

## HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



**Saturday, December 15, 2018**  
**Hotel Emma**  
**Gold Room on 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**  
**136 E. Grayson Street**  
**San Antonio, Texas 78215**

The December 15, 2018, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC) was called to order by Chairman Kate Johnson at 11:56 a.m. A quorum was met as the following members were present: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Eric Beckers, Linda Coker, Luanne Cullen, Robert Frizzell, Irma Gaitan, Dorothy Gumbert, Kate Johnson, Richard Kidd, Jo Landon, Jo Ann Lowe, SarahAnn Lowther, Cindy Meyer, Ralph Meyer, Jerry T. Moore, Trisha Randow, Gina Rogers, and Lila Knight (ex-officio member). Seven guests also attended.

**Announcements**—Kate Johnson thanked HCHC members who had already submitted their applications for another term and reminded everyone that the deadline was January 15, 2019. She presented the eight HCHC documentaries and the book, *Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges*, to Mr. Christopher “Kit” Goldsbury, owner of the Hotel Emma, and to Jeff Fetzer, the preservation architect of the Hotel Emma, and thanked them for allowing the commission to meet at the hotel.

1. **Vote on accepting minutes from October 25, 2018**—Ralph Meyer moved to approve the minutes; Dorothy Gumbert seconded the motion. Motion passed.
2. **Historic Kyle RR Depot and Heritage Center**—Trisha Randow thanked the members of the Historical Marker committee (with Lila Knight and Faye Haskins) for their many hours spent in getting the Depot’s application for a Texas historical marker to the Texas Historical Commission (THC). She said that the Halloween and Christmas events were successful as many children attended the activities. She thanked Henry Oles for dressing as the Conductor at each event and showing children how to spell their names in Morse code and how to use a fountain pen. She also appreciated Willie and Daphne Tenorio for being Santa and Mrs. Claus and the

Lehman High School's performance of the *Polar Express* at the Christmas event. Trisha also said that the Depot is now a member of the Kyle Chamber of Commerce and should be included on their list of Things to Do in Kyle. She said that the Depot had received the funding needed to finish the interior of the caboose. Those projects include attaching the sink and toilet, and installing the overhead railing. Contractors will provide the HVAC and electrical systems. The balance of the money will be used to install a walkway from the existing platform to the caboose to allow handicapped access, a fence between the depot and the rails, a patio area in front of the caboose, and the installation of lights that were donated by Mr. Nash.

3. **Old Hays County Jail**—Kate said that she had not heard from the architects, Chris and Tracy Hutson, and would be contacting them over the holidays.
4. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jo Landon said that Richard Gomez had repaired the fence and lifted some fallen stones at the Byrd Owen-Payne Cemetery. She had provided Charlie Haydon some information about an HTC (Historic Texas Cemetery) designation and Notice of Abandoned Cemetery for the Pleasant Valley Cemetery and Gatlin Cemetery. Jo also called Robin Wilson with CG4 Management LLC about the status of the Cheatham-Hohenberg Cemetery, its surrounding property, and permission to visit and install a marker at the cemetery, but Jo had not heard from her at the time of the meeting.
5. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Marie Bassett said that three 2019 historical marker applications were sent to the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and were accepted for further review. Those included a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) for the Kyle Railroad Depot and subject markers for La Sociedad Mutualista de Cuauhtémoc and Riverhead Farm. THC had received 236 applications, of which no more than 170 would be selected to receive a marker. HCHC will be notified during the last week of January, 2019. Also, the W. T. Chapman marker was approved by the THC and was expected to be delivered to Dripping Springs soon. Marie also said that the Juan Felipe de la Portilla historical marker on Old Bastrop Highway had been knocked over and the base lifted out of the ground. Aaron Jones, Hays County Maintenance Supervisor, had it moved to the yard on Yarrington Road for safekeeping.
6. **Horticulture Committee**—Delbert Bassett said that the committee had been dormant but more visits to view plants would be planned soon.
7. **Tejano History Committee Report**—Irma Gaitán reported that there was no committee meeting in November due to Thanksgiving Holiday schedules and severe weather conditions. The Tejano History Committee worked closely with the Historical Marker Committee in submitting applications for a historical marker for the Cuauhtémoc Hall, officially La Sociedad Mutualista de Cuauhtémoc, and for the Alba Ranch. The Alba Ranch (McGregor Lane) property owner had a change of heart before the application was to be approved. The Cuauhtémoc Hall application passed the first phase of the process, then the next phase of the application would follow feedback received. The two-day Sacred Spring Powwow in November was a success. Also, Deacon Edward Rositas from Dripping Springs Catholic Church,

St. Martin de Porres, was interested in arranging classes on the indigenous language of Nahuatl, but because of the holiday season, the classes were on standby until early in 2019.

8. **Courthouse Committee Report**—Linda Coker said that the courthouse had welcomed a senior tour group from Houston and that Leadership San Marcos met in the meeting room with breakfast. Main Street San Marcos would sponsor Santa on the second Saturday in December for photos and visits with children. Linda also said that the San Marcos Library would have a Christmas puppet show. Everyone was invited to attend the swearing-in ceremony for the new Hays County Judge, Ruben Bercera, new county commissioners, and others on January 2, 2019, at the courtroom.

**Adjourn**—Delbert Bassett moved that the meeting adjourn; Gina Rogers seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m. After the meeting was adjourned, Luanne Cullen presented Kate with a handmade wooden keepsake box purchased by donations from the HCHC members and created by Alan Marburger, friend and supporter of the HCHC and Kate. This gift was in appreciation of her leadership of and generosity for HCHC’s programs.

**Program**—After lunch, Kate Johnson introduced Kathryn “Tinka” Winn Eoff, daughter of Buck Winn, and her guests Gary and Debra Zupancic. Buck Winn’s ranch, the Four Winns, near Wimberley, has recently been listed on the National Register of Historic Places at the State Level of significance.

Kate then introduced Jeff Fetzer, a preservation architect who worked for Ford, Powell & Carson for 28 years (the same architects who were involved in the restoration of the Hays County Courthouse). Mr. Fetzer has worked for Hotel Emma for more than ten years on its restoration and development.

Mr. Fetzer described the history of the Pearl Brewery from its establishment by Otto Koehler and the San Antonio Brewing Association in the 1880s to its current use as Hotel Emma. He used a slide presentation to display historic photos of the brewery and its restoration as a hotel and shopping center. His program included photos of the Pearl Corral which displayed the 280-foot mural created by Buck Winn, *The History of Ranching*.

Respectfully submitted,  
Luanne P. Cullen, HCHC Secretary  
*(photos courtesy of Luanne Cullen)*

