

**Montgomery County Historical Commission  
Minutes January 7, 2013  
Greater Conroe Chamber of Commerce Building**

1. **The meeting of the Montgomery County Historical Commission was called to order** on Monday, January 7, 2013, at 5:30 p.m., by Chairman Larry Foerster.
2. **The following members** were present: Larry Foerster, Nevaire Richardson, Nancy Jackson, Gertie Spencer, Brenda Beaven, David Frame, David "Jay" Hrivnatz, Sue Ann Powell and Anna Sheppard. Others in attendance: Robin Montgomery, Mike Smith and Suzy Reece.
3. **Recognition of special guests:** Dr. Robin Montgomery, representing the upcoming **Texas Legacy Fest**, April 12-13, 2013, invited members to attend his and Roy Harris' book signing at the Chamber on January 24<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. He also announced he will have another book out about the Cradle of Texas Road before the Legacy Fest event. Also attending were Mike Smith, an expert on sawmills in Montgomery County; Harold Hutchison, Director of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Suzy Reece of the Montgomery County Genealogical Society, with the latest copies of the history of Montgomery County.
4. **There were no comments from the public.**
5. **The motion to approve the minutes of the November meeting as written** was made by Anna Sheppard and seconded by Nancy Jackson. Minutes were approved.
6. **The following Update concerning the Historical Commission** was given by Larry Foerster:
  - Recap of activities
  - Report to Commissioners' Court on January 24th
  - Tours of different locations
  - Heather Kramer is offering a tour of the second floor of the Montgomery County Library, the Genealogical Library—may have the March Historical Commission meeting at the library
  - Hold regular meetings at other Historical sites, such as Fernland, Magnolia Depot, or New Caney
  - Historical markers – accepted for review. May take several years to actually get the markers
  - Replacement of old markers
  - Gertie Spencer stated that Danville needs a marker
  - Julius Rosenwald, President of Sears, founded African American Schools. Five were in Montgomery County—Willis, Dobbin, Montgomery, Conroe and Leonidas. Will attempt to locate and preserve these if they are still standing
  - Landmark plaques for the Historical Commission
7. **The Finance Committee Guidelines Report** was given by Gertie Spencer and Anna Sheppard:
  - Petty cash needs to be set up (Larry to do). Auditor's office doesn't want checks under \$500.
  - Exception to rule on reimbursing—for example, Gertie explained that Thomas Chapel needs work done, but would be unable to pay for it in advance. They would still need three bids.
  - Harold Hutchison recommends contacting Texas Historical Commission to get a list of contractors experienced with working on historical buildings (Jay Hrivnatz will do this)
  - Commission has the right to override their reimbursement procedures—subject to right of Historical Commission to grant a variance on case-by-case basis
  - Motion to accept the Finance Committee guidelines was made by Brenda Beaven and seconded by Anna Sheppard. Motion carried
  - This information will be sent to organizations who have 501(3)c status
8. **Report from Jay Hrivnatz on establishing a Historical Preservation Committee:**
  - How to preserve and allocate funding – provide information about where to go for help in preservation on website
  - Committee structure—a representative from each area in Montgomery County to serve on the committee
  - Locate old cemeteries and preserve them
  - Encourage developing ordinances
  - No formal action taken by the Commission
9. **David Frame reported on the development and construction of a Historical Commission website:**
  - Calendar – shared county-wide (Heather Kramer will keep it up to date)
  - Slide show, maps, movie, options
  - Preservation Sites
  - 5-dropdown menus
  - Has own content management—user/owner can modify on line; don't have to pay website manager. Would require 5 – 6 people to be involved in maintenance and upkeep; can charge for advertising; have own servers
  - Will cost approximately \$4,000

- SA4i, a Houston internet development company, is the choice of the committee
- The motion was made by David Frame to contract with SA4i as the website designer, at a cost up to \$4,000, and was seconded by Jay Hrivnatz. Motion carried.
- Larry and David will present this recommendation to Commissioners' Court on January 24th, along with the Report on the activities of the Historical Commission in 2012
- Construction of the website will take about 8 weeks.
- David Frame will explore advertising
- Link every historical commission site. Link with Visitor's Bureau; promote history and generate interest in tourism

**10. Report on Youth Advisory Board** by Brenda Beaven:

- Would like to invite the students (approximately 16) to the March meeting
- Still getting names of students from schools
- Will work with Jay on historical Preservation
- Potential for helping with website
- At the March meeting at the Library, will present the structure of the Youth Advisory Committee—who will be on it; functions; input from students before finalizing structure
- Will include home schooled students as well as some from private schools in area

**11. Approved Larry Foerster's request for reimbursement of expenses:**

- Texas Historical Commission application fee for County Courthouse marker - \$100; Postage stamps - \$90
- Motion was made by Anna Shepeard to approve reimbursement of \$190 to Larry Foerster. Motion was seconded by Jay Hrivnatz. Motion carried.
- Request for reimbursement will be submitted to the County for approval

**12. Discuss goals, long range plans and special projects of the Commission:**

- Historical markers for towns in the County
- Generate more interest in historical sites and buildings; identify these locations
- Utilize website
- Recognize individuals who contributed to the building of cities in Montgomery County. Men who built Conroe. Example—Oakwood Cemetery – Annual walking tour of Oakwood Cemetery – “stimulating communities: to do something with their historical sites; stimulate pride in community

**13. Motion made by Gertie Spencer to adjourn, seconded by Anna Shepeard. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.**

Submitted by:

Sue Ann Powell, Secretary