

Montgomery County Historical Commission
Minutes 5/4/2015
Greater Conroe Chamber of Commerce

1. **The May 4, 2015 meeting of the Montgomery County Historical Commission** was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Larry Foerster, Chairman, who passed out a list of committee assignments and asked for input.
2. **Member in attendance:** Larry Foerster, Gertie Spencer, David Frame, Nancy Jackson, Anna Sheppard, Sharon Russell, Barbara Holland, Ron Saikowski, Jeremiah Dancy, Austin Smith, Frank Johnson, Carolyn Carroll, Patricia Easley, and Sue Ann Powell.
3. **Recognition of guests:** Luther Powell.
4. **There were no comments from the public.** Larry reported a suggestion that was made at a meeting of the officers to begin having reports from representatives of each section of the county.
5. **Ron Saikowski made the motion to accept the March 2, 2015 minutes as written, and Gertie Spencer seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
6. **Announcements:**
 - **North County – Sue Ann Powell** expressed concerns about historical buildings being destroyed. Larry stated that Antioch Baptist Church in Willis is requesting a historical marker and he is meeting with them. Larry stated he will write a letter to the Churches urging them to preserve historical sites.
 - **South County – Barbara Holland** is representing this area. **Gertie Spencer** reported about an oral history of Lucretia Golden of Tamina. Larry spoke of the Sam Ash School south of Tamina which is Included in the 1981 Montgomery County Genealogy Society book.
 - **East County – Anna Sheppard and Frank Johnson** reported the East Montgomery County Historical Commission is attempting to preserve history and start a museum.
 - **West County – Frank Johnson, Gertie Spencer, Brenda Beaven, and Carolyn Carroll** took the members of the Youth Advisory Board on a tour of Montgomery and reported they asked good questions. Ron Saikowski reported a delay in moving the two buildings from the Conroe oilfield to the Heritage Museum due to Entergy, but the target is the anniversary of the Gusher (the 2nd well – June 1931).
7. **Discussion and approval of proposed 2015-2016 Commission Budget.** Larry stressed the need to spend the money before the end of the fiscal year. He has contacted 501(c)3 historical organizations to let them know to apply. The Historical Commission has \$18,000 in a special account from book sales that will carry over. **A motion was made by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Jeremiah Dancy to approve the budget. Passed, subject to later input. Copy attached.**
8. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Website and Facebook – David Frame** discussed involving the Youth Advisory Board.
 - b. **Youth Advisory Board – Carolyn Carroll** reported the Road Tour was a success. A majority of the students will be back in the fall. Plan to meet with them in July. Want to participate in the website. Plans include having enthusiastic speakers and tour of County Clerk's Office (Deed Records and Plats and how that works); Title Office, etc.
 - c. **Scholarship – Sue Ann Powell** gave input from Committee members Austin Smith, Maria Banos Jordan, Jeremiah Dancy, Ron Saikowski, and Carolyn Carroll and will present the finalized version at the July meeting.
 - d. **Historical Preservation Grants – Anna Sheppard and Gertie Spencer** discussed the New Caney "Depot" – conflict about origin of building. According to Anna, this was possibly an Engine Station. They have withdrawn their request. **Sharon Russell** described the Chaparral Genealogical Museum in Magnolia on Friendship Drive (David Hill's old office). They are developing a Montgomery County History section—want it to be a Montgomery County and N. Harris County History Research Center. It is open Tues – Thursday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Closed the 4th Saturday.
 - e. **County History Marker Committee – Sharon Russell** stated the Shepard Barbershop will be researched out by the July meeting. She feels the Hicks Building will be easier. **Gertie Spencer** discussed having signs for historical sites such as those erected by the Waller County Commissioner. Site location signs erected with property owner's permission. County Commissioner may help (he has sign-making capability).
 - f. **Endangered Buildings Committee – Ron Saikowski** no report. Larry mentioned the Conroe Normal and Industrial College, the first African American school before Conroe schools. Robin Montgomery is working on State historical marker application. The three buildings in downtown Conroe being considered for a parking garage may be considered instead for a retail establishment. The Campbell Building behind Pond St. (Montgomery) may have a purchaser to restore it. Larry is going to ask Montgomery City Council to hold up on tearing it down.
 - g. **Cemetery Committee – Sharon Russell** reported the development of the subdivision has stopped until an archeological study of the site can be done where the William Malone Cemetery was discovered northwest of Willis to see if there are more gravesites. William Malone was a Confederate soldier and a State Representative in 1891. State could do a Pocket Park (green area within subdivision). N. Lake Estates. Larry Carlyle, Owner. Jeff Moon, Surveyor. Need to recognize the person who discovered the grave. Need to publicize (Sons of Confederacy, Daughters of Republic of Texas, Plaque, and Park). Discussed other cemeteries in area with historical significance—Patricia Easley's Cemetery, Rogers Cemetery, St. Beulah, Sanders, Cartwright, Rabon Chapel, Willis, East County, etc.
9. **There were no requests for reimbursement.**
10. **The next meeting of the MCHC will be Monday, July 6, 2015.**
11. **Ron Saikowski made the motion, and it was seconded by Gertie Spencer, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.**

Submitted by:

Sue Ann Powell, Secretary