

HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



Thursday, December 7, 2017
Kyle Railroad Depot & Heritage Center
100 North Front Street
Kyle, Texas 78640

The December 7, 2017, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC) was called to order by Chairman Kate Johnson at 6:22 p.m. A quorum was met as the following members were present: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Eric Beckers, Luanne Cullen, Robert Frizzell, Eddie Gumbert, Dorothy Gumbert, Kate Johnson, Richard Kidd, Lila Knight, Jo Landon, Jo Ann Lowe, SarahAnn Lowther, Ralph Meyer, Jerry T. Moore, Henry Oles, Marian Oles, and Trisha Randow. Four guests also attended.

Announcements—Kate Johnson said that the January meeting would be held at the Dunbar School in San Marcos. Lila Knight described HCHC's participation in our review of the National Register nomination of Buck Winn's house and ranch in the Winn Valley in Wimberley. The State Board of Review would meet on January 20 to consider the Four Winns Ranch.

1. **Vote on accepting minutes from October 25, 2017**—Dorothy Gumbert moved to accept the minutes; Jo Landon seconded the motion. Motion passed.
2. **Historic Kyle RR Depot**—Trisha Randow reported that the Depot would not be open on Sundays but would be open on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. beginning on January 1, 2018. Jo Ann Lowe had continued to take care of the plants at the Depot. Plans for the Christmas holidays included county workers installing holiday decorations; Lehman High School Theatre performing "The Polar Express," with Jim Herbert posing for photos as Santa, on December 10; and Willie Tenorio posing as Santa, with Marie Bassett reading Christmas stories, on December 17. Trisha and Henry Oles described the caboose restoration progress including the seams that had been caulked, plans for the entrances to include handicapped access by a wood walkway from the depot platform, and the track portion to be installed.
3. **Old Hays County Jail Report**—Kate reported that Chris Hutson of Hutson Gallagher, Inc. was the only applicant who applied for the Preservation Architect RFQ. She asked the members of the Old Jail committee to remain after the meeting to complete the evaluation sheets for the Purchasing Department. The forms would be delivered to Kim LaPointe who would place it on the

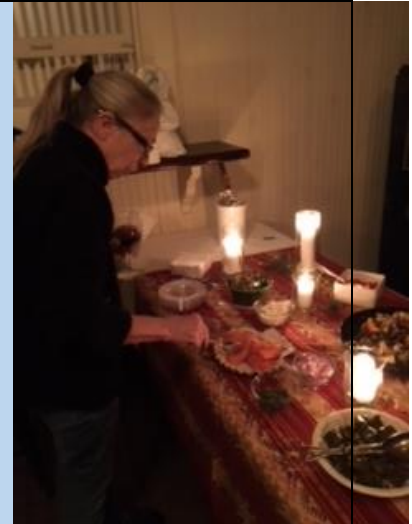
Commissioners' Court agenda. Then, hopefully in January, the committee would meet with Chris Hutson to begin developing plans.

4. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jo Landon reported that Aaron Jones with the Hays County Road and Bridge Department had installed the Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) marker (medallion with name and date plaque) at the Coronado Cemetery. Richard Gomez had cleaned the Byrd Owen-Payne Cemetery. Also, Carlyn Hammonds, Cemetery Preservation Program Specialist at THC, was working on an HTC designation for the James-Duran-Alba Cemetery that should be ready soon.
 5. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Marie Bassett said that the marker application window for 2018 had closed and that we had three applications which met all specifications including relevant fees that had been paid. Two are subject markers, Cheatham-Hohenberg Cemetery and W.T. Chapman, and the third is a name/date plaque for the Cocke Cemetery. She hoped to hear on December 8 if we had been successful in our bid for an untold-story marker for the Antioch Cemetery. The THC had informed her that the draft inscriptions for our 2017 markers, Stringtown and Kyle Family Pioneer Cemetery, should be ready for review by the end of January, 2018. Also, Cookie Hagemeyer of the Miss Lillie Dobie's House in Wimberley approached Marie about whether THC approval was needed to have foundation work on the house. Cookie had already received THC permission to install a metal roof earlier in the year and also wondered if she could apply for a THC grant for repairs to the house. Marie provided her the necessary information including that priority for 2018 grants will go to historical structures affected by Hurricane Harvey. The window for the untold-story markers runs from May 1 to June 15, 2018, and everyone needs to begin preparing for any 2019 markers soon.
 6. **Horticulture Committee**—Delbert Bassett reported that his internet research led to the discovery of letters by early Texas botanists written to Dr. George Engelmann of St. Louis, Missouri, between 1809 and 1889 and to a map of central and east Texas. He hoped that further research would uncover copies of specimen sheets sent to Engelmann for delivery to noted herbaria. The specimen sheets would have the locations where plants were obtained and those location descriptions might provide enough information for locating those sites today. He was interested in seeing plant communities that had survived and thrived in the same spots through Texas weather for over 200 years.
 7. **Hispanic History Committee Report**—no report was provided.
 8. **Courthouse Committee Report**—no report was provided.
- Adjourn**—Marie Bassett moved that the meeting adjourn; Delbert Bassett seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The evening ended with members playing with the snow and taking photos of the wonderland that developed before their eyes.

Respectfully submitted,

Luanne P. Cullen, HCHC Secretary

[photos courtesy of Lori Beckers (headline photo), Eric Beckers, and Luanne Cullen]



Merry Christmas and
a Happy 2018!

