

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Minutes 11-3-2014

Greater Conroe Chamber of Commerce

1. **The November 3, 2014 meeting of the Montgomery County Historical Commission was called to order at the Greater Conroe Chamber of Commerce Building at 5:34 p.m. by Larry Foerster, Chairman.**
2. **Members in attendance:** Larry Foerster, Gertie Spencer, Brenda Beaven, Jeremiah Dancy, Jay Hrivnatz, Ron Saikowski, Mark Canada, Austin Smith, James Walker, Lonnie Clover, Heather Montgomery, Barkley Dominey and Sharon Russell.
3. **The following guests were recognized:** Victoria Endsley, applicant; Carolyn Carroll, applicant; and Roxanne Butschek, Chamber of Commerce Hostess.
4. **Ron Saikowski made the motion to nominate Carolyn Carroll to the Historical Commission and Lonnie Clover seconded the motion. Motion carried. Ron Saikowski made the motion to nominate Victoria Endsley to the Historical Commission and Jeremiah Dancy seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
5. **There were no comments from the public.**
6. **Jay Hrivnatz made the motion, seconded by Jeremiah Dancy, to accept the minutes of the September 8, 2014 meeting as written. Motion carried.**
7. **Larry Foerster made the following announcement:** The Historical Marker commemorating the five courthouses of Montgomery County will be placed on the west side of the Courthouse. The dedication ceremony will be held on Monday, December 8, 2014, at 10:45 a.m. **A motion was made by Ron Saikowski to publish 200 booklets providing a narrative history of the Montgomery County Courthouses to be given to those in attendance.** The estimated cost is \$300.00 and any booklets not distributed at the ceremony would be given to libraries, schools, and museums. **Lonnie Clover seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
8. **Larry also announced** that we are still awaiting approval from the Texas Historical Commission to move the 1936 Historical Marker to the Conroe Courthouse site.
9. **Larry Foerster gave an update on the book sales of the "Montgomery County Historical Timeline".** The books are continuing to sell well. We are still attempting to provide a PDS format of the book so that it can be sold online. Victoria Endsley has agreed to help with this effort as well as MCHC Facebook and website issues.
10. **Committee Reports:** **a) Youth Advisory Board.** Brenda Beaven reported that 15 students attended the last YAB meeting. They were very excited about the upcoming Road Rally. The YAB now has 4-5 students from the Woodlands High School/South County Area. The Woodlands High School History Club has 55 members and they would be good candidates for YAB. Brenda has 3 more applicants to approve as of November 3. **b) Larry Foerster reported on the History Road Rally.** The date for the History Road Rally in Conroe is January 24, 2015 at the First Baptist Church in Conroe. Larry explained the Rally and how it works. We had 12 teams last year and hope to have more this year. Gullo Ford-Toyota-Mazda of Conroe will once again be supporting sponsors for the rally. Brenda Beaven suggested that the members of the commission be given the clues to the race ahead of time so that we can run the rally before the race. **c) County Historical Marker Committee report was given by Larry Foerster.** Larry described the proposed marker options and colors that Southwell Company provided. **A motion to approve the semi-circle top marker with dark blue background design as the Montgomery County Historical Commission Historical Marker was made by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Gertie Spencer. Motion carried unanimously.** When approved by the County Commissioners Court, Larry will issue a press release.
11. **The Texas Historical Commission – Texas Preservation Trust Fund Application – Rosewood Cemetery in Conroe was the only application we received.** Larry forwarded the application to THC for grant approval.
12. A request for reimbursement for risers was submitted by the Magnolia Historical Society. Celeste Graves and Beverly Tucker both with the Society were not in attendance and not available for discussion. A discussion was had with some members questioning the appropriateness of this reimbursement. Larry proposed to revisit this grant request at the January 2015 meeting. **Lonnie Clover moved to table this issue for 2 months and Ron Saikowski seconded the motion. The motion passed. The Commission also decided to review the Historical Preservation Grant Guidelines at our January meeting.**
13. Larry discussed the **Heritage at Risk Program.** This program recognizes historical buildings in danger of being lost. An example of this would be the old Conroe Normal Industrial College. Several hundred African American students from 1905 to the late 1960's attended this college. The property has now been sold and the old school building is at risk of being destroyed. This program would help preserve old buildings and structures of historical importance.
14. The commission will consider the proposal made to use some of the money in our separate MCHC account, resulting from our book sales, for a scholarship program for one or more of our deserving YAB seniors.
15. **The next Commission meeting will be January 5, 2015.**
16. **Ron Saikowski made the motion to adjourn, with a second by Lonnie Clover. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6: 53 p.m.**

Submitted by:

Sharon Russell, Acting Secretary