

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Minutes 11/2/2015
Greater Conroe Chamber of Commerce

1. **The November 2, 2015 meeting** of the Montgomery County Historical Commission was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Larry Foerster, Chair.
2. **Present were the following members:** Larry Foerster, Gertie Spencer, David Frame, Anna Sheppard, Jim Walker, Lonnie Clover, Heather Montgomery, Ron Saikowski, Mark Canada, Jeremiah Dancy, Robin Montgomery, Barkley Dominey, Carolyn Carroll, Patricia Easley and Sue Ann Powell.
3. **Special guests included:** Jo Dell Whitehead, from James Noak's office in South County; Robin Bartholet, Conroe Historian; T. J. Wilkerson, Montgomery City Council member; Robert Lynch, YAB Member; Ross Ohendalski, YAB Member; Paula Ohendalski, and Luther Powell.
4. **Comments from the public:** Robin Montgomery announced Mary McCoy's book signing on Saturday from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Heritage Museum. It tells the story of her career in a historical context. Roy Harris will also be present to sign his book.
5. **The minutes of the August 31, 2015 were corrected to read:** (9e.) "State designation marker has been approved". **Motion by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Jim Walker to accept minutes as corrected.**
6. **Announcements:** 1) the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism is sponsoring a workshop by Joe Veneto at the Heritage Museum tomorrow. This is to give ideas on how to project the Strake House and Roughneck House. 2) Shakespeare in the Park on Saturday. 3) Larry shared a table with the Heritage Museum at the Texian Festival in Montgomery on Saturday. 4) Larry will be giving talks on Montgomery County History to the Daughters of Republic and Sons of the Republic of Texas next Wednesday and to the pastors who meet at Metcalf's. 5) Spring Creek Judicial District County Historical dedication on November 17th at 1:30 p.m.
7. **Eagle Scout Project to restore the Richard Williams historical family cemetery** – Ross Ohendalski gave a Power Point presentation of the project to restore the Williams and Carroll section of the cemetery, containing 7 graves on Molk Road off of Bilnoski Road that he and several of his Scout friends completed in three weekends. Ross and his friend, Robert Lynch, stated they learned about communication, planning and completion. A video will be added to the Historical Commission website on how to clean and protect old tombstones.
8. **Policy regarding honoring deceased Commission member, or former member, or their family members:** Donation of \$50 to organization of their choice. This will be taken out of the Book Sales Account. **Motion by Carolyn Carroll and seconded by Ron Saikowski to authorize the MCHC Chairperson to issue payment of \$50 in honor of a deceased member or former member, or member of the family of a member or former member, to an organization of member or family's choice. To be paid out of the Book Sales Account. Motion carried.**
9. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **MCHC Website and Facebook** – Barkley Dominey will assist with Facebook. **David Frame made a motion to continue current service with the current company with web host and pay the annual fee. Ron Saikowski seconded the motion. Motion carried.** Instagram, featuring county historical photographs, was discussed. Social media feature. Can link to Facebook.
 - b. **Youth Advisory Board** – Carolyn Carroll stated they had had two meetings and the next meeting would be on November 16th. They are looking forward to helping with Christmas in Montgomery and the Road Rally. She is disappointed in the lack of support from the History teachers. Need to focus on Juniors.
 - c. **Scholarship** – Sue Ann Powell said they are waiting to see how many Seniors are participating in YAB. Carolyn said they are letting them know about the scholarships. They will be given the applications in April or early May.
 - d. **Historical Preservation Grants** – Anna Sheppard and Gertie Spencer said they have had no requests. Chris Cheatham has been talking to Larry regarding fencing of the old Methodist Cemetery in Montgomery.
 - e. **County Historical Marker Committee**
 - Bob Shepherd dedicated
 - Cartwright Cemetery – Algeron "Texas" Alexander Marker near Richard – Blues – Texas Music Magazine
 - J. L. Hicks Building across street from Barber Shop – next door to Red Brick Tavern
 - Enhance preservation in north part of Conroe – historical designation – Mark Canada
 - J.O.H. Bennett School – first brick school in Conroe
 - Original African American School in Conroe
 - Texas Historical Marker staff promoting and publicizing County Historical Markers – 50 years of age or older, or if not, 50 years old and special archeological significance.
 - f. **Endangered Buildings** - no report. Crighton Theatre expansion.
 - g. **Cemetery Committee** – Patricia Easley – family cemetery tabled
 - h. **World War I** – Jeremiah Dancy reported several meetings to identify all WWI vets in Montgomery County. Using the 1930 census and Courier obits of 1935. Digital Archive WWI by last name. Will have 20-25 short biographies – how it affected lives. Will call for more in spring from Newspaper. Graduated SHSU class in spring working on project. Baylor World History Institute training in how to interview. DAR assisting. Picture in Heritage Museum with names in front of old Courthouse. Next meeting is Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. in the Conroe Library. Roy Williams started Collins Johnson Funeral Home. Was in WWI. African American influence. Will be published by Veterans Day 2018. Add to History of Montgomery County.
10. **No reimbursements.**
11. **The following applications will be sent for approval in January:** T. J. Wilkerson, Jo Dell Whitehead, and Robin Bartholet.
12. **Next meeting:** January 4th, 2016
13. **Motion to adjourn was made by Anna Sheppard and seconded by Ron Saikowski. Meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.**

Submitted by:
Sue Ann Powell, Secretary