

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Minutes 3-3-2014
Greater Conroe Chamber of Commerce

1. **The March 3, 2014 meeting of the Montgomery County Historical Commission was called to order at the Greater Conroe Chamber of Commerce Building at 5:42 p.m.** by Larry Foerster, Chairman.
2. **Members in attendance:** Larry Foerster, David “Jay” Hrivnatz, Karen Lucas, Anna Sheppard, Beverly Tucker, Betsy Powers, Joel Deretchin and Sue Ann Powell.
3. **Special guests:** Linda Pease and Luther Powell were introduced.
4. **There were no comments from the public.**
5. **The motion to accept the minutes of the January 6, 2014 meeting was made by Betsy Powers and seconded by Anna Sheppard. Motion carried.**
6. **Updates by Commission members were as follows:**
 - Larry Foerster shared the program from the funeral of Erma Lewis, Commission member, who died on February 24th.
 - The City of Conroe Proclamation from the dedication, on February 21, 2014, of the historical marker marking the Fire of 1911, was read by Larry Foerster.
 - Hopefully the Courthouse marker will arrive in time to celebrate in December.
7. **Linda Pease of the City of Huntsville gave a presentation** on local interpretative markers. She explained the importance of selecting a logo to appear on the markers and making a 20-year chart of plans for subject markers. Linda described the dedication ceremonies and brought examples of invitations and programs. Huntsville uses Southwell Co., the maker of State historical markers. She explained there are researchers for each site and primary sources are consulted. Every marker goes through a committee of 2-3 people, and then it is recommended to the Historical Commission. She stated they use the Historical Resource Survey to identify major buildings over 50 years old. Linda recommends identifying good writers to prepare the wording on the markers. Huntsville hired a person to make sure everything was right with footnotes, etc. They have an editor for each marker. People have not been charged for markers placed on their property, but if a marker is placed on a building, the owner is under obligation to keep it up. She stressed the importance of having a Preservation Ordinance. Most of the markers in Huntsville are on the site where things used to be. The cost of the markers is about the same as that of State markers, and the marker is made of aluminum. The City of Huntsville has paid for markers that identify buildings—usually budgeting the amount for one marker each year. Larry summed up the discussion of local markers by stating the purpose of the Historical Commission is to preserve and promote historical sites and structures having importance county-wide.
8. **Recap of History Road Rally:** This year there were 12 teams representing three counties. Next year’s rally will be in Conroe and will likely be much larger. Larry, Jay, Sue Ann and Betsy commented on this year’s Rally.
9. **Update on book sales of “Montgomery County Historical Timeline”:** Larry has scheduled “Signing Sales” at various areas around the County. He has received the hardbound copies of the book and 18 will be distributed to all the libraries in the County. They will be given to Heather Kramer at the main library and she will distribute them. These will sell for \$35; our cost is \$23.
10. **Conroe KIDZ FEST History Village** will be April 26th.
11. **Update on the status of the Commission website:** Larry explained that the challenge is getting FACEBOOK going and adding timely updates.
12. **Update on Youth Advisory Board:** It is time to start recruiting Juniors and Seniors in order to have continuity. The outgoing Seniors have been asked to start promoting this at their schools.
13. **Consider requests for reimbursement from Commission budgeted funds:** We will be looking at requests from county-wide 501c(3) entities in May or July.
14. **The next meeting of the Historical Commission will be May 5, 2014.** Janet Wagner of the Harris County Historical Commission will make a presentation.
15. **By consensus, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.**

Submitted by:

Sue Ann Powell, Secretary