

HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



June 21, 2019
John & Sidney Jones
13900 FM 150 West
Driftwood, Texas 78619

The June 21, 2019, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC) was called to order at 6:29 p.m. by Vice-Chairman Linda Coker. A quorum was met as the following members were present: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Eric Beckers, Gary Bryson, Eric Casillas, Linda Coker, Luanne Cullen, Cindy Daugherty, Robert Frizzell, Irma Gaitán, Dorothy Gumbert, Eddie Gumbert, Faye Haskins, Quincy Kennedy, Richard Kidd, Jo Landon, Jo Ann Lowe, Cindy Meyer, Ralph Meyer, Henry Oles, Marian Oles, Trisha Randow, and Gina Rogers. Four guests also attended.

Linda introduced John and Sidney Jones and thanked them for hosting the meeting. She presented them with the eight HCHC documentaries of Hays County histories, the book "Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges," as well as items from the Kyle Railroad and Depot Heritage Center.

Vote on accepting minutes from May 24, 2019—Jo Ann Lowe moved to accept the minutes; Ralph Meyer seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

1. **Historic Kyle RR Depot & Heritage Center Committee**—Trisha Randow said that the second "For the Love of Go's Walk/Run MeetUp" was scheduled for July 6. This activity encourages exercise and good nutrition and begins and ends at the Depot. The Kyle Library would be sponsoring a mystery game at the Depot on July 19, and Carrie Casillas would be bringing a group of seniors from Brookdale Senior Living on July 17. Most of the work on the caboose had been completed and included fencing, deck, and painting. Other projects to be completed included HVAC, wrought iron railing, steps, and signage.

2. **Old Hays County Jail Committee Cemetery Committee**—Linda Coker reported for Kate Johnson that an RFQ for Museum Specialists had been written and submitted to the County and should be posted on the County’s website. Completed applications should be available at the beginning of August and would be discussed by the committee to determine the best candidate.
3. **Cemetery Committee**—Jo Landon said that the Hector Cemetery would be maintained by the City of San Marcos and that the marker for the Antioch Cemetery was on hold because the Southwell Foundry had gone out of business.
4. **Historical Markers Committee**—Marie Bassett said that the Undertold Marker window had closed and that two applications had been submitted through HCHC—the William B. Travis Survey from Casey Cutler and the Alba Ranch from Gina Rogers. The committee had discussed the Kyle Family Pioneer Cemetery marker dedication and thought the date could coincide with the Claiborne-Kyle Log House fried chicken dinner on September 28. They also discussed the proposed marker book and the need for more bids from printers. All markers from THC have been delayed because the Southwell Foundry in San Antonio had gone out of business.
5. **Horticulture Committee**—Delbert Bassett said that a field trip might be held during the summer to examine a 250-year-old oak tree with a 58-60 inch diameter. The oak is situated east-southeast of Kyle on the I-35 north-bound access road.
6. **Tejano History Committee**—Irma Gaitán said that Gina Rogers had applied for an Undertold Historical Marker for the former Alba Ranch. If the application is not approved, Gina plans to apply for a Subject Marker in the fall.

Also, as an update on the resolution to designate San Marcos as the “Mermaid Capital of Texas,” the State Senate Concurrent Resolution 63 (SCR 63) sponsored by Texas State Senator Judith Zaffirini was approved at an Administration Committee Hearing on May 21 before the Senate adopted it on May 22. SCR 63 was received in the House of Representatives on May 23. Sine Die did not allow the legislative process to be completed. HCHC and Tejano History Committee member July Moreno is the creative force behind the creation of the Mermaid Society which has led to the events to name San Marcos as the “Mermaid Capital of Texas.”

Irma said that she will be volunteering at the annual Indigenous Cultures Institute’s Summer Day Camp to be held at the Cuauhtémoc Hall on June 24-28.

7. **Courthouse Committee**—Linda Coker said that the committee met on June 15 to organize materials that have been stored in the HCHC's courthouse office. On Saturday, June 23, a "wake" would be held for the old telephone building that had been demolished in San Marcos.
8. **Oral History Committee**—Luanne Cullen said that Kate had discussed the purchase order needed to order the video equipment with the County Auditor's Office. Luanne had visited Precision Camera in Austin (an approved vendor the county) and received quotes on two cameras, a tripod a microphone, and memory card. Gina Rogers said that she had interviewed her uncle, Santos Alba, to get information she used in her research for the Alba Ranch narrative that was sent to the Historical Marker committee.
9. **Certified Local Government (CLG)**—no report was given.
10. **Cape's Dam and Engineering Structure Project**—Linda Coker read the report that Kate had sent about the Cape's Dam. The HCHC had volunteered \$5,187.50 to assist in creating a conceptual master plan for the Cape's Dam Preservation. Vista Planning and Design, headed by E. Mitchell Wright, a landscape architect and designer, had entered into the professional services agreement with Hays County, specifically with the HCHC. A presentation with all information and projected images was to be brought before the San Marcos City Council during the summer.

Announcements—Robert Frizzell shared the book by William Moore, *Texas Calaboose and Other Forgotten Jails*. Marie Bassett described the program that she and other HCHC members had attended in New Braunfels about El Camino Real. Gina Rogers said that she and Marie had attended Ed Crowell's presentation on his new book, *Barton Creek*, at the Dripping Springs Community Library.

Adjournment—Jo Landon moved that the meeting adjourn; Delbert Bassett seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Program--John T. Jones spoke about his house being constructed of cement (still in progress) and displayed photos of its construction. The cement house is tornado proof, uses geothermal wells, has constant air temperature, includes European windows, and will be covered with a type of stucco on the exterior surfaces. He also led the members to the 1880 stone house located down the hill from the cement house.

After the program, supper was served.

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

