

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Minutes – August 29, 2016 – Conroe Chamber of Commerce

1. **The August 29, 2016 meeting of the** Montgomery County Historical Commission was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by Larry Foerster, Chairman.
2. **The following members were present:** Larry Foerster, Gertie Spencer, Brenda Beaven, Celeste Graves, Anna Sheppard, Beverly Tucker, Mark Canada, Frank Johnson, Robin Montgomery, Barkley Dominey, Carolyn Carroll, Robin Bartholet, T. J. Wilkerson, Missy Ringo, and Sue Ann Powell.
3. **Guests were recognized:** Joy Montgomery, Luther Powell, Dr. Earl Johnson and Ben Blair.
4. **There were no comments from the public.**
5. **Motion was made by Frank Johnson and seconded by Anna Sheppard to accept the June 27th minutes as written. Motion carried.**
6. **Announcements:**
 - Road Rally – January 28, 2017. Staging area will be First Baptist Church, Magnolia.
 - Dedication of County Marker at First Baptist Church of Conroe – September 11, 2016.
 - J. L. Hicks Building marker, owned by the Crighton Foundation, will be the third County marker in downtown Conroe.
 - Algeron (Texas) Alexander marker dedication went well.
 - Missy Ringo announced that the early Willis pictures were ready for display in the Willis Courtroom.
 - Anna Sheppard is working on four Confederate markers for Willis Cemetery.
 - Frank Johnson shared information about John McClanahan Lewis, Jr., Postmaster and Speaker of the House. Now buried under the Lewis Creek Reservoir. Would like to see a marker placed nearby.
7. **Motion by Frank Johnson and seconded by Gertie Spencer to help sponsor the Texas Heritage Festival in Montgomery. The \$250 to be paid out of 2016-2017 budget, which begins October 1, 2016. Motion carried.**
8. **Consider being a sponsor of the Sam Houston Heritage tour:** Presentation by Robin Montgomery and daughter, Joy Montgomery, on the Cradle of Texas Tour, February 28 – March 5, 2017, which will originate in Tennessee. It will begin in Conroe, then will go to Huntsville, Navasota and Washington-on-the-Brazos, and will include the declaration of “Sam Houston Day” on March 3rd by the Legislature. Frank Johnson, Gertie Spencer and Brenda Beaven will meet with Robin and make recommendations at the November meeting regarding helping with advertising.
9. **Committee Reports:**
 - a) **William Harley Gandy Distinguished Service Award Committee:** Gertie Spencer displayed an example of the framed award. It will be presented at Commissioners Court to a person who demonstrates leadership in historical preservation and research, thus preserving the heritage and history of Montgomery County.
 - b) **Website/Facebook:** Beverly Tucker expressed the need to revisit the e-mail name to use on Instagram. Barkley Dominey reported on Facebook.
 - c) **Youth Advisory Board (YAB):** Carolyn Carroll and Brenda Beaven announced the first meeting is set for September 19th.
 - d) **Montgomery County Historical Preservation Grants:** Anna Sheppard recommended a grant of \$1,250 to Fernland for the sidewalk, the amount paid to the City of Montgomery; a grant of \$3,483.98 to the Montgomery Historical Society for painting, electrical repairs, and lighting for the Nat Hart Davis Museum and Pioneer Complex. **A motion was made by Missy Ringo to reimburse Fernland, Inc. \$1,250 for paving. The amount to be taken out of this year’s budget. Seconded by Robin Bartholet. (14 for, 1 against). Motion carried. Frank Johnson made the motion to pay the balance in this year’s budget, \$3,483.98, to the Montgomery County Historical Society for work done on the Nat Hart Davis Complex. T. J. Wilkerson seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
 - e) **County History Marker Committee:** Larry Foerster reported on the upcoming dedication of the marker for First Baptist Church, Conroe on September 11, 2016, and that Sharon Russell has completed verification for the J. L. Hicks building in downtown Conroe that is owned by the Crighton Foundation. **Motion by Anna Sheppard and seconded by Barkley Dominey to approve the County History Marker for the J. L. Hicks Building. Motion carried.**
 - f) **Endangered Buildings:** In Ron Saikowski’s absence, Larry Foerster announced that a new Tax Office is to be built on the property where the Stewart Law Office is. The building will be torn down. The Old Library building is for sale.
 - g) **Cemetery Committee:** The Cartwright family decided they want a State Historical marker instead of a County History Marker.
 - h) **World War I Committee:** Larry Foerster reported in Jeremiah Dancy’s absence that chapters are to be ready by the end of 2016 and publication is scheduled for 2018. The book, recognizing World War I Montgomery County veterans will be published to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Armistice. It has been noted that Morgan Cartwright of Montgomery County carried the message to the front lines.
10. **Reimbursements:** None.
11. **Nominations:** No nominations. **Motion was made by Sue Ann Powell and seconded by Robin Bartholet to move Nancy Jackson from the Active Member category to the Emeritus Category due to her health. Motion carried.**
12. **Next Commission meeting:** November 7, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.
13. **Motion by Frank Johnson and seconded by Beverly Tucker to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.**

Submitted by:
Sue Ann Powell, Secretary