

HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

October 22, 2020

The October 22, 2020, ZOOM meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC) was called to order at 6:09 p.m. by Chair Kate Johnson after Vanessa Westbrook offered suggestions to the members for using the ZOOM program's features. Luanne Cullen, Secretary, called the roll which verified that a quorum was met. The members were Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Eric Beckers, Linda Coker, Luanne Cullen, Cindy Daugherty, Irma Gaitan, Dorothy Gumbert, Eddie Gumbert, Kate Johnson, Quincy Kennedy, Richard Kidd, Lila Knight, Jo Ann Lowe, Ralph Meyer, Jerry T. Moore, July Moreno, Henry Oles, Marian Oles, Trisha Randow, Gina Rogers, Griffin Spell, Daphne Tenorio, and Vanessa Westbrook. One guest, Anita Collins, also attended.

Citizens Comments (3-minute limit)—no citizens gave comments.

Vote on accepting the minutes from September 17, 2020—Delbert Bassett moved to accept the minutes; Vanessa Westbrook seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Chair Report—Kate Johnson said that the application to apply to the Hays County Historical Commission had been sent to Vanessa Westbrook for posting onto the website. The deadline to apply would be December 18, 2020. Dates for upcoming meetings would be announced at a future time. She explained that the bylaws that were presented were not going to be voted upon at this meeting because Judge Becerra wanted them to be presented in January. When asked for clarification, Anita Collins said that the Judge felt that the new members on the HCHC should be a part of the bylaws process. Members discussed the various reasons for having the bylaws presented to the Commissioners Court before the end of December in order for the new members to have them when they begin in January. Vanessa Westbrook made the recommendation to begin the process of providing comments on the bylaws, and Henry Oles agreed. Kate asked members to respond "I approve the bylaws as is" or to offer something they would like to know more about or change.

Discussion of Proposed Bylaws—Each member present was asked for their comments. A document containing a compilation of their comments would be sent to the members.

Vanessa Westbrook moved that the information that was received be taken back to bylaws committee and a second draft created and have a second reading of the bylaws planned for the next few weeks. Daphne Tenorio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

[Due to the length of the meeting to this point, the decision was made to send submitted committee reports through an email document. That document was emailed on Sunday, October 25, 2020. Brief overviews are provided below.]

Committee Reports

1. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jo Landon said that approximately 40 people attended the Cemetery Restoration Workshop held on Sunday, September 20. Presenter Jonathan Appell applied D/2 Biological Solution to a headstone in the Kyle Cemetery and repaired, leveled, cleaned other headstones in the Kyle Family Pioneer Cemetery. The HTC designation was approved for the Byrd Owen-Payne Cemetery and just needed to be filed at the county clerk's office.
2. **Certified Local Government (CLG) Report**—No report was given.
3. **Courthouse Committee Report**—Linda Coker said that Vanessa Westbrook was working with Rose Brooks on an African-American display for one of the rotunda display cases. Linda and July Moreno met with Gloria at El Centro about setting up another display in the rotunda but the set up day was rescheduled. She also said that there was an unfounded report that the Woods' fountain had been vandalized and that plans were being made to clean the planter box around the Hays statue and replant it. Chris Deichmann, County Facility Maintenance Manager, would try to schedule that soon.
4. **Historic Kyle RR Depot & Heritage Center Committee Report**—Trisha Randow described the tour of the Depot taken by students from the San Marcos Baptist Academy. She also said that the HVAC unit had been repaired and that the outdoor furniture had been installed and anchored by the County maintenance workers. A plaque would be ordered for the bench to honor the gentleman who planted the two trees in front of the Caboose. Repairs had been made on the leaks in the Caboose and painting would follow. County maintenance workers were also planning to add lights and decorations to the Depot with assistance from Depot members.
5. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Marie Bassett said that the Stringtown marker was in place on Hunter Road in San Marcos by the BrookField Residential (Kissing Tree) development. The second edit of the La Sociedad Mutualista Cuauhtémoc marker text had been sent to THC. The Request for Review application for the Don Felipe Roque de la Portilla marker had been submitted to THC. As their research turned up some interesting material which was extraneous to the application, it was decided to incorporate it in a narrative for submission to THC's existing file on Don Felipe Roque de la Portilla. That had been completed and submitted to THC. Marie had participated by Zoom in San Marcos' Historical Preservation Commission's October meeting to explain the Undertold Marker program. The next undertold marker window would open on November 1.
6. **Natural Heritage Committee Report**—Delbert Bassett had met with Linda Coker at the County Courthouse to discuss the need to replant the flower bed

at the Hays' statue. Chris Deichmann, County Facility Maintenance Manager, would be contacted as to plans for the project.

7. **Old Hays County Jail Committee Report**—Kate Johnson reported that some information was needed before going for bids: (1) An MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the City of San Marcos to agree on handicapped parking to be used for the County and the City of San Marcos; and (2) an asbestos survey on the Old Jail building.
8. **Oral History Committee Report**—Lila Knight said that, because of the number of Covid-19 cases in Hays County, it was in the best interests of everyone to temporarily suspend all potential interviews with candidates for an oral history. She was going to forward a draft of the legal document that is based directly on that of the Baylor Oral History Program to the Hays County general counsel of the Commissioners Court for his review and approval. That document is required to enable us to use the oral history interviews for posting on our website and for other research purposes.
9. **Technology Report**—no report was given.
10. **Tejano History Committee Report**—Gina Rogers provided information on various activities of the committee including updates on the La Sociedad Mutualista Cuauhtémoc and Roque de la Portilla markers; news and events from El Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos; the passing of Paul Hernandez; updates on the Indigenous Cultures Institute efforts to repatriate Indigenous remains; and El Centro's recognition of Kate Johnson and the Burdine Johnson Foundation for helping El Centro and museum complex become a reality at its 10th Anniversary Celebration.
11. **Adjourn**—Delbert Bassett moved that the meeting adjourn; Ralph Meyer seconded the motion. Motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Luanne P. Cullen, HCHC Secretary