

## HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



September 26, 2019  
Ms. Barrie Breed  
545 West Hopkins  
San Marcos, Texas 78666

The September 26, 2019, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC) was called to order at 6:20 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson. A quorum was met as the following members were present: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Eric Casillas, Linda Coker, Luanne Cullen, Cindy Daugherty, Robert Frizzell, Irma Gaitan, Dorothy Gumbert, Eddie Gumbert, Kate Johnson, Quincy Kennedy, Jo Landon, Jo Ann Lowe, Cindy Meyer, Ralph Meyer, Jerry T. Moore, July Moreno, Henry Oles, Marian Oles, Trisha Randow, Gina Rogers, Griffin Spell, Daphne Tenorio, Vanessa Westbrook, and ex-officio member Lila Knight. Eight guests also attended.

**Introduction of host**—Kate Johnson introduced Barrie Breed (current owner of the historic home) and presented her with the HCHC's eight documentaries of our county histories, the book *Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges*, and a variety of items from the Kyle Railroad Depot and Heritage Center.

**Announcements**—Kate said that the next HCHC meeting would be held on Wednesday, October 23, and not on Thursday.

**Vote on accepting minutes from June 21, 2019**—Ralph Meyer moved that the minutes be accepted; Dorothy Gumbert seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Kate introduced Sue Hopson Cole who was born and raised in San Marcos and lived in this historic house while growing up. She described the history of her family and the various features of the house including the original blueprints that are framed and displayed on the wall. She was pleased that the house was being preserved and utilized by Barrie Breed.

### Committee Reports

1. **Historic Kyle RR Depot & Heritage Center Committee**—Trisha Randow reported that the caboose was complete and would be presented at the Grand Opening event on Saturday, October 12 at

10:00 a.m. She asked for assistance with the flower beds on Saturday, September 28, to prepare for the event. She described some items that David Dabelgott donated including a mail crane from the Kyle Depot. The depot sign is also in place.

Also the Kyle Library and Depot would be co-sponsoring another “Mystery at the Train Depot” evening on Friday, October 25 with the game “Terror in Transylvania.”

The Depot’s summer activities included a visit from seniors at Brookdale Assisted Living in San Marcos, a leadership conference from the San Marcos Baptist Academy, mystery game night, and three “For the Love of Go’s Walk Meet Up” events. Another “Walk Meet Up” would be held on October 12. The depot had received two new volunteers due to the efforts of the promotion of requests from the City of Kyle. More volunteers are needed to be able to open more days during the week.

2. **Old Hays County Jail Committee**—Kate said that the architectural team of **Hutson | Gallagher** continues to develop construction documents for the Old Jail’s restoration scope of work. Both the structural and MEP (mechanical, electrical, plumbing) engineers submitted their design to the architect, and he has returned their work with comments. The construction documents are in a holding pattern until there is further development of the museum exhibits. The museum will have technology-heavy exhibits; therefore the electrical engineer architect needs to know the lighting and electrical loads associated with those exhibits before he can specify the electrical equipment and panels. The architects also need to know the exhibits’ locations and scale to anticipate where to install necessary infrastructure components. Once the preliminary exhibit design development is shared with the exhibit team, construction documents can be completed.
3. **Cemetery Committee**—Jo Landon said that committee members had toured the Jacob’s Well and Pleasant Valley Cemeteries. She and Marie Bassett had met with Charlie Haydon, Iris Lane, and Marilyn Puryear-King to gather information for the Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) designation and historical marker process. Preparations had been made for the Kyle Family Pioneer Cemetery (KFPC) marker dedication event to be held on Saturday, September 28.
4. **Historical Markers Committee**—Marie Bassett said that, because of the sudden closing of the Southwell Foundry in San Antonio, THC is accepting bids until September 30 and hopes to settle on another supplier soon. The 2019 marker recipients were given the option of having their money refunded and reapplying at a later date. Our markers in limbo are the Kyle Depot, La Sociedad Mutualista de Cuauhtémoc, Riverhead Farm, and the Undertold Marker for Jacob’s Well which will be one of the first to be forged after a new foundry is chosen.

Because of the current situation, the Undertold Marker selection

has been delayed. It appears that the earliest we may hear about HCHC's two entries, Alba Ranch and William B. Travis Survey, will be after the THC's quarterly meeting in January 2020. The marker and cemetery committees had been busy organizing the Historic Texas Cemetery Marker Dedication Ceremony at the Kyle Family Pioneer Cemetery (KFPC) on Saturday, September 28 at 3:00 p.m.

