

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Minutes 8/31/2015
Greater Conroe Chamber of Commerce

1. **The August 31, 2015 meeting** of the Montgomery County Historical Commission was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Larry Foerster, Chair.
2. **Present were the following members:** Larry Foerster, Gertie Spencer, Brenda Beaven, Celeste Graves, Anna Sheppard, Beverly Tucker, Sharon Russell, Maria Banos Jordan, Ron Saikowski, Jeremiah Dancy, Frank Johnson, Robin Montgomery, Carolyn Carroll, Patricia Easley and Sue Ann Powell.
3. **Special guests** included Russell Cartwright, Missy Ringo, Butch Bateman, Luther Powell, Ross Ohendalski and Paula Ohendalski.
4. **Comments from the public:** Missy Ringo from Justice of the Peace Wayne Mack's Court spoke briefly on collecting information and pictures of Willis.
5. **A motion to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2015 meeting was made by Frank Johnson and seconded by Ron Saikowski. Motion carried.**
6. **Announcements:** Brenda Beaven reported that a limb fell on the N. Hart Davis House in Montgomery, and luckily just damaged the gutters. Honeybees were in the limb. Butch Bateman announced that the Strake/Gray House and Roughneck House were now in place behind the Heritage Museum. Larry called attention to coverage and the need for articles on Montgomery County areas of historical significance for the *Woodlands Magazine*, *The Courier*, and *Community Impact*. Celeste Graves announced the Magnolia Historical Society will serve steak dinners to Veterans at the Magnolia Depot on November 11th. This is their sixth annual recognition of Veterans.
7. **Sponsorship of the Texian Heritage Festival** to be held October 17th in Montgomery: **Frank Johnson made a motion to contribute \$250 out of the 2015-2016 budget and have a booth at the Texian Heritage Festival. Jeremiah Dancy seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
8. **Sponsorship of YAB member, Ross Ohendalski's Eagle Scout Project to restore the Richard Williams historical family cemetery:** After a presentation by Ross explaining the cost of each phase of the project, **Frank Johnson made the motion to authorize reimbursement of materials, only up to \$800, out of the October (2015-2016) budget. Ron Saikowski seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
9. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **MCHC Website and Facebook** – no report.
 - b. **Youth Advisory Board** – Brenda Beaven and Carolyn Carroll reported success with most high schools in disseminating information. The first meeting will be the 4th Monday of September (28th) and the 3rd Monday thereafter. Brenda will speak about the YAB at the Texas Historical Commission in Austin on September 21st. Beverly Tucker will also attend.
 - c. **Scholarship Committee** – Sue Ann Powell explained the criteria for the scholarship will be determined in March. Sam Houston State University will provide two \$500 scholarships to YAB students planning to major in History at Sam Houston.
 - d. **MCHC Historical Preservation Grants** – Anna Sheppard and Gertie Spencer presented the application from the Heritage Museum requesting reimbursement for relocating electrical wiring for the Oilfield Houses. **A motion was made by Frank Johnson and seconded by Jeremiah Dancy to reimburse the Heritage Museum for the relocation of the wiring in the amount of \$10,835.85. Motion carried.** (The last of the 2014-2015 budgeted funds have now been expended.)
 - e. **County History Marker Committee** – Sharon Russell presented the County Historical Marker application for the Cartwright Cemetery. The Cartwright family will pay for a County Historical Marker (24 x 32) as a subject marker; State marker is already in place. **Anna Sheppard made the motion to approve a County Historical Marker for the Cartwright Cemetery. Frank Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.** Committee will come up with the verbiage for the marker. Ed, of Texas Music Magazine, will pay for a County Historical Marker (under-told story marker) for the gravesite of Algernon "Texas" Alexander at Longstreet Cemetery. **Motion was made by Sharon Russell to approve the application for a County Historical Marker for "Texas" Alexander's gravesite. Frank Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.** Larry explained he is getting questions about others wishing to purchase these markers for other historic buildings and sites in our county.
 - f. **Endangered Buildings Committee** – Ron Saikowski stated there would be a meeting in the next three weeks. Has been talking with City Development spokesperson, Nancy Mikeska, about how the city can preserve buildings.
 - g. **Cemetery Committee** – no report.
 - h. **Montgomery County World War I history research** – Jeremiah Dancy asked to meet with those interested in helping with this research. Plans to have a book out listing those from Montgomery County who served in World War I near the 100th Anniversary in November, 2018. Frank Johnson, Larry Foerster, Carolyn Carroll and YAB members, and Patricia Easley volunteered to help call for pictures/stories. Possibly the YAB can take pictures of tombstones. An ad will be placed in the paper at some time in the future as the project progresses.
10. **Reimbursement for expenses:** Larry explained he had personally purchased two \$100 funeral sprays (James Spencer and Edith Clanton). Discussed giving a donation to the person's choice of charity in lieu of flowers in death of member, member's spouse or children. A policy is needed and will be place on the Agenda for the next meeting. **Motion was made by Anna Sheppard and seconded by Ron Saikowski to reimburse Larry Foerster \$234.90 for the two sprays purchased in memory of James Spencer and Edith Clanton from Separate MCHC Account. Motion carried.** (Larry abstained)
11. **Discussed nominations for membership.** No action taken.
12. **The next meeting of the Commission will be November 2, 2015.**
13. **Motion was made by Carolyn Carroll and seconded by Anna Sheppard to adjourn.** Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Submitted by:

Sue Ann Powell, Secretary