

Hays County Historical Commission

Minutes of April 28, 2022

The meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission was held April 28, 2022 at the Mud Bugs Restaurant in Buda. Kate Johnson, chair, called the meeting to order 6:06 p.m. (CST).

Roll Call

A quorum was present at roll call.

Present: Cynthia Allison, Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Eric Beckers, Linda Coker, Anthony Davis, Robert Frizzell, Jeremy Garrett, Hoot Gibson, Cindy Hunter, Kate Johnson, Lila Knight, Jo Landon, Cindy Meyer, Ralph Meyer, Ryan Patrick Perkins, Sally Ramirez, Rosina Valle,
Absent: Daphne Tenorio, Willie Tenorio, Vanessa Westbrook

Citizens present: Anita Collins, Joe Ramirez

Citizens Comments

There were no citizens comments

Approval of Minutes

Ryan Patrick Perkins made a motion to accept the minutes from March 24, 2022. The motion was seconded by Jo Landon and passed unanimously.

Creation of a Kyle Resurvey Committee

This sub-committee will be temporary for one particular project. Anyone on the Hays County Historical Commission may join, as well as members of the public. Linda Coker made a motion to create a temporary subcommittee for the resurvey of historic buildings in Kyle. The motion was seconded by Hoot Gibson and passed unanimously.

Announcements from the Chair

The Chair announced that she and her husband were sponsoring a table at the Cinco de Mayo celebration to benefit Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marco. Anyone who wants to attend should contact Chair Johnson.

Committee Reports

1884 Hays County Jail Restoration Committee

Members of the 1884 Historic Hays County Jail Restoration Committee met on April 22, 2022. Below is the committee's summary report to the Commission:

- Site clean-up took place on March 27, 2022. Committee members and a volunteer from Preservation Texas met at the jail to sort through excess materials, including original materials, old materials, and rotted materials that should've been disposed of when the

exterior renovation was completed about ten years ago. Historic and useful materials were gathered in the main room, and sorted by the room they were found. Hays County hauled off trash and later came back to sweep out the remaining dust and debris from the interior rooms.

- Carport Stabilization: Hays County will also assist in stabilizing the carport which is leaning to the south.
- Liability waivers: The committee chair and HCHC chair have sought the advice of the Hays County's general counsel regarding the potential need and use of Liability Waivers for non-county employees who step foot on the property and inside the building until such a time that restoration efforts bring the site up to a more acceptable safety level. Safety is a top priority of members of the committee; for protection of the general public and protection of the site itself.
- Old Kyle Jail Relocation: Lila provided an updated that the Kyle Chief of Police is "*interested*" in the idea of relocating the Old Kyle Jail to the grounds of the new Kyle Police Department. The committee would need to determine who pays for the building move and who pays for its restoration.
- Temperature monitors (interior): The committee will monitor the interior temperature and humidity of the jail to determine HVAC needs, which could impact the final restoration details.
- Conservation/Preservation Easement Review: The committee will request of review of the preservation easement by Preservation Associates to confirm Hays County's current compliance. Later the committee will seek a review of the proposed scope of work provided by the architects to confirm final details are in compliance.
- Digital documentation of the building: The restoration committee has asked the Texas A&M School of Architecture's Center for Heritage Conservation for their assistance to conduct a 3-D Scan of the interior of the jail to document the historic footprint and architectural details of the building for its permanent record and future historic reference.
- Historic Materials Analysis Summary Report: The restoration committee has asked the Materials Conservation Lab Methods class at the University of Texas School of Architecture for their assistance conduct an on-site investigation and historic paint analysis to provide historical documentation and recommendations of the original paint color scheme on the building's interior. Izabella Nuckels, a UT staff liaison for this project will meet Ryan for a building visit on May 19, 2022 at 9 AM.

