

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Chamber of Commerce - 3/7/2016

1. **The March 7, 2016 meeting of the Montgomery County Historical Commission** was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Larry Foerster, Chair. **Present were the following members:** Larry Foerster, Gertie Spencer, David Frame, Celeste Graves, Anna Sheppard, Beverly Tucker, Jim Walker, Heather Montgomery, Maria Banos Jordan, Mark Canada, Austin Smith, Barkley Dominey, Carolyn Carroll, Patricia Easley, Robin Bartholet, Jo Dell Whitehead, Missy Ringo, and Sue Ann Powell.
2. **Special guests included:** Luther Powell and also Jon Eden, who is heading up the restoration of the Community Cemetery in back of the white cemetery in Conroe, off 10th St. This old African American Cemetery is the burial site of a Buffalo Soldier. Dean Bass of Spirit of Texas offered to have his crew clean up the cemetery. The group has just received its 501(c)(3) classification.
3. **Public Comments:** Robin Montgomery reported on the upcoming dedication of the young Sam Houston statue in Merryville, Tennessee. Mayor Webb Melder; Huntsville Mayor Mac Woodward; Jim Walker; the Chief Justice of the Cherokee Nation; Joe and Nancy Cobb are among the 20 people going to the dedication. Celeste Graves called attention to a small cemetery in Magnolia—the Turner Thomas Cemetery, and Robin Bartholet commented on the table cover with the MCHC logo and name on it. Larry announced the following: April 21 – “Friends of the Flag” fifth annual flag replacement ceremony in the Flag Park. April 30 – “History Village” – part of Kidz Fest. Celeste Graves announced the annual fundraiser at the Depot in Magnolia on April 16.
4. **The following correction was made to the minutes of 1/4/2016:** 7b. “The following motion was made by Anna Sheppard that we Not purchase additional security for the website.” **Motion was made by Anna Sheppard and seconded by Jo Dell Whitehead to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.**
5. **Announcements:** 1) Larry will take photos of those who have not submitted a picture for an I.D. card produced by the County. 2) MCHC has received \$900 donation from Montgomery Historical Society and \$1,000 from the Texas Heritage Society/Kameron Seale, to cover the cost of the marker for Lake Creek Settlement. 3) MCHC has received \$475 from John and Carol Hicks for a County Marker for the Hicks Building. Sharon Russell is working on it. 4) The following have indicated they want to obtain a marker—Red Barn, Collier Harris Store, Crighton Theatre, Jim Ness (Judge Williams Building), and Grady James. The Cartwright Family Marker is ready—waiting for check. 5) Texas Music Magazine’s editor refused to pay for the marker for the Texas Alger Alexander grave. Cory Prather has sent out letter to Blues organizations throughout the State. Funds are coming in.
6. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Distinguished Service Award.** Patricia Easley passed out the criteria that she and members, Heather Montgomery and Gertie Spencer had worked up. Discussion followed. **Motion by Anna Sheppard and seconded by Robin Bartholet to name it the “William Harley Gandy Distinguished Service Award”. Motion carried. Motion was made by Jo Dell Whitehead to delete “over a sustained period of time” and the last sentence, “It may also be presented to any active member of the Montgomery County Historical Commission. Beverly Tucker seconded the motion. Motion passed.** The committee will review the recommendations and will design the award and form.
 - b. **MCHC Website and Facebook.** David Frame stated extra security was not needed. Mark Canada will work on Social Media and will get input from Victoria Easley. Mark recommends hiring a consultant to add Instagram and Twitter. **Motion was made by Mark Canada to have Carrie Kneisley meet with Larry, David and Barkley to make presentation—discuss what is needed. Motion seconded by Jo Dell Whitehead. Motion carried.** They will report back to the Commission in May.
 - c. **Youth Advisory Board.** Carolyn Carroll reported that most of the YAB members helped with the Road Rally and took the tour of deed records archived in the County Clerk’s office. On April 16, they will be taking a Bus Tour of Danville, Esperanza and Willis, sponsored by the Heritage Museum. Larry will send out the Scholarship applications to the Senior YAB members.
 - d. **Scholarship.** Sue Ann Powell stated the scholarship applications are due May 1.
 - e. **Historical Preservation Grants.** Anna Sheppard and Gertie Spencer reported the Heritage Museum has applied for \$20,258.93 for work being done on the Strake House. The recommendation was to pay for the two bills for skirting amounting to \$8,444 for work done by New Kingdom. If others don’t apply for grants by August 30, 2015, they will look at the rest of the request. **Motion by Jo Dell Whitehead to approve two invoices from the Heritage Museum from New Kingdom for construction and preservation of the Strake House and Bunkhouse, totaling \$8,444. Patricia Easley seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
 - f. **County History Marker Committee.** 1) Cartwright Family Cemetery is ready. 2) Sponsorship of Alger “Texas” Alexander historical marker has received donation of \$200 to date. Discussed the possibility of MCHC paying the difference? Setting a precedent? The marker with post will cost \$1,200. Robin Montgomery will push it with Grimes County Historical Society. **Motion to table until next meeting was made by Beverly Tucker and seconded by Maria Banos Jordan. Motion passed.**
 - g. **Endangered buildings and h. Cemetery Committee.** No reports.
 - World War I Committee.** Carolyn Carroll reported they were in a “search and discovery” mode. They are meeting with SHSU students; an article is to be published in local newspapers addressed to relatives of veterans.
 - h. **History Road Rally.** Mark Canada recommended 1) Having a board with information about the Road Rally in front of cars for the photos; 2) Have teams introduced before race begins; 3) Other categories of trophies, such as unusual/unique vehicles; and 4) Having a safety committee.
7. **No reimbursements requested.**
8. **No nominations submitted.**
9. **Next meeting – May 2, 2016.**
10. **Motion to adjourn was made by Barkley Dominey and seconded by Jim Walker. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.**

Submitted by: Sue Ann Powell, Secretary