

## HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

**Thursday, December 6, 2012**  
**Jack William's House**  
**2601 River Road, Wimberley, Texas 78676**



The December 6, 2012, meeting of the Hays County Historical commission was called to order at 6:30 by Chairman Kate Johnson. The meeting was also attended by HCHC members Jim Cullen, Bonnie Eissler, Clemmie New, Marie Bassett, Luanne Cullen, Mary Giberson, Dorothy Gumbert, Ofelia Vasquez-Philo, Linda Coker, Robert Frizzell, Shelley Henry, Jeff Jordan, Celeste Zygmunt, Madeline Van Brunt, and Richard Kidd as well as nine guests. A quorum was met for the meeting.

1. Announcements—Kate Johnson announced that the next meeting would be held at 6:00 p.m. on January 24, 2013, at the Courthouse Theater.  
She also announced that the State Board of Review will be reviewing our nomination for the Dripping Springs Downtown Historic District at a meeting at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center beginning at 8:30 a.m. She encouraged members to attend the meeting.
2. HCHC Applications—Kate reminded members that applications for the Hays County Historical Commission are due December 21. Applications could be submitted in several ways including turning them in at the meeting, mailing them to Judge Bert Cobb, or dropping them off at the Judge's office.
3. Vote on accepting minutes from October 23, 2012—Linda Coker moved to accept the minutes from the October 23 meeting and Shelley Henry seconded the motion. The motion passed.
4. Treasurer's Report—There was no report available for this meeting.
5. Courthouse Museum Report—Linda Coker reported that last Saturday was very busy due to the Farmers Market which brings in people including several who had requests for research. Linda and Kate met with Dr. Denton from TxState who said that her class next semester will be assisting with displays, research, etc. at the museum. Linda also said that the First Saturdays will be including an Art Festival; that she will be meeting with Impact newspaper to have story about the museum; and that she needs volunteers to tend the museum from 10-2:00. She concluded by saying that the Courthouse tree lighting was very nice and that the event brought a number of visitors to the museum.

6. Kuykendall Documentary—Richard Kidd reported that editing is proceeding. Recreation scenes have been completed, and the completion date is March. Kate added information about a \$15,000 grant that we have applied for from the Dallas-based Summerlee Foundation who provide grants to Historical Societies and Museums under the Texas History category. An upcoming conference call will be held to discuss the grant.
7. Historical Marker Committee Report—Betty Harrison reported that all ideas for marker applications were met with frustration and none were submitted. The one for Wallace Mountain is in progress as well as the two historic bridges. She was pleased to announce that the Southside School (Bonham) dedication marker was received and the marker ceremony will be held in February before Spring Break. We are also waiting for markers on H. C. Kyle's house in San Marcos, the Stagecoach House in Buda, and El Cementerio del Rio.
8. Cemetery Committee Report—Jim Cullen reported that there is one student who is working on his Eagle Scout award and that the committee is working with him to find a cemetery for the project.
9. Kyle Depot—Kate said that the Kyle Depot is in the second phase of construction. Rotted wood has been replaced with longleaf pine. A new freight door is being added and the existing freight door is being restored. Windows will be rebuilt and bars installed. George Wilcox said that the second phase will be finished at the end of January. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase, our application for the TxDOT's Enhancement Funds has been submitted and will provide up to 80% of the total cost. The Kyle Depot Board will come up with 20%.
10. Burleson Monument at Spring Lake—Kate said that last May, Jesse Graham, a member of the Moon-McGehee Chapter of DRT, contacted her about the 1932 Burleson Marker which is located on the TxState property on Spring Lake and was erected by the founding members in 1932. They asked Kate for guidance in making this marker visible and accessible to the public, such as taking out the tram station, clearing the trail system, and restoring the 1848 Burleson cabin (which burned a couple of years ago). The Centennial marker is also located on this trail which is beside the reconstructed mission built by C.W. Wimberley in 1965. Recently, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by TxState, Hays County, the City of San Marcos, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and Texas State University to protect and interpret the natural and cultural resources found in and around Spring Lake and the San Marcos River. The Burleson family will help us in restoring the cabin. Kate also shared the book from 1936 that shows all of the markers from that time.
11. Old Hays County Jail Report – Emily Little and George Wilcox presented the Design Development Drawings for Phase 2 of the Old Hays County Jail Restoration Project. If the plans are approved, they will be given to the state. Scope of work includes the windows (restored but mostly rebuilt) which will include iron bars, two exterior doors (which will replicate the existing door), and the front porch (which will be rebuilt). In the stabilization phase, most of the material was saved. On the drawings, the cover page includes a lot of technical information; the site plan shows the porch roof and improvements made during the stabilization phase. Plans show limestone steps, etc. The exterior drawings shows awning, decoration. Sparks engineering has looked at the existing settling of walls, etc. but none was noted. Emily Little said that a motion

to accept the scope of work should be made now and the final details can be added later. Jeff Jordan moved to approve the plans and Mary Giberson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by the commission members.

Kate said that several experts in the field, including Dr. Denton, thought it would be best if the Old Jail was not made into a children's museum but is kept as a jail. Peter Block said that we need to go with the building and associated history (such as guns, Bonnie and Clyde, etc.) Dr. Denton said that exhibits could piggyback by having costumes of the period, etc. and could focus on the sheriffs of Hays County, sheriff's cars, etc. Another building could be added in the back with law enforcement museum, community room, or other. Traveling exhibits could be included.

Emily Little also wanted to set the stage for what the HCHC could create at the site. Her drawing showed the carport, the Calaboose Museum, and the road between them which would allow the driveway to be shared and create parking. We could add a simple restroom building behind the building as well as an outdoor tent or cover. Kate suggested having a Law Enforcement Academy cadet stay there and speak about law enforcement. Emily said that the facility will need ongoing funds to operate so possibly a shop could be included which would pay rent to the jailhouse.

12. Kyle Auction Oak Report – Kate said that the Auction Oak is looking green and full. Our contract with Heritage Tree ended in November, but because Vincent Debrock has not provided one, this item will be tabled until the January 24 meeting.
13. Old Kyle Hanging Tree – Kate discussed helping the Kyle Cemetery Association take care of the Hanging Tree. There was not much foliage except at the top and had no acorns but it seems to be a very strong tree with no evidence of pests or disease. Vincent Debrock does not have the final cost at this time for pruning, watering, mulching, and soil invigoration so this item will also be tabled until the January 24 meeting.
14. Adjourn—The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Clemmie New and was seconded by Dorothy Gumbert. Meeting adjourned at 7:25.

Announcements: Kate thanked Jack Williams for letting us have the meeting at his home. Linda Coker said that on Jan. 12, Heritage Association would be present at the Education Foundation fair and will provide questions for students to ask their grandparents. She also mentioned that groundwork has been made for restoring the water fountain on the courthouse grounds, and that a plaque would be helpful in locating the building's time capsule that should be opened in 2046. Madeline Van Brunt asked for 1920s hats to use in the Kuykendall documentary.

Respectfully submitted,  
Luanne P. Cullen  
HCHC Secretary

Please see the photo collage on the following page.

