

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Minutes 3/2/2015
Greater Conroe Chamber of Commerce

1. **The March 2, 2015 meeting of the Montgomery County Historical Commission** was called to order at 5:36 p.m. by Larry Foerster, Chairman.
2. **Members in attendance:** Larry Foerster, Sharon Russell, Mark Canada, Carolyn Carroll, Jeremiah Dancy, Barkley Dominey, Patricia Easley, Jay Hrivnatz, Frank Johnson, Marie Banos Jordan, Robin Montgomery, Heather Montgomery, Ron Saikowski, Anna Sheppard, Austin Smith, Gertie Spencer, Jim Walker and Sue Ann Powell.
3. **The following guest was recognized:** Luther Powell.
4. **There were no comments from the public.**
5. **Ron Saikowski made the motion to accept the January 5, 2015 minutes as written, and Sharon Russell seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
6. **The following announcements were made:**
 - **Annual Commission Report** – will be given by Larry Foerster to Commissioners at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday.
 - We have \$18,008 in Special Account (Book Sales, Donations)
 - We get \$30,000 from Commissioners – have to spend by September.
 - Now have an office – go through Law Library—is in back. Spent \$350 for a 5-drawer cabinet that will hold most of our records.
 - **Report on History Road Rally** – Larry was pleased to report 19 teams participated in this year's Road Rally. A slide Show of Mark Canada's photos at the Rally can be shown at a later meeting.
 - **History Village** – Conroe Kidz Fest on April 25th. YAB kids will be helping.
 - **Robin Montgomery** announced that a young Sam Houston statue will be dedicated in October in Marysville, Tennessee. They are looking for donors.
7. **Update on "Montgomery County Historical Timeline"** – Larry stated he welcomed corrections for the second edition.
8. **Committee Reports:**
 - **MCHC Website and Facebook** – In David Frame's absence, Larry announced it was time to renew the domain name—MCHCTX and that Victoria Endsley has suggested developing 2-minute History clips of different parts of our county's history—picture and narration. Have this information on website as link. YouTube, Instagram – add photos. Mark Canada and Austin Smith will update Facebook which hasn't been updated in a year. Jay Hrivnatz has located 231 properties that were on Texas Historical Commission's 1980 surveys. Hasn't verified them yet.
 - **Youth Advisory Board** – Carolyn Carroll, Co-Sponsor, bragged on YAB helpers at Road Rally. Spoke about the upcoming Bus Tour of Montgomery scheduled for the YAB, and involvement with Kidz Fest.
 - **Discussion regarding establishing a scholarship or scholarships** for deserving Youth Advisory Board seniors:
 - Funds could be taken from Special Account
 - Scholarship Committee created: Sue Ann Powell, Chairman; Maria Banos Jordan, Austin Smith, Jeremiah Dancy, Ron Saikowski
 - Guidelines to be developed and reported at May meeting: Criteria, Amount, Number, Involvement in Youth Advisory Board, Other.
 - **MCHC Historical Preservation Grants** – Anna Sheppard and Gertie Spencer reported that East County wants to have its own museum and has requested \$2,000 toward moving of old New Caney Train Depot. Jay Hrivnatz will look at the structure.
 - **County Historical Marker** – Sharon Russell, Barbara Holland, Jay Hrivnatz and Anna Sheppard have received three applications: Shepherd Barbershop (May meeting), and J. L. Hicks Building in Conroe and possible state marker in Longstreet in northwest county recognizing the burial site of Alger "Texas" Alexander, noted Texas blues singer.
9. **The following Standing Committees were appointed:**
 - **Cemetery** – Sharon Russell, Patricia Easley, Carolyn Carroll
 - **Heritage at Risk (Promoting Preservation of Buildings)** – Maria Banos Jordan, Ron Saikowski, Mark Canada, Jay Hrivnatz. Larry expressed concern for Everett Hardware, former black movie house/silent movie house and an early Conroe State Bank Building. Educate people about preserving old buildings and encourage City leaders to act as incentive. Ron Saikowski added we should do something to designate trees of historical significance.
 - **Larry suggested a need to recognize** people who have located historical sites and support preservation – possibly a certificate of appreciation --given before Commissioners Court.
10. **There were no requests for reimbursement.**
11. **Discussion Annual Texas Historical Commission Development Seminars in Austin**—"Getting Grants" and "Getting Donations". Consider offering to send a representative from another organization (that doesn't have the funds to send someone) to this annual training. Need criteria for organizations. Line item in budget? Reach out and educate other organizations. Scholarship Committee to report on this in May.
12. **Other:** Jeremiah Dancy is working on locating names and burial location of WWI veterans from Montgomery County for a book he is writing. Seeking participation from YAB members, VA, American Legion and members of Historical Commission.
13. **The next meeting of the MCHC will be Monday, May 4, 2015.**
14. **Ron Saikowski made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Jeremiah Dancy. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.**

Submitted by:

Sue Ann Powell, Secretary