

HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



Thursday, December 11, 2014
James and Diana Baker
727 Belvin Street
San Marcos, Texas 78666

The December 11, 2014, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission was called to order by Chairman Kate Johnson at 6:21 p.m. A quorum was met as the following HCHC members were present: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Sue Cohen, Linda Coker, Jim Cullen, Luanne Cullen, Bonnie Eissler, Robert Frizzell, Betty Harrison, Shelley Henry, Carmen Imel, Kate Johnson, Jeff Jordan, Richard Kidd, Jo Landon, Ida Miller, Jerry Moore, Ofelia Vásquez-Philo, and Charlie Willis. Six guests also attended.

Announcements – Kate Johnson thanked the members who had submitted their applications to renew their HCHC appointments. The first meeting of the new commission would be at the Courthouse on January 22, 2015. Linda Coker also presented the sponsorship trophy for the Cemetery Walk to Kate Johnson from the Heritage Association of San Marcos.

1. **Vote on accepting minutes from October 17, 2014**—Delbert Bassett moved to accept the minutes; Jerry Moore seconded the motion. Motion passed.
2. **Discuss and take action on the revision of the HCHC Bylaws**—Linda Coker handed out copies of the HCHC Bylaws and proposed that Article IV be changed from “Each such officer shall serve no more than four consecutive terms” to “Each such officer shall serve no more than five consecutive terms.” Jerry Moore moved that the change be made and Jeff Jordan seconded the motion. Motion passed. Linda then proposed that Article VI be changed from “Committee Chairs shall serve no more than four consecutive terms” to “Committee Chairs shall serve no more than five consecutive terms.” Delbert Bassett moved to accept that change; Jeff Jordan seconded the motion. Motion passed.
3. **Buck Winn Murals**—Kate Johnson described the previous evening’s fundraiser at the Government Center sponsored by the Hays County Arts Committee which completed the necessary balance of \$70,000 by the end of 2014 toward the purchase of the Buck Winn murals. The murals will be installed at the

Government Center when the purchases have been finalized and the murals are restored.

4. **General Edward Burleson Documentary**—Richard Kidd reported that the script for the documentary was about one-third complete. Instead of reenactors, he has been using historical maps, artifacts, paintings, etc. Artifacts have been photographed at the Daughters of the Texas Revolution Museum at the Alamo and at the State Capitol. The original pistol is housed at the San Jacinto Monument, and an original rifle is located at the Cock House in San Marcos. An 1850 daguerreotype of General Burleson is also available for inclusion. Four “character voices” will be used for the soundtrack with Stephen F. Austin, Sam Houston, Ed Burleson, and the Narrator telling the story. The target date for completion is March 2015. Kate Johnson also said that \$25,000 had been secured to pay for costs of the production.
5. **Oral History Committee Report**—Bonnie Eissler said that the committee has a few more interviews to complete. She also announced that she would not be applying for another term on the HCHC but that she would assist in completing the projects already begun and in conducting an interview with Kate Johnson.
6. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jim Cullen described the field trip taken by the committee on October 18 to various cemeteries in southern Hays County including Pitts, Holmes, York Creek, and Bading.
7. **Ecology Committee Report**—Delbert Bassett said that Kyle Auction Oak continues to split and that engineers have been consulted for their advice on further stabilization. Also there is some evidence that there may be another more authentic Kyle auction oak. More historical research is required. Paperwork for the oak tree at Dr. Pound’s house in Dripping Springs has been submitted to the Texas Forest Service for consideration as a Historical Tree. The Burleson Oak tree still needs more documentation, and Delbert suggested that HCHC members might help locate historical references to that tree.
8. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Betty Harrison said that an application had been submitted for the Calhoun Ranch which is in Lana Larson’s family. An application by Sara McCluskey had been submitted and needs to be revised and resubmitted.
9. **Hispanic Committee Report**—Ofelia Vásquez-Philo said that, on December 20, a tamale-making event would be available at 10:00 a.m. at the Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos. Registration would be \$10, and participants would be able to take one dozen tamales. Also an opportunity to create ornaments and other Christmas crafts would be available. She mentioned that Augustin Lucio, Jr. had died and that services were pending.

10. **Courthouse Committee Report**—Linda Coker reported that the October 18 “Foodstock” had attracted large crowds to the courthouse; the November Wine and Wassail Walk was a sell out; holiday news included the Courthouse lighting on December 6 and Kate Johnson’s donations of decorations for the Government Center; HCHC would provide lunch on December 17 for the Auditor’s and Treasurer’s offices as a thank you for all of their assistance each year; the Courthouse potluck would be held on December 18 at 11:30 a.m.; a trophy had been received for the Cemetery Walk sponsorship; unused T-shirts with the Old Jail logo (Jailhouse Rock) would be donated to a service project in Haiti; and that this same evening cookies and cocoa were being served at the Courthouse. She also mentioned that Buck Winn had been featured in the August 2014 issue of *Texas Highways*.

11. **Cultural Arts Committee for Government Center**—Linda Coker also reported that the artwork at the Government Center would be displayed through January and that another call to artists would be made in order to have another display in February. She was encouraging other types of media to be included, and some consideration was being made for children’s art in May.

Adjourn: Jerry Moore moved that the meeting adjourn; Carmen Imel seconded the motion. Motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. After the meeting, Diana Baker described the history of her house and the restoration efforts that she and her husband had made to ensure its beauty and future. Supper was served, and a special birthday cake was presented to Kate Johnson.

Respectfully submitted,
 Luanne P. Cullen, HCHC Secretary
Photos courtesy of Jim Cullen

