

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Minutes 7/6/2015
Greater Conroe Chamber of Commerce

1. **The July 6, 2015 meeting of the Montgomery County Historical Commission** was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Larry Foerster, Chairman.
2. **Members present:** Larry Foerster, Brenda Beaven, Celeste Graves, Anna Shepeard, Beverly Tucker, Sharon Russell, Barbara Holland, Ron Saikowski, Mark Canada, Frank Johnson, Barkley Dominey, Carolyn Carroll and Sue Ann Powell.
3. **The following guests were recognized:** Hutch Hutchison, Conroe Visitors Bureau; Wayne Miller (representing Bobby Shepherd who left early); Kameron Searle, attorney and recognized historian of Montgomery; Kary Searle; Butch Bateman, Heritage Museum; Billy Ray Duncan, President of Montgomery Historical Society; Barbara and Rod Frasier, Texian Heritage Festival.
4. **Barbara and Rod Frasier** gave a presentation on the Texian Heritage Festival to be held October 17, 2015 at Fernland Historical Park in Montgomery. This annual charity event benefits the following 2015 Recipients: Meals on Wheels Montgomery County, Coat of Many Colors Ministries, Inc., Caiden's Hope, Fernland Historical Park, and Montgomery Historical Society. **Butch Bateman** mentioned the annual Pioneer Camp in session at the Heritage Museum. It was announced that Dr. Carroll Cagle had died. His wife, Melinda, was active in the Montgomery County Genealogical Society.
5. **Anna Shepeard made the motion, seconded by Frank Johnson, to accept the Minutes of the May 4, 2015 Commission, as written. Motion passed.**
6. **There were no reports from County-wide representatives.** Larry Foerster announced that MCHC had received the Distinguished Service Award from the State Historical Commission, and will be recognized by Commissioners' Court on July 27th. Several members plan to attend. Members were reminded that the \$22,835 in the account has to be spent by September.
7. **Committee Reports**
 - **MCHC Website and Facebook** – Larry Foerster reported that Victoria Endsley is interested in doing *You Tube* histories; and YAB member, Ross Ohendalski wants to participate as part of his Eagle Scout project. Barkley Dominey will help Victoria with MCHC's Facebook.
 - **Youth Advisory Board** – Brenda Beaven and Carolyn Carroll suggested doing the history tour earlier in the year. Brenda will make a presentation, about the YAB, in Austin at the State Historical Commission on September 21st.
 - **Scholarship Committee** – Sue Ann Powell presented the Application Form designed by the Scholarship Committee and recommended two \$1,000 scholarships for qualifying YAB Seniors beginning in 2016. The criteria for selecting the students will be determined by the committee. The funds will be taken from the MCHC's Special Account. **Motion was made by Sue Ann Powell and seconded by Ron Saikowski to approve the Application Form. Motion carried.**
 - **Historical Preservation Grants**
 - **Application from Heritage Museum** – Application for \$10,000 toward moving of Oilfield Houses deferred until next meeting. (Since there will be \$835 remaining in the account, it was suggested to award \$10,835.)
 - **Montgomery Historical Society** – Billy Ray Duncan presented a request for \$12,000 to replace roof on Old Baptist Church in Montgomery (owned by Montgomery Historical Society). **Motion by Anna Shepeard and seconded by Frank Johnson to award \$12,000 to Montgomery Historical Society to replace roof on Old Baptist Church. Motion carried with one abstention by Ron Saikowski.**
 - **County Historical Marker Committee**
 - **Lake Creek Settlement marker application** – Kameron Searle gave a presentation on the oldest settlement in Montgomery County. He stated that no one used the term Lake Creek Settlement after the 1920's, (now Montgomery) and it is a forgotten piece of Montgomery County's history. **Motion made by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Brenda Beaven to approve the application for a Montgomery County Historical Marker for Lake Creek Settlement. Motion carried. The Commission authorized \$100 for the application payment to the Texas Historical Commission.** Larry Foerster will ask the Montgomery City Council to pay \$1,000 toward the marker cost and the Montgomery Historical Society will consider paying the other half of the cost of the marker. The marker will be placed at the Nat H. Davis Pioneer Office Complex in Montgomery.
 - **Shepard Barbershop marker application was presented by Sharon Russell.** Wayne Miller represented Bobby Shepard who left early to attend Visitation for Ruben Hope. Sharon Russell determined the shop was formed in 1912, and is the "oldest barber shop in continuous use in Conroe". **Anna Shepeard made the motion, seconded by Ron Saikowski, to accept the application for a Montgomery County Historical marker for Shepard's Barber Shop. Motion carried.** The City or County will install the marker, and there will be a formal unveiling of the first County Historical marker.
 - **Endangered Buildings Committee** – No report.
 - **Cemetery Committee** – Sharon Russell reported there is a big backlog of applications for cemetery historical markers from the State, and that it is o.k. to denote county historic cemeteries. She will submit the Sanders Cemetery application at the next meeting.
8. **Ron Saikowski made the motion to fund members' expenses to the Texas Historical Commission's Austin Workshop on September 21, and Sharon Russell seconded the motion. Motion carried.** Anna Shepeard, Brenda Beaven and Beverly Tucker plan to attend. They can apply for reimbursement in October when the new budget goes into effect.
9. **There were no reimbursement requests.**
10. **The next meeting of the MCHC will be August 31, 2015.**
11. **Motion was made by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Anna Shepeard to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.**