

**Montgomery County Historical Commission
Chamber of Commerce
March 5, 2018 – Minutes**

1. **The March 5, 2018 meeting of the** Montgomery County Historical Commission was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Larry Foerster, Chair.
2. **Commission members present:** Larry Foerster, Brenda Beaven, Lonnie Clover, Heather Montgomery, Ron Saikowski, Mark Canada, Frank Johnson, Carolyn Carroll, Robin Bartholet, T. J. Wilkerson, Missy Ringo, Kimberly Hignett and Sue Ann Powell.
3. **The following guests were recognized:** Bea Rouse, Kimberly Sutton, Jon Edens, Emery Heurmann (Past President of Montgomery County Genealogical & Historical Society, Communications and P. A. of Montgomery County Genealogy Society), and Luther Powell.
4. **Comments:** Ron Saikowski announced two upcoming events—"Chalk Up Conroe" on Saturday, and "Shakespeare in the Park" on March 24th. These events are free.
5. **Motion was made by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Missy Ringo to accept the minutes of the January 8, 2018 meeting of the MCHC as written. Approved.**
6. **Announcements:** **Jon Edens** informed the Commission of his research about the lost cemetery on 10th Street. Two of the people interred there are a Buffalo Soldier and the first Black Principal in Conroe ISD, Principal Campbell. He has organized the Conroe Community Cemetery Restoration Project (cccrp.org) aimed at preserving cemeteries and history. It is a non-profit organization formed to educate people about African American history. Larry Foerster stated that he will recommend MCHC consider providing a chainlink fence around the property and work on historical marker for the site. Mark Canada volunteered a chainlink fence he would like to donate. **Larry Foerster** stated there is continued interest in doing something with the truss bridge on FM 2854. It will have to be moved when the road is widened because the 200-year-old Magnolia tree is on the opposite side at McDade Estates and will be preserved. **Bea Rouse** announced the Montgomery Historical Society is looking for docents and new members. **Emery Heumann** requested permission to digitize the 41 Decker Prairie book donation and put them on the Historical Commission website. He will scan and convert them to PDF. These Homecoming Books span 20-30 years. Montgomery County Genealogy Society will scan and make hard copy to sell. **Motion by Robin Bartholet and seconded by Ron Saikowski to give Montgomery County Genealogy and Historical Society authority to digitize the 41 Decker Prairie Books, scan and have rights to publish them and make hard copies to sell.** They will be returned to MCHC when finished. The Chaparral group in Magnolia is making a copy. MCG&HS will list them as publication they have for sale and will make information available to Montgomery County citizens. **Motion carried.**
7. **A motion that the permanent depository of the 41 Decker Prairie Books will be the Family Genealogy Section on the 2nd floor of the Main Montgomery County Library was made by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Carolyn Carrol. Passed.**
8. **Kimberly Sutton**, author/photographer of *Lone Star Life*, spoke to the Commission about her book the county had published to promote Montgomery County. The County Judge arranged for MCHC to have 500 books to sell. Kimberly agreed to promote the book for MCHC and receive a percentage from each sale. **Motion by Frank Johnson and seconded by Ron Saikowski to split the proceeds 50/50 with Kimberly. Motion carried.** Kimberly will be reimbursed from the MCHC account for the number she has sold and will give an update once a month. Checks are to be made out to MCHC.
9. **The annual History Road Rally** will be held March 24th. Lamar Elementary in The Woodlands will be the staging area. There will be a charge of \$25/hr. to pay the custodian who will be there from noon to 5 p.m. **A motion to approve the change in date from March 3rd to March 24th was made by Missy Ringo and seconded by Brenda Beaven. Motion carried. Motion was made by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Frank Johnson to allow up to \$150 for the use of Lamar Elementary. Motion approved. Motion for Larry Foerster to write check and get reimbursed was made by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Mark Canada. Motion carried.**
10. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Distinguished Service Award** – Thank you note from Sondra Hernandez was read.
 - b. **Website and Facebook** – Frank Johnson stated he needs 4 hours per week to keep up the maintenance of the website. He recommended the two domains be retained. **Motion to approve the renewal of both domain names for this year was made by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Heather Montgomery. Motion carried. Motion to give Frank 20 hours @ \$18/hr. for March and April made by Brenda Beaven and seconded by Ron Saikowski. Approved.**
 - c. **YAB** – Brenda Beaven reported there are about 10 active members—mostly juniors. Two seniors plan to apply for the scholarship. They will help with the Road Rally.
 - d. **Historical Preservation Grant** – Heritage Museum is enlarging vault for archives, a fire-proof vault 3 times the size they now have. Funds are needed to get the project going, so they are asking for \$10,000 to cover construction cost. (Total project - \$60,000). **Motion by Robin Bartholet and seconded by Frank Johnson authorizing \$10,000 to Heritage Museum for vault expansion. Approved.**
 - e. **County Marker** – Sharon Russell has approved a County Marker to Strake-Gray House at the Heritage Museum. Now waiting for Anna Sheppard's final approval.
 - f. **Endangered Buildings** – Ron had lunch with the owner of the Everett Building and two other buildings to the east. The owner is talking about putting in a brewery.
 - g. **World War I book** – Larry Foerster has talked with Sondra Hernandez at *The Courier*. She will work with the Commission by putting articles about World War I in the paper.
11. **Motion made by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Carolyn Carroll to reimburse Larry Foerster \$97.75 for Tombstone Cleaning materials. Approved.**
12. **No Nominations.**
13. **Next meeting: May 7, 2018.**
14. **Motion by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Brenda Beaven to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.**

Submitted by: Sue Ann Powell, Secretary