

HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



Thursday, April 28, 2016
Rocky River Ranch
100 Flite Acres Road
Wimberley, Texas 78676

The April 28, 2016, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC) was called to order at 6:17 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson. A quorum was met as the following members were present: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Linda Coker, Jim Cullen, Luanne Cullen, Robert Frizzell, Irma Gaitan, Eddie Gumbert, Dorothy Gumbert, Shelley Henry, Carmen Imel, Kate Johnson, Richard Kidd, Jo Landon, SarahAnn Lowther, Trisha Randow, Ralph Randow, Ofelia Vásquez-Philo, and Charlie Willis. Also, four guests attended.

Announcements—Kate Johnson reminded members that the HCHC had bought 16 tickets to the Cinco de Mayo Luncheon on May 5 at the Cuauhtemoc Hall in San Marcos to support the activities and upkeep of the Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos. Those interested were asked to sign up for a ticket. She also provided updates on the Jefferson Davis Highway marker on the Texas State University campus which had been defaced with spray paint. TxDOT will be investigating the vandalism and will prosecute the guilty parties. The university will be moving the marker to another location. Kate also reminded members of the two conferences that were being offered, one on May 26 in Lubbock and the other on June 13-15 in Austin and asked members to sign up for participation. Ralph and Trisha Randow related their experiences at the THC-sponsored orientation for members of County Historical Commissions in Rockport.

1. **Vote on accepting minutes from March 24, 2016**—Ralph Randow moved to accept the minutes; Eddie Gumbert seconded the motion. Motion passed.
2. **Historic Kyle RR Depot**—Kate reported that the Kyle City Council had passed the User Agreement and was waiting for Mayor Todd Webster to sign the agreement. Then Mark Kennedy would read it and finally Judge Bert Cobb would sign it. A sign-up sheet was offered for those HCHC members who were interested in being on the new Kyle Depot committee. Richard Kidd described the tour of the depot by 100 third-grade students and teachers from Kyle Elementary.
3. **History of Ranching Documentary**—Richard Kidd said that they have started shooting interviews for the documentary and about half of them are complete.

4. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jo Landon said that committee members cleaned the very overgrown Byrd-Owen-Payne Cemetery on April 10 and the Perry Cemetery on April 16. At the Antioch Cemetery, Eagle Scout Crispin Lyman and friends had cleaned and planted trees.
5. **Flowers, Shrubs & Trees Report**—Delbert Bassett said that the county had been contacted to pick up the debris from the clean-up at the Perry Cemetery. Marie Bassett said that the huge Pound House Oak Tree in Dripping Springs had been hit by lightning during the recent storms and the extent of the damage needed to be evaluated.
6. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Marie Bassett reported that because she had heard nothing on the amended inscriptions for the Wimberley-Hughes and Miss Lillie Dobie House markers which she submitted in March, she sent a query to THC on their status on March 25. Sarah McCleskey then asked that she resend them to her but Marie had no response as of meeting time. Also, Arro Smith, technical services manager at the San Marcos, library enquired about the missing Watkins Elm Marker. The elm was removed in 1973 when ground was broken for Safeway (now HEB) and replaced with an oak. The marker was reported missing in 2009. He also asked about the Eddie Durham marker. Mr. Smith said he has had no communication from the HCHC for two decades concerning historical markers. He wants all paperwork on each for the library files. Marie checked with Sarah McCleskey at THC who said their policy is “complete transparency” and she would be happy to send Mr. Smith all files he wants. The Calhoun Ranch marker should soon be shipped by the foundry. A question arose as to who pays for erecting markers, and THC informed Marie that if an individual or a county historical commission orders a marker, it is up to the individual or the CHC to erect it. If the marker is on a TXDOT right of way, TXDOT erects it.
7. **Hispanic Committee Report**—Ofelia Vásquez-Philo encouraged the members to attend the Cinco de Mayo luncheon on May 5 where they could purchase raffle tickets for a cruise, bid on silent auction items, eat chicken fajitas for lunch, watch dancers and musicians, and more. All funds would be used to make repairs to the Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos and to support the center’s activities.
8. **Courthouse Committee Report**—Linda Coker said that the courthouse had hosted 123 touring adults as well as four buses of fourth-grade students for Texas History Day. Brochures about El Camino Real had been received from THC and questions had been received about indigent graves in San Marcos. The *Wine and Art Walk* would be held on April 29 at the courthouse and city square, and members who volunteered to help would receive tickets for the *Walk* and for the Heritage Association’s *Tour of Homes*.
9. **Community Announcements**—Linda Coker provided an update on the proposed development at the location of the Lamar School in the historic district of San Marcos. The Planning and Zoning Commission denied the zoning change request so the developer pulled the project. Shelley Henry described the various “green” homes that would be on the Heritage Association’s *Tour of Homes* in San Marcos on April 30 and May 1.

Adjourn—Eddie Gumbert moved that the meeting adjourn; Marie Bassett seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

After the meeting, Mary Anderson and Rue Hatfield, co-owners of the Rocky River Ranch, provided a history of the camp and the adjoining Corral Theater. Supper was served afterward.

Respectfully submitted
Luanne P. Cullen, HCHC Secretary
(photos provided by Jim Cullen)

