

## Hays County Historical Commission

### Minutes of September 28, 2023

The meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission was held September 24, 2028 at the Hays County Courthouse, Room 101, San Marcos, Texas. Linda Coker, chair, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. (CST).

#### Roll Call

A quorum was present at roll call.

Present: Cynthia Allison, Frank Arredondo, Alex Banbury, Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Linda Coker, Anita Collins, Nico Costilla, Anthony Davis, Robert Frizzell, Jeremy Garrett, Faye Haskins, Jim Herbert, Lila Knight, Jo Landon, Cindy Meyer, Ralph Meyer, Ryan Patrick Perkins, Sally Ramirez, Rosina Valle

Absent: Johnny Flores, Hoot Gibson, Robert Rizo, Kate Johnson (ex-officio)

Citizens Present: Joe Ramirez

#### Citizens Comments

There were no public comments from citizens.

#### Announcements

Chair Linda Coker called for a moment of silence in honor of Dr. Elvin Holt, a former member of the HCHC, and advocate for African American history through his participation as a board member for the Calaboose African American History Museum and his independent research. Dr. Holt will be missed by all.

The Chair reported several members attended the Preservation Texas Regional Preservation Summit.

Forthcoming events include:

October 21 - Eddie Durham Jazz Festival at Eddie Durham Park in San Marcos (11-5)

October 21 - Annual Gala of Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos, to be located at Texas State

October 21 - Hays County Crimestoppers

Nov. 2 - San Pedro cemetery clean-up

Nov 17 - Courthouse Christmas Lighting

Knight announced that monthly “Kyle History Talks” were taking place at the Kyle Public Library and asked if the members of the HCHC would like to be added to the email list. All were in favor.

Coker encouraged everyone to go to the Texas Historical Commission website and sign up for their email updates. There is a pop-up on their home page.

The 2024 THC Annual Conference will be held in April next year. The last few years, when it was in late January or early February, icy conditions have been a problem. Coker encouraged everyone to consider attending the conference in Austin. Let her know ASAP if you plan to attend.

There will be no meeting in November due to Thanksgiving. Delbert Basset suggested moving the meetings to different places in the county. He also suggested that meetings at the Courthouse be held a bit later due to the traffic.

Chair Coker announced Alex Banbury as the new chair of the African American Committee.

### Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes postponed as the secretary failed to attach them to the meeting notice.

### Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Allison postponed the report as the end of the year reports from the county are not yet completed and the budget approval for Fy 2023-2024 was completed just a few days ago.

### Committee Reports

#### Historical Marker Committee

Committee Chair Jeremy Garrett reported that the Marker Committee met in person. Hoot and Robert Rizo volunteered to begin refurbishing markers that have faded. Please inform Jeremy if you notice any markers needing work. The committee continues to work via email regarding the approval of inscriptions from THC, and they have been very receptive to incorporating our suggestions and edits.

The Undertold Marker application window will be open from Oct 1st through Nov 15th. Several sponsors have contacted him about prospective marker topics. Sponsors of Undertold markers may submit either to the HCHC or directly to THC.

The San Marcos-Blanco Community Cemetery will be receiving a replacement marker in 2024 due to errors found within the original inscription. The marker, located within the fenced boundaries, was destroyed by a car this year. HCHC can receive one free replacement marker each year if errors are found (and documented) in the inscription.

Committee Chair Garrett gave an update on the many markers currently in process:

- (1) Completed the inscription edits for the Max E. Schiwitz Homestead which will now go to the foundry.
- (2) The second draft of the marker inscription edits of the following are still in the works: San Vincente Cemetery, 106 Nance St in Kyle, and the Danforth-Kerbow House.

Interest has been expressed for a RTHL marker for the Sites Ranch. Rosina reported there is a historic photograph of the ranch in the Courthouse Museum. Coker said a speaker at the PT Regional Summit reported several mistakes in markers in Dunbar. She has spoken with the City of San Marcos (the owners of the markers) who will be sponsors for their correction and replacement. Marie received a call regarding a marker at a crossing on William Cannon in Austin, she redirected them to the Travis County Historical Commission.

#### Cemetery Committee

Committee Chair Jo Landon reported the Cemetery Committee met this month and are moving forward with finalizing the HTC designation for the Skyview Cemetery and working on a cemetery exhibit for the Courthouse Museum.

The paper work for the Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) Designation of the Allen-Good Cemetery is complete. A marker will now be pursued for the cemetery.

Work at the Byrd Owen-Payne Cemetery included a tree removal, repair of a broken gravestone and mowing.

Committee Chair Landon thanked Marie and Anthony for adding biographies to the HCHC website for the San Marcos-Blanco Community Cemetery and the Wallace Mountain Cemetery.

A requests was received for help in moving a pillar back at the San Pedro Cemetery They were referred to the Hays County Road Department for assistance. We also received a request for maintenance assistance at the Hector Family Cemetery. Landon contacted Jerry Borcharding (Hays County Road Dept.) with a request to see if it could be added to the 2024 budget.

