

HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



**Thursday, March 22, 2018
Brenda & Kaare Remme
1132 Belvin Street
San Marcos, Texas 78666**

After tours of the Remmes' home, the March 22, 2018, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC) was called to order at 6:26 p.m. by Chair Kate Johnson. A quorum was met as the following members were present: Eric Beckers, Luanne Cullen, Robert Frizzell, Irma Gaitán, Kate Johnson, Richard Kidd, Jo Landon, Cindy Meyer, Ralph Meyer, Henry Oles, Marian Oles, and Gina Rogers. Three guests also attended.

Announcements—Kate thanked Brenda and Kaare Remme for hosting the meeting at their home and presented them with the book *Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges* as well as the eight HCHC-produced documentaries. Cindy McCoy, photographer for the book and sister-in-law of Mrs. Remme, was also introduced. Kate also said that the next HCHC meeting would be held in Wimberley on April 26. She shared some sad news about a fire on March 16 at one of her sheds which destroyed all of the contents, including various kinds of tractor equipment and the restored stagecoach with accessories. Luckily, the doctor's buggy was located away from that shed and survived.

1. **Vote on accepting minutes from February 22, 2018**—Ralph Meyer moved to accept the minutes; Irma Gaitán seconded the motion. Motion passed and the minutes were accepted.
2. **Discuss and take action to amend the bylaws**—After several suggestions had been made to further update the bylaws, that action was tabled until the April meeting. Jo Landon moved to table the bylaws until April; Ralph Meyer seconded the motion. The motion passed.
3. **Historic Kyle RR Depot**—In Trisha Randow's absence, Richard Kidd presented her report. The Kyle Live Oak Masonic Lodge #304 donated a bench in Mr. Robert Parks' name to the City of Kyle to be placed in front of the Depot. Trisha and Kate had attended dedication of the bench the previous Saturday. The Terry's Dayhab tour had gone well, and HCHC members were encouraged to invite other groups to schedule tours. Trisha had spoken with an event planner about the possibility of using the Depot for events. The information about what could be expected led the committee to consider all of the options before committing to such an event. The Easter Bunny (Willie Tenorio) would be going to the Depot on

March 31 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Plenty of opportunities would be available for pictures with Mr. Bunny, lemonade, cookies, and goody bags for the kids. Also, Henry Oles provided an update on the caboose. It was moved away from the Depot in order to paint the bottom and exterior. He hoped the caboose renovations would be completed in May.

4. **Old Hays County Jail Report**—Kate said that Chris and Tracy Hutson of **Hutson | Gallagher** have submitted their proposal to perform architectural and engineering services for the Old Hays County Jail. As part of their basic services, they will be constructing an ADA compliant ramp to the porch; coordinating with the THC for their review and permit application; doing measured drawings of the existing structure; assisting the county with bidding and negotiation to select a contractor; and in constructing a new separate structure for public restrooms. As part of Phase 1, the committee was coordinating with the museum specialist to develop a plan for interactive exhibits. The proposal had been sent to county lawyer, Mark Kennedy, who would review it and place it on the agenda for the County Commissioners to approve.
5. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jo Landon reported that Middlebrooks Cemetery near Dripping Springs had been the main focus for the month. She had met with Susanne Doell at the cemetery and had provided her with information on the HTC (Historic Texas Cemetery) designation, etc. On Saturday, March 17, Jo, her husband and daughter, and HCHC members Eric Beckers and Gina Rogers cleaned the cemetery. Jo had been researching deeds, people buried in the cemetery, etc., for the application. She still needed to work on the site map, such as measuring the perimeter and taking pictures, and asked for assistance. She now has the code for the lock box to access the gate key.

The HTC Medallion with the name and date plaque had arrived for the Cocke Cemetery (Buda, Texas), and Jo would be scheduling a date for the installation with Aaron Jones with the Hays County Road Department. The Byrd Owen-Payne Cemetery had recently been cleaned by Richard Gomez.
6. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—In Marie Bassett's absence, Gina Rogers reported that the Kyle Family Pioneer Cemetery marker text was signed off by THC on March 13, so it should be delivered in about six weeks. Marie was still waiting for the Stringtown revised text to be returned for final editing. The W. T. Chapman and Cheatham-Hohenberg Cemetery markers have been paid. THC will start working on 2018 texts by the end of April. Those two are 69th and 100th (respectively) on the list. Thanks were given to Kate for the opportunity to attend the TSHA conference. Marie offered to share her notes from the conference.
7. **Horticulture Committee**—no report was available.
8. **Tejano History Committee Report**—Irma Gaitán reported that a meeting had been held on March 2 with the Cuauhtémoc Hall Board Members to update their newly elected officers on last year's efforts toward the Historical Marker application for La Sociedad Mutualista de Cuauhtémoc (Cuauhtémoc Hall). Gina Rogers presented the research information to the board members. An oral history video was scheduled for April 7 with Mrs. María Muzquiz. Mrs. Muzquiz and her late husband were officers and active members of Cuauhtémoc Hall and could provide more history of the Hall. Richard Kidd, with the Oral History Committee,

would be assisting with the taping. On April 15, the Tejano History Committee would be meeting with the Board Members at Cuauhtémoc Hall.

Also, the Tejano History committee met at Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos on March 3. Program Coordinator Gloria Salazar provided a tour of the facility with descriptions of the various programs held there.

Irma also thanked Kate for allowing her and other members to attend the TSHA Annual Meeting, March 8-10. Many interesting sessions were offered with valuable information.

9. **Courthouse Committee Report**—no report was available.

Adjourn—Kate adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m. She asked Mr. and Mrs. Remme to tell the members more about the history of their house and location. They provided a timeline of the original structure, Fisher Hall, built in 1906 as a dormitory for the Coronal Institute, to its use as a hospital, then as the lower school for San Marcos Baptist Academy, and then as a fraternity house until it was bought in 1998. It burned in 2007 while still under private ownership. The Remmes built their new house on the location several years later. Mrs. Remme also shared scrapbooks and newspaper articles about the fire and arrest of the arsonists.

Supper followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Luanne P. Cullen, HCHC Secretary

(photos courtesy of Luanne Cullen)