- Archeological Survey: Before doing work on the grounds, an Archeological Survey was recommended by the committee in April to recover artifacts and information in areas of potential future ground disturbance and also to identify potential resources underground, locate evidence of fence posts, outbuildings, and other features for future interpretation. The committee will first determine the scope of work it would like to conduct to determine the amount of funds that would be needed.
- In the news: An update regarding the committee's work was provided to Alyssa Garza with the San Marcos Daily Record and featured on the front page of the Sunday April 3, 2022 edition. An update was also provided to Christopher Green with San Marcos Corridor News but has not been published (4/28/22).
- The committee will host a workshop later this year to discuss an Interpretive Plan and the site's future use(s). Committee members will conduct research to collect data on the jail population as well as other documented files and materials relevant to the future interpretation of the site (news paper articles, photos, background on the architect, comparable jail site across the state, etc).
- Site History Source: The committee agreed to collect relevant site history, research and data in a centralized location, accessible to the general public. It was recommended using the HCHC's website for this data center. The chair will work with Vanessa to have the materials upload in the proper manner.

African American Heritage Committee

In the absence of Committee Chair Vanessa Westbrook, Marie Bassett reported that the committee's Juneteenth Essay contest will run April 22 through May 22 for grades 6 through 12. Information will be posted on the website and provided to the schools. The committee chair's full report will be emailed to all the members in the future.

Cemetery Committee

No report this month.

Certified Local Government Committee

Committee Chair Knight reported the committee is continuing its work on a re-survey of the historic buildings in Kyle. If anyone wants to participate in this project, please email Lila Knight.

Courthouse Museum Committee

Committee Chair Linda Coker reported there has been a continual problem with the residents of the new downtown apartments using the courthouse grounds to walk their dogs. In addition, there are cracks in the sidewalk and some people have tripped over them. Judge

Becerra is now aware of the problems and these problems will probably be addressed in the near future.

The number of events on the Courthouse grounds has increased since the end of the pandemic. Judge Becerra held an Easter Egg Hunt this month. Other events include a Cinco de Mayo celebration and a concert every Friday during May.

The exhibit on La Sociedad Mutualista de Cuauhtémoc will be completed this weekend with the help of Rosina Valle.

A museum summit will be held in May as an event for National Preservation Month. The purpose is to bring together representatives of the many museums in San Marcos and to promote heritage tourism. The San Marcos Convention and Business Bureau is helping with the organization of this event.

Hispanic Heritage Committee

Committee Co-Chair Rosina Valle reported the committee, working with Linda Coker of the Courthouse Committee, will complete the exhibit on La Sociedad Mutualista de Cuauhtémoc this weekend. The committee is also finalizing plans for an oral history with Ramona Rodriguez, one of the first businesswomen in San Marcos. Vanessa Westbrook has agreed to record the oral history.

She thanked Kate and Bill Johnson for their continued support of Centro Cultural de San Marcos

Historical Marker Committee

Committee Chair Bassett reported this has been a busy month for the marker committee. We are currently working on six marker applications. The marker window closes on May 16, so a complete list will be available by the next HCHC meeting.

Alba Ranch and Don Felipe Roque de La Portilla texts are still being edited. The William B. Travis text edit is complete, so the order should be on its way to the foundry.

Tomorrow is the second year of the National Historic Marker Day, as designated by the William B. Pomeroy Foundation for the last Friday in April. The intent is to make the public aware of the importance of historical markers in telling the country's history by encouraging restoration and preservation of the more than 150,000 markers installed across the United States.

Kyle Railroad Depot and Heritage Center Committee

Committee Chair Patrick (Hoot) Gibson reported April was a very successful month for the museum. There was a huge turnout for the Easter event, featuring Willie Tenorio as the Easter bunny.

There is an ongoing problem with leaks in the Caboose during rain events. The antique stove has been installed in the Caboose.

Natural Heritage Committee

Committee Chair Bassett reported that Eric Beckers has continued his incredibly popular monthly newsletter, "What's Happenin' on the Hill."

Report on Technology and Website

No report this month.

Adjourn

Ryan Patrick Perkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Delbert Bassett seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m. (CST)

Submitted by Lila Knight, Secretary