

HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



Thursday, April 27, 2017
The Waters Point (formally Rio Bonito)
13401 RR 12
Wimberley, Texas 78676

The April 27, 2017, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC) was called to order at 6:21 p.m. by HCHC Chairman Kate Johnson. A quorum was met as the following members attended: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Eric Beckers, Linda Coker, Luanne Cullen, Robert Frizzell, Irma Gaitan, Eddie Gumbert, Dorothy Gumbert, Kate Johnson, Richard Kidd, Jo Landon, Jo Ann Lowe, SarahAnn Lowther, Cindy Meyer, Ralph Meyer, Jerry T. Moore, Henry Oles, Marian Oles, Trisha Randow, and Ralph Randow. Four guests also attended.

1. **Announcements**—Kate Johnson thanked Cindy Meeks, owner of The Waters Point, for allowing the HCHC to meet at their facility. The county's history book, *Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges*, and the DVDs of our local history were presented to the family before the meeting. Kate also described the ongoing efforts to save Cape's Dam and its Mill Race on the San Marcos River. HCHC has participated as a consulting party for the review of alternatives to the dam's demolition. She also provided the history of the dam and related concerns about the loss of the Mill Race for disabled veterans' rehabilitation program and about the impact of the dam's removal on the effects on the endangered fountain darter and Texas wild rice. Marie Bassett offered to share her essay on Cape's Dam and Thompson's Island. Linda Coker announced that the Heritage Association of San Marcos would be presenting its Tour of Homes from May 4-7 and would include a gala event on May 4 at the Kissing Tree Development. Kate said that the next HCHC meeting would be held in Wimberley on May 25.
2. **Vote on accepting minutes from March 23, 2017**—Dorothy Gumbert moved to accept the minutes; Jerry Moore seconded the motion. Minutes were accepted.
3. **Kyle RR Depot and Heritage Museum Report**—Trisha Randow said that the Easter Event at the depot on the Saturday before Easter was a success with an estimated 250-300 people visiting the depot. She appreciated Hays CISD School Board Member Willie Tenorio for dressing as the Easter Bunny and his wife for assisting; Ralph Randow for being Train Engineer; Jim Herbert for being a Texas

Ranger; Kate Johnson, Diane Hervol, and Jo Landon for organizing people and refreshments; Kerri Jones for bringing animals for petting. Trisha also said that the maintenance work was complete. Four people have volunteered to be docents at the depot which will help during the times the depot is open. Progress was made in the restoration of the caboos by gaining permission from the Kyle Depot Board and the Kyle City Council. Approval was needed from the Hays County Commissioners Court and then a formal bid would go out. HCHC member Henry Oles would be the point person for the restoration. He, Kate, and Trisha would be meeting to identify steps needed, prepare an RFP for the county, and prepare a presentation for the Depot Committee's approval and support.

4. **Oral History Committee Report**—Richard Kidd described the results of the committee's research in asking the county's libraries and schools how many people were using the oral history materials HCHC has provided. They found that some libraries had locked up the materials and would provide them when requested by name and others had the materials locked in the research section as well as in the open "history" section. The DVDs were preferred over written interviews. The most popular DVD was about Jack C. Hays which is not an oral history but is a documentary. Some materials had only been checked out a few times in the last five years, some titles were not included in some libraries, some had not been returned, and the HCHC had not received any requests for replacements. In the schools, most of the materials had been shelved in their libraries and are not being used. The oral history committee wanted to continue creating DVDs and recommended that the next one would feature Scott Roberts who owns and runs the Salt Lick BBQ. Marian Oles suggested the Serur family and the Avee family for consideration.
5. **Horticulture Committee Report**—Delbert Bassett said that the committee continues to search for large, heritage trees especially the madrones and oaks.
6. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jo Landon reported that they have drafted a letter for the County Commissioners about the Pitts Cemetery. The letter would be forwarded to descendants to review, and H. C. Kyle would draw up the quitclaim deed. In reference to the Cheatham-Hohenberg Cemetery, she had spoken with Janice Keene (Hohenberg Family) who would pay for the Historical Subject Marker when approved and would fence the Hohenberg cemetery to be consistent with the fencing that would be set up around the Cheatham side. She had not heard from Robin Wilson, CG4Holding of Dallas, about access to the cemetery. Jo described the Cemetery Preservation Workshop that she attended. Lowell Herzog, Gravestone Conservationist, was the guest speaker and demonstrated proper ways to repair headstones. She also clarified the HTC (Historic Texas Cemetery) designation and how it impacts a landowner (records the location and boundaries in the county deed records as a historically dedicated cemetery worthy of presentation; helps preserve cemeteries by alerting present and future landowners of the presence of this important historical resource on their property; documents the cemetery's current conditions through photographs and maps, details that may be necessary for emergency management in cases such as vandalism, fire, or other natural disasters; is a prerequisite for applying for an Official Texas Historical Marker for the cemetery).

7. **Hispanic Committee Report**—Luanne Cullen reported that Ofelia Vásquez-Philo was continuing to recover and that HCHC member Irma Gaitan had offered to be co-chairman of the Hispanic Committee. Members were reminded of the Cinco de Mayo luncheon on May 5 and that the HCHC had reserved two tables for the event. A sign-up sheet was passed around for members to sign.
8. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Marie Bassett said that there is a possibility of a Cheatham Warehouse marker because it is an important landmark in the music scene and the owner, Randy Rogers, is interested. Unfortunately it has been a music destination for less than 50 years; however, the building is much older so that fact might be considered. Also the well-known artists associated with the venue are either still alive or have passed away less than ten years ago, so could not be mentioned on the marker. The THC agreed that it was a worthy candidate but they said that a similar situation in Austin was turned down because none of the significant music groups could be mentioned. The THC suggested waiting a few years, but recommended applying for a Texas Treasures Business Award. This information was provided to Randy Rogers. Marie also said that she hoped to submit the application for Antioch Cemetery when the undertold-stories application opened in the next week. Because Jo Landon had sent information and photographs for Cheatham-Hohenberg Cemetery, they can begin work on its cemetery marker. She described the Kissing Tree Development's ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 13 that she, Linda Coker, and Kate Johnson were invited to attend. The Kissing Tree Development is supportive of many of the area's historical features including the Stringtown Marker which would be arriving soon.
9. **Courthouse Committee Report**—Linda Coker said that the courthouse museum had been busy, and she thanked Luanne Cullen and Jo Landon for covering the museum during the Western Swing Day. She also said that she would need more volunteers for the Wine and Art Walk on June 9.
10. **Kissing Tree Development**—Kate said that the Al and Darlyne Lowman House (built in 1879) on Hunter Road was sold to Carmer Developers in 2007. This house is the last remaining house in the Stringtown community and is in danger of collapse. Kate was going to speak with Scott Turner about possibilities of saving the house.

Adjourn: Delbert Bassett moved that the meeting adjourn; Eddie Gumbert seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Afterward, Cindy Meeks, Waters Point owner, welcomed the HCHC members and described the property's history, buildings, recent flooding, and recovery efforts to re-establish the previous Rio Vista Resort as an event center. Members were invited to walk on the property to see the river and various structures. Supper followed.

Respectfully submitted,
Luanne P. Cullen, HCHC Secretary
(photos courtesy of Eric Beckers and Luanne Cullen)