Chair Coker informed everyone that Winton Porterfield, former Cemetery Committee Chair, had the County Environmental Department do a map of all the cemeteries, but its needs to be updated. She also mentioned that Michelle Bursleson has agreed to be the contact person for the San Marcos-Bursleson Cemetery Association. The gate is broken and the fence has fallen in some areas. It is rumored that homeless people may be residing in the cemetery. Committee Chair Landon added that the fence is being affected by the extreme heat. She also added that the road to Cemeterio del Rio has been gated and locked by an adjacent property owner. The County has since cut the lock off, providing access again.

### CLG Committee

Committee Chair Lila Knight reported on the CLG Committee held September 6th.

We were saddened by the resignation of Echo Uribe from the HCHC. As a member of the CLG Committee, she had stellar credentials and gave significant input into our work. Jeremy Garrett, the next person on our waiting list (the committee is limited to 5 people) has submitted his resume to THC (accepted) and is completing the THC Preservation Boot Camp.

The committee submitted written comments on the Wimberley Downtown Square National Register nomination as required per THC CLG requirements. We are continuing to monitor potentially threatened properties and to insure that SAL permits are properly filed.

The members also thoroughly discussed and approved a CLG grant proposal to THC (must receive final approval by Commissions Court). The grant will be for a multi-phase historic resources survey of the rural resources of Hays County. The initial phase will be a Survey Plan, followed by a rural survey of all unincorporated areas, in addition to ETJs of the five cities with historic preservation ordinances and smaller towns (Uhland, Niederwald, Driftwood). Thanks to Linda Coker for submitting a budget that will allow us to provide the required local match for this grant. It has been many years since such funding was available. Additional thanks to the Commissioners Court for continuing to support our efforts in preserving the history of Hays County.

### Information Technology and Social Media Report

Anthony Davis reported on the metrics of the HCHC website (2,893 visits), the Facebook page and the You Tube channel.

The recently established HCHC You Tube channel now has oral histories from a monthly presentation on Kyle History by Preservation Associates. There was a long discussion of whether we should include the raw footage or wait until these are edited. It was decided to post both.

Alex Banbury asked if every committee has its own Facebook page. Anthony replied that any committee can establish their own or share posts on the HCHC page. The website also has information for each of the committees and any content should be sent to him to upload.

#### African American Committee

There was no report. But the now appointed chair (as of tonight), Alex Banbury, stated he was excited to get started with the committee. He is open to any ideas. He has also recently been appointed back to the Board of the Calaboose African American Committee.

#### Hispanic Committee

Committee Chair Frank Arredondo read the minutes from the September 28th committee meeting. Members of the committee participated in the Hispanic Heritage Exhibition Walk, sponsored by LULAC 654 and Centro. Members also were invited to attend the presentation of a Proclamation at Commissioners Court, sponsored by CITC and LULAC 654.

The Hispanic Committee and the Courthouse Committee are holding discussions on an Hispanic exhibit and working on securing space, length of displays, contributions of oral histories and other protocols.

#### Kyle Depot Committee

Committee Chair Hoot Gibson reported a steady stream of visitors this past month with several small groups every Saturday.

The Depot Committee met to discuss and plan for the upcoming holiday and Kyle City events. The first is Founders Day on the 14th of October. We hope to serve refreshments and bring the story of Kyle to as many visitors as we can. We will have a Halloween event at the end of October and will be handing out treats to all the little Goblins, Super Heroes, Princesses and other characters who visit. Following Halloween, we will begin our fall decorations for November. In addition, November 11th is Veterans' Day. After Thanksgiving we will decorate the Depot with the holiday theme for Christmas with trees, lights and other decorations. This is our busiest time of year and I think we are all looking forward to decorating and having Santa make his annual visit the Depot.

Thank you to my Committee and Docents for your efforts and commitment to this wonderful Depot, our community and all our visitors.

### Courthouse Committee

Committee Chair Rosina Valle reported the committee met earlier before the meeting and toured the exhibits. There are currently fourteen topic areas (which she listed). The committee will revisit the exhibits to be more inclusive of Hispanic and African American history. We also need to promote the existing museums at Centro and the Calaboose. There are currently three display cases in the atrium devoted to the Calaboose African American History Museum, Hispanic history, and Hays County veterans (this case is not under the control of the Courthouse Committee).

The museum will reopen on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. But we will need more volunteers than what is currently on the Courthouse Committee. Rosina asked for people to contact her if they would like to volunteer.

A larger table has been provided for the Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) altar in the atrium of the Courthouse due to its popularity last year.

Jo Landon asked if the update of exhibits would include the cemeteries. Rosina said she would make a note of that.

### Historic Jail Restoration Committee

There was no report. The chair, Knight, has been working with the auditor's office and general counsel to resolve a couple of issues with the last architect on the project.

Marie and Delbert Bassett gave a report on what they learned at the recent Save Texas History seminar. Ryan Patrick Perkins announced that the San Marcos City Council passed (1st reading) an update on the criteria for local designation. The criteria now includes 21 areas (rather than just six) and includes a cultural designation.

Anita Collins moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Hoot Gibson. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. (CST).

Submitted by Lila Knight, Secretary