

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Minutes 11/7/2016 - Heritage Museum

1. **The November 7, 2016 meeting of the** Montgomery County Historical Commission was called to order at the Heritage Museum by Larry Foerster, Chair, at 5:32 p.m.
2. **The following members were present:** Larry Foerster, Robin Bartholet, Brenda Beaven, Patricia Easley, Celeste Graves, Robin Montgomery, Heather Montgomery, Missy Ringo, Ron Saikowski, Anna Shepeard, Austin Smith, Gertie Spencer, Beverly Tucker, JoDell Whitehead, J. T. Wilkerson, and Sue Ann Powell.
3. **The following Youth Advisory Board members** from Oak Ridge North were recognized: Hailey Wallet, Juvae Williams, Kyra Cleveland, Connor Roberts, and Brittany Miller. Luther Powell was also in attendance.
4. **There were no comments from the public.**
5. **Ron Saikowski made the motion to approve the minutes of August 29, 2016, and Gertie Spencer seconded the motion.** The minutes were approved.
6. **Announcements:** Celeste Graves: the Magnolia Historical Society was sponsoring a Veterans Day Program on November 11th at the Depot and serving steak and potatoes and apple pie. Brenda Beaven: Montgomery Jr. High was serving breakfast to veterans. Gertie Spencer: Open House at the Strake/Gray Oilfield House at the Heritage Museum set for December 10th, from 3 to 6 p.m. Brenda Beaven: - December 10th is also the date of the Montgomery Christmas Open Houses, and the next YAB meeting is 11/28/2016. Robin Montgomery: he and Larry are working on getting a State Historical Marker for the Conroe College (Conroe Normal & Industrial College, 1903).
7. **Report on Texas Heritage Festival.** Brenda Beaven reported Festival highlights were the re-enactment of the Civil War and the tour of the Old Simonton House. MCHC will continue to be a sponsor. YAB members Keller Houston and Juvae Williams attended.
8. **Report on Cradle of Texas Tour:** Robin Montgomery requested that MCHC be a co-sponsor of this tour, February 28 – March 5, with no monetary obligation, along with the Huntsville Historical Society. The tour will begin in Merryville, Tennessee, where the statue of the young Sam Houston was unveiled last spring. The purpose of this event is to show why this history is important. Sam Houston brought the country together, and following his model, this event will bring counties together as co-sponsors. **Motion made by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Robin Bartholet to co-sponsor the Cradle of Texas Tour. Motion carried.**
9. **A motion was made by Anna Shepeard and seconded by Ron Saikowski to pass a resolution for Texas Department of Transportation and City of Conroe to place signage advertising Historical Markers (wayfaring signs) within city limits of Conroe. Motion carried.**
10. **Missy Ringo explained MCHC could benefit from juror donations (\$10) if placed on a list with other entities and filed with the District Clerk. Motion was made by Beverly Tucker and seconded by Brenda Beaven to have MCHC placed on the list, along with other entities, to receive juror donations. Motion carried.**
11. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Distinguished Service Award Committee** – Anna Shepeard nominated Kay Dawes of East Montgomery County for the William Harley Gandy Distinguished Service Award. Qualifications: Has gone above the norm in preserving history of Montgomery County, started East Montgomery County Historical Society, began the Sawmill Festival, and has written books on the area. Jerry Gay, President of the East Montgomery County Historical Society and Anna are recommending her, stating “She is a “*“Lover of History and a Researcher”*”. **Motion was made by Gertie Spencer and seconded by Heather Montgomery, to approve Kay Dawes as the first recipient of the William Harley Gandy Distinguished Service Award. Motion carried.** The presentation will be made at a Commissioner’s Court Meeting.
 - b. **History Road Rally will be held January 28th, at the First Baptist Church in Magnolia from noon to 5 p.m.**
 - c. **Website** – Larry Foerster admitted this is a challenge. Password has changed. The Host was paid \$800, but no one is being paid to keep it up.
 - d. **Historical Preservation Grants** – the J. L. Hicks Building sign may be dedicated in December. The Montgomery Historical Society gave an additional \$5,000 for the Lake Creek State sign.
 - e. **Youth Advisory Board members** will help with the Christmas Homes Tour in Montgomery and the Road Rally, Brenda Beaven announced.
 - f. **County History Marker Committee** – Larry announced they are waiting to hear from the Grogan-Cochran House marker organizers.
 - g. **Endangered Buildings** – Ron Saikowski explained HGAC grants are available to restore old buildings. Discussed the possibility of buying and preserving Old Conroe Home that is up for sale for \$135,000. It was used as the first courthouse temporarily and was the first building in Conroe to have electricity. JoDell Whitehead suggested applying for grant to fix it up, buy it to use for MCHC. Ron will look into this. Larry Foerster announced that the San Jacinto River Authority wants to participate in preserving the Truss Highway Bridge on FM 2854 built in 1910.
 - h. **Cemetery Committee** – no report.
 - i. **World War I Committee** – In Jeremiah Dancy’s absence, Larry announced all chapters are due by January 1. It will take a year and a half to get it ready for publication.
12. **No reimbursements.**
13. **No nominations**
14. **The next meeting of the MCHC will be January 9th at 5:30 p.m. at the Heritage Museum**
15. **The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m. by acclamation.**

Submitted by: Sue Ann Powell, Secretary