

HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



Thursday, February 25, 2016
Stonehouse Villa
15110 RM 150
Driftwood, Texas 78619

The February 25, 2016, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC) was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson. A quorum was met as the following members were in attendance: Diana Baker, Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Eric Beckers, Linda Coker, Jim Cullen, Luanne Cullen, Robert Frizzell, Irma Gaitan, Eddie Gumbert, Dorothy Gumbert, Shelley Henry, Carmen Imel, Melody Jaramio, Kate Johnson, Richard Kidd, Jo Landon, SarahAnn Lowther, Jerry Moore, Ofelia Vásquez-Philo, and Charlie Willis. Two guests also attended.

Announcements—Kate Johnson announced that the next HCHC meeting would be held on March 24, 2016, in San Marcos. She said that Betty Harrison would be having a presentation of her book, *Images of America: Kyle*, in Manchaca on Saturday, March 5 and needed a couple of volunteers to help sell the books. She presented the hosts for the evening, Beth, Chris, and George Beach, a copy of *Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges* and seven HCHC documentaries. Then they described the building's construction and uses throughout its years of service—a Masonic Lodge, storage facility, home, design studio and shop, and currently an event center. Kate said that HCHC member Ofelia Vásquez-Philo was to be recognized and honored by the Phi Kappa Phi honor society of Texas State University on Friday, February 26, and encouraged all members to attend if possible. She also said that there would be a Geoaerchology Class in Kingsland, Texas on March 19-20 which would explore how geological and soil formation processes affect archeological sites and how investigators use this information to reconstruct both the human and natural histories of the area. Kate mentioned the Orientation Training for CHC members that would be held at various locations throughout the state, and she said to see her for registration information. Eric Beckers was recognized for his upcoming retirement from Texas A&M Forest Service on February 29. His knowledge of native plants would certainly be put to use.

1. **Vote on accepting minutes from January 28, 2016**—Delbert Bassett moved to accept the minutes; Marie Bassett seconded the motion. Motion passed.
2. **Historic Kyle RR Depot**—Kate said that the Depot committee sign-up would be postponed until the city of Kyle signs the “User Agreement” hopefully by the end of March. She would then provide a description of the committee for those who would be interested in volunteering.
3. **Buck Winn Murals**—Kate reported that we had raised \$75,000 for the restoration of the Buck Winn Murals. She was working on the RFP and would send that to the County Purchasing Office for final editing and distribution to prospective companies around the nation. Also bids would be sent out on the website.
4. **History of Ranching Documentary**—Richard Kidd said that this is the second documentary about Buck Winn’s work and will concentrate on the story of the History of Ranching mural that was completed in 1950. It will be restored and all of its parts will be displayed in Hays County.
5. **United Daughters of the Confederacy Marker**—Kate said that Texas State University would like to have the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) marker (designating the Jefferson Davis National Highway) moved from their grounds to another location. Kate had contacted the UDC for a map of the route of the Jefferson Davis National Highway which would help in relocating the marker on the correct route and in Hays County.
6. **Memorial Day Flood Documentary**—Diana Baker reported that the documentary was progressing but more people were needed to tell their stories.
7. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jo Landon reported that Paige Lambert from the *Hays Free Press* ran an article February 10 on Crispin Lyman's Eagle Scout project at the Antioch Cemetery. Paige also interviewed Jo, Minnie Nelson, and Winnie Moyer and collected pictures of their ancestors in reference to the Historic Texas Cemetery Designation. Jo and Charlie Willis measured the Cheatham-Hohenberg Cemetery and took pictures for the HTC Application. She said that she is researching the Hohenberg family for the application and that the Cheatham research is complete.
8. **Flowers, Shrubs & Trees Report**—Delbert Bassett reported that the Kyle Gardeners were preparing to plant flowers around the Kyle Depot but were needing for the water lines to be connected. On March 1-2, workers would be helping to support and stabilize the Auction Oak in Kyle (remove branches, add props, etc.)
9. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Marie Bassett reported that all our historical marker applications for 2016 have been accepted by THC, and all invoices have been paid. Updates included:
 - Coronado Cemetery (HTC) — name and date marker only. Funded by Commissioner Mark Jones (\$650) and Roy Hector (\$100 from \$200 unsolicited donation to the Cemetery Fund after Jo Landon and her committee cleaned up the Hector Cemetery.)
 - Kyle Family Pioneer Cemetery (HTC) — donations so far received from Commissioner Ray Whisenant (\$850), Jack and Betty Harrison (\$100), and Winton Porterfield, former Cemetery Chairman who was heavily involved in

the restoration of the cemetery and was told of the marker by Kyev Tatum (\$250). Thanks to a fortuitous posting on Linda Coker's FaceBook by Kyev Tatum (who was involved in renovation of the cemetery and the building of the gate) that he was in San Marcos for Black History month, Linda suggested to him the NAACP might like to donate towards the marker. Mr. Tatum sent out a call to raise \$1000. There was enough money in the Cemetery Fund to make up the difference. Any money coming from the NAACP will replenish the Cemetery Fund.

- Miss Lillie Dobie's House (RTHL)--funding was sent to THC immediately by the applicant. Plans are already underway for the dedication ceremony, with Jerry Moore as liaison for HCHC and Wimberley Valley Habitat for Humanity. Jerry indicated that the dedication will happen after completion of conversion of the house into a boutique as part of Wimberley's Community Thrift Shop.
- Wimberley-Hughes House (RTHL) — funding was sent recently by Wimberley Institute of Cultures.

Marie also said that there are approximately 200 markers on the 2016 list. They are being considered in the order that the payment was received, so we should expect to receive the synopsis of the Miss Lillie Dobie's House first. She also encouraged members to let her know of anyone wanting to apply for a 2017 marker. The application details will be posted on THC on July 1, 2016. The Undertold Markers application window is May 1 - June 15. Money to fund these comes from the non-refundable application fees charged for historical markers.

10. **Hispanic Committee Report**—Ofelia Vásquez-Philo reported that the NASA partnership with Texas State and the Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos will provide computers for the Little Engineers program this summer. San Marcos CISD will also be providing teachers for the program. She said that the roof of the Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos needs to be replaced, and the San Marcos CISD had asked for the Centro to pay for utilities including water, gas, electricity, and trash pickup. She encouraged all HCHC members to attend the annual membership meeting on March 9.
11. **Courthouse Committee Report**—Linda Coker said that she attended the Preservation Texas Summit the previous week and learned of a list of smaller grants that might be used for projects like the Woods Fountain. Woods family wanted to move fountain to cemetery. The Museum had received a lot of calls for information. The courthouse would be included in the annual Texas Travel Counselors Conference co-sponsored by the Texas Department of Transportation-Travel Information Division hosted by the San Marcos Convention and Visitors Bureau. Downtown has been split into three - LBJ Museum, Hays County Courthouse/museum and arts/murals. The Western Swing Festival will be held April 1st-3rd with bands playing on three stages. The museum will be open, and our meeting room will be the green room for the bands. We will have an ad in this year's *Guide to Everything San Marcos* with a great photo of the Courthouse. Lori Wiggins, from our Human Resources Department, would be setting a date to meet with those who work in the courthouse along with the Constable's office to

discuss security for the building. Facebook is doing well as we have 662 “likes.” The historic home picture she posted the week before reached over 2000 people.

12. **Community announcements:** Diana Baker said that historic houses in San Marcos were being torn down. She asked HCHC members to let her know of any houses they knew of that were in danger of being demolished.

Adjourn: Jerry Moore moved that the meeting adjourn; Dorothy Gumbert seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m. Supper followed.

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