Marie then introduced Vanessa Westbrook as the newest HCHC member and thanked her for her help in creating the handout for the KFPC program and for posting the information on the HCHC website. Kate presented Vanessa with her HCHC name badge and asked her to tell the members about her background and interest in being on the HCHC.

5. **Horticulture Committee**—No report was given.
6. **Tejano History Committee**—Irma Gaitán reported that the committee members were busy during the summer. Gina Rogers has been asked to join the Institute for Diversity and Civic Life and has registered for the Oral History Project to be held in November at the LBJ Presidential Library in Austin. She has also continued to celebrate her Alba family by collecting oral histories of Margaret and Phil Alba and planned to attend Margaret's 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday. She also planned to attend a friend's 96<sup>th</sup> birthday and collect his oral history. Committee member Daphne Tenorio had been busy with the pipeline issue as Kyle City Council member. Committee member July Moreno had a successful week of activities for the Mermaid Society of which she is the founder and director.

Irma said that she had the opportunity to serve on the organizing committee for the Mermaid Society Symposium and attended the Living Heritage Symposium in San Antonio as part of the Sensitive Treatment of Culturally Significant Communities and Resources Committee. She also attended the annual Austin Diocese retreat for Matlachines and Danzantes in Belton, Texas, which reinforced the teachings of the Nican Mopohua, the agenda for December's celebration of La Virgen de Guadalupe and Christmas. On September 17, she and other members of the HCHC attended the Hays County Commissioners Court for the adoption of two proclamations—one for Diez y Seis introduced by Commissioner Debbie Ingalsbe and the other for declaring October as Hispanic Heritage Month. Another proclamation will be read on October 1 recognizing Indigenous People's Day on October 15. The Indigenous Cultures Institute will have their annual Powwow on October 19-20. The UT Austin VOCES Oral History Project will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sunday, November 10, at the LBJ Presidential Library in Austin.

Irma introduced guests for the evening, Dr. Ricardo Espinoza, executive director of Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos, and Eric Wilson, a Texas State graduate who is responsible for the new augmented-reality application to El Centro's Ofelia T. Vásquez Mexican American Cultural Museum.

7. **Courthouse Committee**—Linda Coker reported that a tour of the Courthouse and Old Jail was given to eight National Honor Society students and two parents on September 15. She will be bringing pictures to show HCHC members for identification information and a *Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges* book for all members to sign for the Government Center time capsule. On October 19, the Moon-McGehee Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas will be celebrating their 90<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Charles S. Cock House in San Marcos. On October 25, the International Town and Gown Association Board of Directors will be using the meeting room and will be giving the evening Downtown Ghost Tour. The Veterans Day Parade will be held on Saturday, November 9, in downtown San Marcos, and the courthouse lighting will be on November 30.
8. **Certified Local Government (CLG)**—No report was given.
9. **Cape's Dam and Engineering Structure Project**—Kate Johnson reported that the HCHC has volunteered an additional \$2500 to assist in presenting a conceptual plan to the San Marcos City Council on October 15 at the City Hall. The master plan will be presented by Mitch Wright, a landscape architect and designer who has entered into this professional services agreement with Hays County, specifically with the HCHC. Members were encouraged to attend to show support for the preservation of the Cape's Dam. This project is formally known as the Thompson/Cape Dam and Ditch Engineering Structure.
10. **First Baptist Church of San Marcos**—Kate said that the First Baptist Church of San Marcos had invited HCHC to take over the project of rehabilitation. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has offered a grant toward the costs but the deadline for completion is June, 2020, and HCHC will ask for an extension to complete the work.

**Announcements**—Kate introduced the guests that attended the meeting. Vanessa Westbrook discussed the website photos and changes and encouraged members to offer suggestions. She also said that the website would provide a link to organizations, such as sororities and fraternities, for sources of volunteers.

**Adjournment**—Delbert Bassett moved that the meeting adjourn; Ralph Meyer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

**Speaker**—HCHC member Griffin Spell, Chairman of the City of San Marcos Historic Preservation Commission, described the preservation survey which provided information about each historic property in San Marcos and the preservation efforts to protect the historical buildings. A demolition delay has been implemented until a process can be created which includes asking other organizations, such as HCHC, THC, Heritage Association of San Marcos, Preservation Texas, etc. for input. They also want more advanced notice of intent to demolish in order for the public to be informed.

Supper followed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Luanne P. Cullen, HCHC Secretary

*(photos courtesy of Luanne Cullen)*

