

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Chamber of Commerce
1/4/2016

1. **The January 4, 2016 meeting** was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by Larry Foerster, Chair.
2. **Present were the following members:** Larry Foerster, Gertie Spencer, Brenda Beaven, Anna Shepeard, Heather Montgomery, Ron Saikowski, Mark Canada, Robin Montgomery, Patricia Easley, and Sue Ann Powell.
3. **Special guests** included Jo Nell Whitehead, Missy Ringo, Robin Bartholet, T. J. Wilkerson, John Eden and Luther Powell.
4. **Comments from the public:** John Eden spoke about his involvement in preservation of the only grave of a Buffalo Soldier buried in Conroe Community Cemetery on 10th St. in Conroe.
5. **A motion to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2015 meeting with one correction, the spelling of “Noack” was made by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Anna Shepeard. Motion carried.**
6. **Announcements:** 1) Robin Montgomery and his daughter are working on the Tennessee/Texas Heritage Trail. More information can be found on his website: texascenterforregionalstudies. 2) Larry Foerster reported that the Texas Heritage Society had donated \$1,000 toward the Texas Historical marker for Lake Creek Settlement. 3) Suggestion was made to purchase a table skirt with MCHC and information about the organization on it, at a cost of approximately \$200. Brenda Beaven also suggested having magnetic badges made with members’ names. **The motion was made by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Heather Montgomery to purchase a table skirt and magnetic badges.** Jo Dell Whitehead stated the County could make the badges with members’ pictures on them. **The motion was amended by Anna Shepeard to purchase a table skirt and banner (2 ft. x 6-10 ft.), and seconded by Ron Saikowski. Motion carried.**
7. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **History Road Rally** – Larry Foerster discussed logistics for the Road Rally in Willis on Saturday, January 23. Gullo Ford is providing \$500 for trophies and \$25 gift cards for the winning participants. Next year the Road Rally will be in Magnolia, and after that in South and East County.
 - b. **MCHC Website and Facebook** – Larry Foerster reported that Convergent (web host) suggests we purchase additional website security at a cost of approximately \$700. **Ron Saikowski suggested we conduct backup copying on a quarterly basis. The following motion was made by _____ that we Not purchase additional security for the website. Ron Saikowski seconded the motion. Motion carried.** Barkley Dominey is creating new mchctext.com for Facebook. Doesn’t have the password for the Facebook & Instagram that are set up.
 - c. **Youth Advisory Board** – Brenda Beaven reported that three YAB members helped at “Christmas in Montgomery” and were lifesavers. Next YAB meeting is in two weeks. Butch Bateman needs a date for the Bus Tour of Willis.
 - d. **Scholarship Committee** – Sue Ann Powell stated that applications have been given to Brenda Beaven who will distribute them to interested seniors at the next YAB meeting. The two \$1,000 scholarships will come out of the Special Book Sale Account.
 - e. **MCHC Historical Preservation Grants** – no applications.
 - f. **County History Marker Committee** – Sharon Russell was ill and unable to attend. Alger “Texas” Alexander marker is ready to go. *Texas Music Magazine* is seeking sponsors for the casting of the County Historical Marker. Other markers to be considered include the J. L. Hicks Building and Judge John Williams’ home in Conroe.
 - g. **Endangered Buildings Committee** – Ron Saikowski referred to an article in *The Woodlands Magazine* about preserving Montgomery County history.
 - h. **Cemetery Committee** – The following was discussed: Cartright Cemetery contains burial of War of 1812, Civil War, WWI & WWII veterans. Marker going up. Montgomery Historical Society now has deed to Old Cemetery in Montgomery adjacent to the old Methodist Church.
 - i. **World War I Committee** – Jeremiah Dancy was ill and unable to attend. Patricia Easley reported they had been reviewing the 1930 census and were following the Baylor Oral History Interviews process. Hope to have the book completed by the 2018 anniversary or Armistice ending WWI. Book will contain stories and history of Montgomery County.
8. **Consider approving a Historical Commission “Distinguished Service Award” program** from MCHC for individuals, groups, etc. who do work to preserve history of Montgomery County to be presented at Commissioners’ Court. Criteria to be established. **Heather Montgomery made the motion to move forward with the “Distinguished Service Award” and Patricia Easley seconded the motion. Motion carried.** The following volunteered to come up with the criteria and report at the next meeting: Heather Montgomery, Gertie Spencer and Patricia Easley. Ron Saikowski suggests considering three categories: Corporate - \$; Individual – Time/Effort; and History Academia – Time/Effort.
9. **Reimbursements** – none.
10. **Approve nominations for membership**
 - **Missy Keene Ringo** – Efforts to hold on to History. Seeking to preserve history through placing historic pictures on walls of Judge Mack’s Courtroom in Willis.
 - **Robin Bartholet** – Longtime owner of Southwest Furniture in Conroe. Charter member of Montgomery County Genealogical Society. Volunteers at Heritage Museum. Has shared old photos of downtown Conroe.
 - **Jo Dell Higgins Whitehead** – native Houstonian. Works for Commissioner Noack. Kin to the Gullo family. Enjoys “bone-digging”, real estate and fundraising.
 - **T. J. Wilkerson** – Montgomery volunteer work. On City Council of Montgomery. Commitment to “Old” Montgomery Cemetery. **Motion by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Gertie Spencer to recommend the above names to Commissioners Court for membership in the Montgomery County Historical Commission. Motion carried.**
11. **Next meeting** – March 7, 2016
12. **Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.**

Submitted by:

Sue Ann Powell, Secretary