

Hays County Historical Commission

Minutes of September 22, 2022

The meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission was held September 22, 2022 at the Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos in San Marcos. Kate Johnson, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. (CST).

Roll Call

A quorum was present at roll call.

Present: Cynthia Allison, Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Anthony Davis, Robert Frizzell, Hoot Gibson, Kate Johnson, Lila Knight, Jo Landon, Cindy Meyer, Ralph Meyer, Ryan Patrick Perkins, Rosina Valle, Vanessa Westbrook

Absent: Eric Beckers, Linda Coker, Jeremy Garrett, Cindy Hunter, Sally Ramirez, Daphne Tenorio, Willie Tenorio

Citizens Comments

There were no citizens comments.

Approval of Minutes

Hoot Gibson made a motion to accept the minutes from June 23, 2022. The motion was seconded by Delbert Bassett and passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

1884 Hays County Jail Restoration Committee

Committee Chair Ryan Patrick Perkins reported that the committee will meet in October. He has received confirmation from the University of Texas School of Architecture to conduct a paint analysis on the interior of the 1884 Hays County Jail. This will be in November and everyone is encouraged to attend.

African American Heritage Committee

There was no report. Committee Chair Vanessa Westbrook stated a meeting will be held in October to make plans for February 2023 Black History Month.

Cemetery Committee

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

- (1) Skyview - Paperwork and documentation for the HTC designation is underway. This is the last remaining cemetery along Old Stagecoach Road to be so designated. We are encountering problems contacting Mattie Welch, who has not responded to emails or phone calls. Jo requested help in contacting her.

- (2) San Vicente - Finalized the inscriptions spreadsheet and Vanessa has posted it on the HCHC web site. Jo thanked Jeremy for double-checking the info and updating the spreadsheet.

(3) Antioch - Melvin Lyons wants to contribute a gate for the additional 1.7 acres. Jo put him in touch with Minnie Nelson. Vanessa and Jo will meet with Minnie in the next couple weeks to share what Vanessa has learned from the city of Buda.

(4) Wallace Mountain - Zeb Long had a pdf made of the survey from July 1963 (revised in June 1985). Unfortunately, the quality is not good enough to post on the HCHC web site.

(5) Neiderwald - Joan Sabol, Regent of Jacob's Well Chapter DAR, is monitoring the El Camino Real Marker in front of the cemetery. She wanted to know who to contact in regards to the cemetery. The most recent burial was in February 2022. The funeral home was contacted for information for this burial, but have not yet responded.

Certified Local Government Committee

No report from the committee. Committee Chair Knight stated that work will resume soon on the survey of Kyle as the temperature becomes tolerable.

Courthouse Museum Committee

No report from the committee.

Hispanic Heritage Committee

Chair Rosina Valle reported the committee met earlier this week. Future meetings will be in person and held at the Depot. Committee members also attended the Hispanic Heritage Walk Proclamation at Commissioners Court. The committee discussed conducting oral histories with a focus on Kyle, Buda, Dripping Springs and Wimberley.

The marker for La Sociedad Mutualista Cuauhtemoc has arrived with a dedication to be scheduled later. Rosina is working with Linda Coker to arrange a Dias de Muertos Altar in the courthouse rotunda.

Rosina is working on updating the Hispanic Heritage Committee on the website. She enquired on how to obtain signed copies of past proclamations regarding Hispanic Heritage. She will contact Anita. She is also working on a list of Hispanic businesses in San Marcos and asked for suggestions from all members.

Historical Marker Committee

Committee Chair Marie Bassett reported there have been no committee meetings over the summer as we are in-between marker application windows. The committee has stayed in touch through emails.

Six applications were submitted to the Texas Historical Commission this spring for consideration. We are still waiting to hear back on two of those (The Old Mill in San Marcos and the Danforth-Kerbow House in Wimberley). Two applications for Recorded Texas Landmarks were approved: the House at 108 South Nance Street in Kyle and the Max E. Schiwitz Homestead in Umland. Two applications for Historic Cemetery markers were approved: Peal-Pleasant Vally Cemetery and San Vicente Cemetery.

The Hays County Historical Commission is grateful to Hays County Commissioners Lon Shell and Mark Jones for graciously agreeing to play for the San Vicente marker.

Committee Chair Bassett announced that two markers have finally been received: the Kyle Depot and La Sociedad Mutualista Cuauhtemoc. These marker dedications will be held in the near future and all members will be invited, along with the public.

The Undertold Marker program will be accepting applications from October 1st through November 15th. Application forms will be available on the THC website and can be submitted directly to THC or through the HCHC.

Kyle Railroad Depot and Heritage Center Committee

Committee Chair Hoot Gibson reported attendance is up at the Depot. A “Pie in the Depot” event was held along with the city’s annual “Pie in the Sky” and over 200 people attended.

The Depot historical marker has finally arrived and will be dedicated during the city’s Founder’s Day Ceremony. The committee will meet next Monday to discuss finalizing the plans. Hays County Maintenance Department will be installing the marker next week.

Natural Heritage Committee

Committee Chair Delbert Bassett reported that the drought and extreme temperatures have prevented most outdoor work. But the recent newsletter of “What’s Happenin on the Hill” by Eric Beckers was completed and is now posted to the website. He requested Vanessa work with the website manager to place it back on the front page due to its popularity.

Report on Technology and Website

Vanessa Westbrook reported that the HCHC website received 6,673 visits and 77,169 hits to website in regards to clicking specific information during the third quarter of this year (July through September). Our Facebook page now has 992 followers with the most popular post being for the “Pie at the Depot” event which received 892 “likes.”

Announcements from the Chair

Chair Kate Johnson announced that there will be no meeting in November due to the conflict with Thanksgiving. Our next meeting will be October 27th and we will hold our annual Christmas dinner in December.

Kate also made the announcement that she is resigning as Chair at the end of the year and will not be seeking reappointment to the Hays County Historical Commission. Instead, she will exercise her option to serve as an ex officio member per our Bylaws. She thanked everyone for all that they have done over the years and how important it was for her to have made so many friendships. The members applauded her with a standing ovation.

Adjourn

Jo Landon made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Delbert Bassett seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m. (CST)

Submitted by Lila Knight, Secretary