

## HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes--August 27, 2020

The August 27, 2020, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC) was called to order by Chairman Kate Johnson at 6:04 p.m. on ZOOM. After the roll call by HCHC Secretary Luanne Cullen, a quorum was determined as being met. The following HCHC members were in attendance: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Eric Beckers, Linda Coker, Luanne Cullen, Cindy Daugherty, Irma Gaitán, Eddie Gumbert, Dorothy Gumbert, Faye Haskins, Kate Johnson, Quincy Kennedy, Jo Landon, Cindy Meyer, Ralph Meyer, Jerry T. Moore, July Moreno, Henry Oles, Marian Oles, Trisha Randow, Gina Rogers, Vanessa Westbrook, and Lila Knight, ex-officio member.

Kate Johnson welcomed members and announced that Vanessa Westbrook had been appointed Parliamentarian for the HCHC meetings. She asked if any citizens from outside HCHC would like to speak.

**Citizens Comments**—1. Anita Collins, Executive Assistant to County Judge Becerra, asked for the HCHC's support in requesting that new paint be added to the County Judge's office doors because of their poor condition. 2. Dex Ellison, City Council Member in Kyle, thanked the HCHC for its great work for the county and to the Tejano Committee for their historical efforts. 3. Dr. Garza (with María Rocha joining later) requested that an item be placed on September's agenda for information to support the repatriation of three sets of human remains that are at the University of Texas in Austin.

### **Vote on accepting the minutes from May 28 and June 25**

May 28—After discussion about the additional comments to the Tejano Committee's report, Delbert Bassett moved to accept the minutes with the amendment; Faye Haskins seconded the motion. The motion passed with 21 for and 2 against.

June 25—Delbert Bassett moved to accept the minutes; Jerry T. Moore seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Chair Report**—Kate Johnson said that the next HCHC meeting would be held by ZOOM on Thursday, September 17, a week earlier than the usual date because she would be out of town on the 24th. Also, the THC Real Places Conference would be held in February 2021 as a virtual conference. A request for feedback had been sent from THC and that survey would be shared with the HCHC members.

### **Committee Reports:**

1. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jo Landon said that the Committee had a ZOOM meeting to discuss updating cemetery descriptions on the HCHC website as well as planning the upcoming gravestone restoration workshop to be held on Sunday, September 20. Plans for seating, lunches, supplies, etc. would be available when more information is received from the workshop event organizers and Preservation Texas.

2. **Certified Local Government (CLG) Report**—Kate said that we were planning to submit a request for a CLG grant to the THC to update our survey of historic resources in Hays County (excluding San Marcos which has its own CLG). HCHC needs an additional \$5000 in order to meet the \$10,000 contribution with THC's matching funds to equal \$20,000. The \$5000 offered by the county is not enough to fund the survey by qualified architectural historians. Kate asked members for their thoughts as to if she should ask the county for the extra \$5000. Discussion covered description of the survey process, towns in Hays County included, deadlines, budget, etc. Because of the short period of time before the county budget is proposed, the decision was made to ask for the additional \$5000 and then make plans after the final amount is known.
3. **Courthouse Committee Report**—Linda Coker said that the Courthouse Museum was still closed to the public because of the COVID-19 guidelines. The Courthouse will be decorated for Christmas but probably without a Tree Lighting event. The Courthouse Committee met on ZOOM and discussed exhibit ideas for the rotunda and museum rooms. At this time, plans include a Tejano history exhibit and an African-American history exhibit, possibly about "The Beat", a vital San Marcos African-American business and entertainment neighborhood on Comal Street, now MLK, from the 1930's to the 1960's.
4. **Historic Kyle RR Depot & Heritage Center Committee Report**—Trisha Randow described the upcoming historical Scavenger Hunt that the Depot would be partnering with the "For the Love of Go" group on September 5. Participants would go to different historical sites in downtown Kyle. She also provided updates on the HVAC repair, outdoor furniture, landscaping, leaks in the Caboose's roof, and continuing plans to create a virtual tour of the Depot for the HCHC website.
5. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Marie Bassett said that William B. Travis League marker application was accepted. This would be an important addition to the William B. Travis Heritage Trail. Undertold Marker applications would be available from THC online on September 1. A press release had been submitted to the media and contained information about the undertold marker program. Second edits of La Sociedad Mutualista Cuauhtémoc and Kyle Depot had been received. A copy of a THC "Request to Locate" form was sent to Aaron Jones, Road Maintenance Superintendent, which is required to be filled out prior to moving markers back from the road on Old Bastrop Highway. Henry Oles is interested in applying for a subject marker for San Marcos' Old Mill which is already on the National Register of Historic Places. Marie gave a presentation on ZOOM to interns of THC's Preservation Scholars Program on HCHC's work on preserving the history of Hays County.

6. **Natural Heritage Committee Report**—Delbert Bassett said that he had no report to give.
7. **Old Hays County Jail Committee Report**—Kate Johnson said that Chris Deichmann, the county maintenance facility manager, was finishing the final information needed by architect Tracy Hutson. That information included parking lots, waste water lines, and new electrical service accounts. He was also reviewing the Construction Documents. Feedback had been sent to Erin McClelland, museum consultant, which wrapped up her responsibility to HCHC. The project should be ready to go out for bid soon.
8. **Oral History Committee Report**—Lila Knight said that the committee was focused on training and getting organized. Most committee members were able to attend the Baylor University Oral History Program, “Getting Started with Oral History.” Lila thanked the committee members for their work and suggestions and Vanessa Westbrook for her technical support.
9. **Technology Report**—Vanessa Westbrook said that the next stats for the website would be provided in September. The September 20 cemetery restoration event was posted on the Facebook page and had received 1800 views, with 34 who were interested and needed to RSVP. Also the website had added the video of the Aquarena Springs and the mermaids; highlights of markers in Hays County; and focus on HCHC’s *Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges* book. Vanessa also said that she had just received equipment for creating the virtual tours being planned for the Depot and Courthouse.
10. **Tejano History Committee Report**—Gina Rogers described the committee’s actions in waiting to complete the edits for the Portilla marker; in providing five names for future oral histories; and in progressing with the Cuauhtémoc Hall marker. The committee had shared resources with the Natural Resources committee for their Cultural Landscapes studies and would continue to send research information as it is finalized. She described ongoing research concerning the Texas Antiquities Code for an Undertold Marker to be located on the courthouse grounds as well as email communications with Kate Johnson, Marie Bassett, Lila Knight and Linda Coker on that subject.

**Adjourn**—Jerry T. Moore moved that the meeting adjourn; Gina Rogers seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Luanne P. Cullen, HCHC Secretary