

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - Minutes 6-27-2016**

1. **The June 27, 2016 meeting of the Montgomery County Historical Commission** was called to order at 5:34 p.m. by Chair Larry Foerster.
2. **Members present:** Larry Foerster, Gertie Spencer, Brenda Beaven, Celeste Graves, Anna Shepeard, Beverly Tucker, Heather Montgomery, Maria Banos Jordan, Ron Saikowski, Jeremiah Dancy, Frank Johnson, Robin Montgomery, Patricia Easley, Jo Dell Whitehead, Missy Ringo and Sue Ann Powell.
3. **Recognition of special guests:** Miles Neal, Vickie Stewart, Mary Ann Metcalf, John & Carol Hicks and Luther Powell.
4. **There were no comments from the public.**
5. **Ron Saikowski made the motion to accept the minutes of May 2, 2016 as written and Celeste Graves seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
6. **Announcements:** Larry Foerster reported on two County Markers: 1) Dedication of marker for Algeron "Texas" Alexander will take place at 10 a.m., Friday, August 12 at the Longstreet Cemetery on 149, N. of Montgomery; 2) Elizabeth Shaw Cartwright Family Cemetery in Montgomery. Waiting on the family to send check. He also gave an update on member, Sharon Russell.
7. **Maria Banos Jordan** reported on the THC Real Places Heritage Conference in Austin and shared a written summary of the conference (summary attached to official copy of minutes). She reported that it was an opportunity to meet other historical commission members and a lot of them were interested in MCHC's Youth Advisory Board (YAB) and the History Road Rally. It was recommended that a TX-DOT member be invited to speak at the local meeting. The conference stressed the connection between Historical Commissions and tourism. Maria strongly recommended other members attend next year's conference. **Jo Dell Whitehead** shared her impressions of the conference and stressed the importance of letting TX-DOT know about artifacts in area before roads are put in; important to look into plans for roads. She also reported on the list of grants available from THC, the "Untold Markers" project, and the "Trail System". Larry asked Maria and Jo Dell to write down 2 -3 things they think MCHC could do better. **Carol Hicks**, visitor, suggested including the DAR in World War I activities. **Robin Montgomery** will report on "Cradle of Texas" at the next meeting.
8. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **World War I Committee – (i.) Jeremiah Dancy** reported the rough draft of the book on WWI (16-20 chapters) would be available by Christmas. Printing will be done by Sam Houston Press. It will take a year to print the WWI book (Greatest Generation Book). It will include an index of all who served from Montgomery County, as well as chapters on individuals who served.
 - b. **Distinguished Service Award – Patricia Easley** displayed a prototype of the Harley Gandy Distinguished Service Award which will be given once a year to a person noted for the preservation and promotion of History of Montgomery County. Heather Montgomery and Gertie Spencer serve on the committee along with Patricia.
 - c. **Website – In David Frame's absence, Larry** reported that next month, a YouTube demonstration teaching people how to clean tombstones will be on the website. Beverly Tucker asked for an e-mail address for setting up Instagram. It will be: Mo-CoHistory@gmail.com.
 - d. **YAB – Brenda Beaven** reported she had received the following applications from students: 3 from Conroe, 5 from Oak Ridge and 1 from The Woodlands. Larry has contacted schools and heads of History Departments and isn't getting responses. Jeremiah Dancy suggested inviting high school history teachers to join MCHC. Others with suggestions are to send them to Brenda Beaven.
 - e. **Scholarship Committee – No report.**
 - f. **MCHC Historical Preservation Grants – reminder that grants are available.**
 - g. **County History Marker Committee – Ron Saikowski** explained that Conroe's 1st Baptist Church is celebrating its 125th anniversary on September 10th, and wants to unveil a County Historical Marker at that time. **Motion was made by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Heather Montgomery, to approve application from 1st Baptist Church for a Subject Area Marker, subject to final approval by MCHC Historical Marker Committee.** The Subject Area Marker (not Building) final draft must be approved by Anna and Sharon. **Motion carried.** Larry stated he has not heard back from the Texas Historical Commission regarding Lake Creek Settlement marker.
 - h. **Endangered Buildings Committee – Ron Saikowski** reported he is waiting to meet with Nancy Mikeski with the City of Conroe. He announced the Stewart Building that was purchased by Montgomery County will likely be torn down so a parking garage can be built on the site.
 - i. **Cemetery Committee – Patricia Easley** announced the "go ahead" on the family cemetery State Historical Marker.
8. **Ron Saikowski made the motion, seconded by Beverly Tucker, to make the following reimbursements for attending THC Real Places Conference in Austin: Maria Banos Jordan - \$175 for expenses. (She received a scholarship from THC for the hotel); Jo Dell Whitehead - \$175 plus \$484.84 for two nights lodging. Motion carried.**
9. **Nominations to MCHC were not addressed.**
10. **The next meeting of the Montgomery County Historical Commission will be August 29, 2016.** (The next regular meeting conflicts with Labor Day. Larry reminded members that grant requests were due by August 15th.)
11. **Motion was made by Beverly Tucker and seconded by Maria Banos Jordan, to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.**

Submitted by:
Sue Ann Powell
Secretary