrook provided the third-quarter report for HCHC website's use and visits. She stated that there had been 5,195 visits to the website from July 1 to Sept. 15. HCHC Facebook currently had 828 followers; 1,796 likes in the past 28 days; and 1800+ views of the Texas Cemetery workshop with 39 confirming plans to attend. Vanessa also reminded the members about the guidelines for having guests attend virtual monthly HCHC meetings. Guests should contact her to RSVP by following the contact information on the website; guests would be given special instructions for attending the virtual meeting; and she would confirm guests' RSVP with HCHC Chair and Secretary.
9. **Tejano History Committee Report**—Gina Rogers said that the committee met on September 10 with Delbert Bassett and Vanessa Westbrook joining. Pending matters that were discussed included edits to the Portilla marker narrative that were sent to the Marker Committee; edits being reviewed on the Cuauhtémoc Hall narrative for its historical marker; oral history plans for virtual interviews; Alba Ranch Undertold marker narrative THAT is still with THC; and her interview on KXAN-TV for Hispanic Heritage Month. She also noted that Indigenous Peoples' Day in Hays County would be held on October 12 and that the Hays County Matachines would have a socially-distanced half-day retreat in October hosted by St. John the Evangelist Matachines of San Marcos.

**Adjourn Meeting**—Jo Landon moved that the meeting adjourn; Irma Gaitán seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Luanne P. Cullen, HCHC Secretary