

HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



December 12, 2019
The Plant at Kyle
157 Bill Kuykendall Road
Kyle, Texas 78640

The December 12, 2019, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC) was called to order at 6:23 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson. A quorum was met as the following members were in attendance: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Eric Beckers, Eric Casillas, Linda Coker, Luanne Cullen, Cindy Daugherty, Robert Frizzell, Dorothy Gumbert, Eddie Gumbert, Faye Haskins, Kate Johnson, Quincy Kennedy, Ricard Kidd, Jo Landon, Jo Ann Lowe, Cindy Meyer, Ralph Meyer, Jerry T. Moore, July Moreno, Henry Oles, Marian Oles, Trisha Randow, Gina Rogers, Daphne Tenorio, Vanessa Westbrook, and Lila Knight, ex-officio member. Two guests also attended

Introduction of hosts—Kate Johnson introduced the hosts, Martha Pinto and Jamie Kinscherff, and presented them with the book *Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges* and HCHC's eight documentaries of local history including the *101 Ranch*. They also received several items from the Kyle Railroad Depot and Heritage Center, including mugs, postcards, refrigerator magnet, the Kyle book, and notecards. Martha described their positions as stewards for the Plant (which was a shed at the old Alamo Cement Plant in San Antonio) and how it has been utilized as an event center and meeting location. Jamie described the timeline of the house and land from the Kuykendall family's purchase of the ranch, to its purchase by Henry and Francine Carraro, to the construction of the Plant structures led by the firm of Lake|Flato Architects, and finally to the purchase of the Plant by Dana Friis-Hansen and Mark Holzbach.

Announcements—Kate said that the next meeting would be held on January 23, 2020.

Vote on accepting minutes from October 23, 2019—Daphne Tenorio moved to accept the minutes; Jo Landon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

1. **Historic Kyle RR Depot & Heritage Center Committee**—Trisha Randow said that the mystery game, *Terror in Transylvania*, held on October 25, was well attended. Santa and Mrs. Claus (aka Willie and Daphne Tenorio) were scheduled to visit the Depot on December 14 to offer pictures, conversations, and train whistles. Other activities planned included story/sing-along by the Kyle Library and tours of the newly renovated Caboose. Trisha also encouraged everyone to vote for the Depot's Christmas lights in the City of Kyle and Chamber of Commerce's contest. Also, throughout December, the Depot would be opened on Sundays as well as Saturdays. On November 22, the Depot hosted a Poetry Reading event with Joaquin Zihuatanejo which brought about 20 attendees. Trisha also said that the lights had been installed on the new sign and that photography students had toured the Depot.
2. **Old Hays County Jail Committee**—Vanessa Westbrook said that the committee met on December 10 and toured the Old Jail building. Erin McClelland and MuseWork LLC Museum Services discussed what exhibits would be included in the three galleries. The South Gallery would have an interactive focus; the North Gallery would include more academic displays and information; and the West Gallery would have an exhibit mixture of technological experiences, published materials and graphics, and a model of a jail cell. In the discussion of the budget, a minimum cost for the interior restoration was listed at \$255,000. Two fund raising events are needed in 2020 to raise an additional \$120,000 to assist with restoration efforts, and HCHC members were asked to think of ideas for fund raisers. The Old Jail urgently needs stabilization as the wall in the North Gallery is showing signs of deterioration.
3. **Cemetery Committee**—Jo Landon said that the Peal-Pleasant Valley Cemetery's application for HTC (Historic Texas Cemetery) designation was finalized, then submitted to and approved by THC. Jo would record that designation at the courthouse once she received paperwork from THC. She also said that San Pedro Cemetery was damaged by a truck pulling a trailer. She spoke with T. L. Torres about plans for repairs which insurance will cover. Mr. Torres was trying to notify the families who have family members in the damaged area to get estimates.
4. **Historical Markers Committee**—Marie Bassett reported that as of December 12, THC said that it would be a few weeks before they would have some news on the search for a new foundry.

5. **Natural Heritage Committee (formerly Horticulture Committee)**—Delbert Bassett discussed the committee’s name change as a way to broaden its scope. He also presented the Texas Capitol Christmas ornament (inspired by the famed Lone Star locomotive) to Trisha Randow for her outstanding work as chairman of the Historic Kyle Railroad Depot and Heritage Center Committee.
6. **Tejano History Committee**—Gina Rogers said that, as of January 1, 2020, VOCES will have its official center at UT in Austin. The designation signifies it as a permanent unit and that it is the leading Latino oral history archives in the U.S. Jo Ann Lowe said that she and her husband attended the VOCES event and viewed her father’s tribute in the program aimed toward Hispanic U.S. veterans congratulating VOCES project on their 20th year. A new intern, Samantha Nava, an anthropologist major, had joined the staff at Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos, and the Centro Board of Directors met and considered the membership for new tenured Board of Directors. Irma Gaitán had participated in Matachines events in Austin and San Antonio, and Gina shared pictures of the event in San Antonio which she also attended. She intends to apply for an Undertold Historical Marker for the Duran Family from Dripping Springs.
7. **Courthouse Committee**—Linda Coker reported that a roof leak in the courthouse museum caused some artifacts and display panels to be removed until repairs could be made. Plans are in place for a Chautauqua exhibit to be installed in the second room using pictures and papers. Courthouse news included the well-attended tree lighting event and a potluck lunch for people working at the courthouse on December 13.
8. **Certified Local Government (CLG)**—no report given.

Adjournment—Kate thanked everyone for attending and for bringing gifts for the Brown Santa program. All gifts would be delivered to the Brown Santa Headquarters the next day. Luanne Cullen presented Kate with gifts and card from the HCHC members to thank her for the leadership she offers to the HCHC throughout the year. The gifts included the book *Sam Maverick’s Trail: The Story of the First American Exploration of the Texas-Mexico Border* by Daniel McNeel Lane, MD, PhD. This is the story of the 1848 Hays Expedition, the first U.S. effort to search for a wagon road along the new border to Chihuahua and El Paso. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. Supper followed.

Respectfully submitted,
Luanne P. Cullen, HCHC Secretary
(Photos courtesy of Luanne Cullen and Eric Beckers)

