

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Minutes 1-16-2017 – Strake House

1. **The January 16, 2017 meeting of the** Montgomery County Historical Commission was called to order at the Strake House, Heritage Museum, by Larry Foerster, Chair, at 5:35 p.m.
2. **The following members were present:** Larry Foerster, Robin Bartholet, Brenda Beaven, Mark Canada, Carolyn Carroll, Barkley Dominey, David Frame, Frank Johnson, Heather Montgomery, Missy Ringo, Ron Saikowski, Anna Shepeard, Gertie Spencer and Sue Ann Powell.
3. **Recognition of special guests:** YAB members, Cameron Carr, Kenton Hignett, Victoria Sundeman, Hailey Wallet, Juvae Williams and Asma Khan. Also present were: Kimberly Hignett, Vee Knight and Carolyn Walker.
4. **There were no comments from the public.**
5. **Motion was made by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Frank Johnson, to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2016 meeting as written. Motion carried.**
6. **Announcements:** Frank Johnson stated his second book will be out this month. It explores the motives of the Republican Party in the 19th Century. His first book listed all of the men of Montgomery County who served in the Civil War.
7. **Cradle of Texas Tour:** At the November meeting, members voted its non-monetary support of this tour, February 28–March 5. Approximately 25 from Tennessee will visit the areas in Texas frequented by Sam Houston,. Larry reviewed the planned activities.
8. **Roadside Historical Monument:** Due to the future widening of Hwy. 75, the Highway Department is abandoning the roadside park, and a decision must be made about the future location of the historical monument placed there in 1936. At this time, members prefer leaving it at its location and getting more information from the highway department. Larry also brought up his concern for the old truss bridge on Old Hwy. 105, which was erected in 1910. The State will have it moved if the City wants it.
9. **Committee Reports:**
 - **Distinguished Service Award:** Kay Dawes of East County will be the first recipient of this award for her work in preserving Montgomery County history. Instead of a framed certificate, **the motion was made by Anna Shepeard and seconded by Ron Saikowski to have wooden plaques made by Braun's Trophy Shop for the Harley Gandy Distinguished Service Awards. Motion carried.**
 - **History Road Rally:** Members and YAB members volunteered to help with the 4th Annual Road Rally on January 28th in Magnolia. Suggestions for speeding up the process of lining up the cars and taking pictures of each team were made.
 - **Website and Social Media:** David Frame explained the need for GPS Coordinates of cemeteries across the county, and also coordinates for historical markers. No decision was made regarding hiring someone to keep up with the website or turn it over to a volunteer.
 - **Youth Advisory Board:** Brenda Beaven reported that Cameron Carr helped with the cookie sale during the Christmas events in Montgomery. Carolyn Carroll handed out scholarship applications to the seniors.
 - **Historical Preservation Grants:** **Motion was made by Anna Shepeard and seconded by Ron Saikowski to postpone, until the March meeting, the decision to award additional funds to the Heritage Museum so Director Sally Copley can be consulted. At the end of the budget year for 2016, the request had been for \$20,258, and the award was \$8,444. Motion carried.**
 - **County History Marker Application:** **Motion was made by Anna Shepeard and seconded by Ron Saikowski to approve a County History Marker for the Grogan-Cochran House, which is now the Heritage Museum, and to approve the attached narrative provided by Carolyn Walker, who will pay for the marker. Motion carried.** Larry and Robin Montgomery have worked up an application for a State Historical Marker for Conroe College, originally the Conroe Industrial and Normal College where many of Conroe's African American leaders attended school. It would qualify for a State Under-told Story Marker which the State makes available during June and July. **Motion by Gertie Spencer and seconded by Anna Shepeard to send the narrative prepared by Robin Montgomery to the State. Motion carried. Motion by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Anna Shepeard to authorize Larry to pay the \$100 application for the Under-told Story Marker. Motion carried.**
 - **Endangered Buildings:** Ron Saikowski announced a free seminar by HGAC on Monday, February 13, 2017 at 1 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce Building, on the use of grants to preserve old buildings. **Motion was made by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Robin Bartholet to support the HGAC Seminar on Preserving Old Buildings. Motion carried.**
 - **Cemetery Committee:** Larry discussed John Eden's preservation efforts of the old African cemetery where a Buffalo Soldier is buried. Also buried there is Mittie Campbell, first principal of the first Black school in Montgomery County.
 - **World War I Committee:** Larry gave an update for Jeremiah Dancy on the progress of the book featuring those in Montgomery County who served in World War I.
10. **No reimbursements submitted.**
11. **Nominations to the County Historical Commission:** Brenda Beaven introduced Kimberly Hignett, Chairman of the History Department at Montgomery High School, who explained her love for history. **Motion by Brenda Beaven and seconded by Ron Saikowski to nominate Kimberly Hignett for membership in Montgomery County Historical Commission contingent on receiving her written application. Motion carried.**
12. **The next meeting of the County Historical Commission will be March 6.** Members discussed moving the meetings back to the Chamber of Commerce due to it being more accessible and the necessity to pay a chamber employee to stay to close up the building. **Motion was made by Anna Shepeard to return to the Chamber of Commerce for future meetings and to pay the city employee from the Special Book Account. Heather Montgomery seconded the motion. Motion carried. The March 6th meeting will be held at the Chamber of Commerce.**
13. **Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.**

Submitted by: Sue Ann Powell, Secretary