

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Minutes – March 6, 2017 – Strake-Gray House/Heritage Museum

1. **The March 6, 2017 meeting of the** Montgomery County Historical Commission was called to order at 5:37 p.m. by Larry Foerster, Chair.
2. **Members present:** Larry Foerster, Gertie Spencer, Brenda Beaven, Anna Shepeard, Jim Walker, Missy Ringo, Ron Saikowski, Frank Johnson, Robin Montgomery, Barkley Dominey, Carolyn Carroll, Robin Bartholet, Kimberly Hignett and Sue Ann Powell
3. **Guest recognized:** Luther Powell.
4. **Public Comments:** Frank Johnson spoke about his new book about Republicans during Lincoln's time.
5. **Ron Saikowski made the motion to accept the minutes of the January 16, 2017 meeting as written and Gertie Spencer seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
6. **Announcements:** Frank Johnson will be speaking at East County next week and Thursday in Magnolia. Larry Foerster announced that Montgomery Tourism will purchase markers for Montgomery buildings. Martha Gandy is getting information on the Addison house.
7. **Cradle of Texas tour report:** Robin Montgomery reported that 30 from Tennessee attended and the last of the group had departed this morning.
8. **Discuss hosting regional training meeting of area county historical commissions:** Consider having it in the summer. Committee formed: Robin Montgomery, Kim Hignett, Anna Shepeard, and Frank Johnson. Robin is chairman of Walker County Historical Commission. Invite other county historical commissions to meet. Anna suggested sending out questionnaire to see if they are interested. Have State people present seminars. Have each commission report what they are doing in their counties. Huntsville's Caroline Crimm is being installed as State Historian. Exchange ideas. **Motion by Anna Shepeard to investigate and get feedback on having regional training meeting of area county historical commissions here this summer. Seconded by Brenda Beaven. Motion carried.**
9. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Distinguished Service Award Committee:** Larry Foerster reported that the presentation at Commissioners' Court for Kay Dawes was nice. He spoke about unsung heroes and gave John Eden as an example for saving the black cemetery on 10th St. Brenda Beaven mentioned Mike Newman of Fernland. This award will be made as appropriate.
 - b. **History Road Rally/Magnolia, Jan. 28 report:** Larry explained that there were 12 teams that participated, down from year before. YAB members suggested ways to attract more students and high schools. Next year, it will be held in East County—will be more spread out.
 - c. **MCHC Website & Social Media:** Larry reported his conversation with David Frame who felt the present plan was not working out. Frank Johnson is willing to serve as webmaster on a trial basis for two months at \$18/hr. for 20 hrs. (\$400 – Budgeted funds). **Motion by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Robin Bartholet to hire Frank Johnson on a trial basis as webmaster for two months at \$18/hr. for 20 hrs. Motion carried.**
 - d. **Youth Advisory Board – Brenda Beaven & Carolyn Carroll:** Check by-laws to see if students who live in county but go to Catholic school out of county can participate in YAB and be eligible for scholarship. **Motion by Carolyn Carroll to amend Scholarship application: "In order to qualify, must serve two (2) terms (Jr.&Sr.) to qualify for Scholarship." Seconded by Brenda Beaven. Beginning this year and beyond. Motion carried.** April 22 is only available date for Bus Tour of Original Borders of Montgomery County. Approximately 6 YAB members plan to attend.
 - e. **MCHC Historical Preservation Grants – Anna Shepeard & Gertie Spencer:** Consider approval of historical preservation grant applications: 1) Montgomery Historical Society - \$5,000 – Restoration of Nat Hart Davis House Cistern. **Motion by Anna Shepeard and seconded by Gertie Spencer to award Montgomery Historical Society \$5,000 for the restoration and construction of the historical cistern at the Davis Cottage/Museum. Passed.** 2) \$15,675 requested by Heritage Museum for Strake-Gray House. Some items not applicable. The Grant Committee recommends reimbursement of \$4,434: \$2,500 to Ruben Garcia for historical renovation; \$450 for an antique display case; \$96.50 for an antique table and picture; \$1,387.50 for historical videos (oral history of the Oil Era). **Motion by Anna Shepeard and seconded by Gertie Spencer to reimburse the Heritage Museum \$4,434 for renovation of the Strake-Gray House. Passed.**
 - f. **County Historical Marker Committee – Sharon Russell**
 - **Consider county historical marker applications** – New county historical marker coming soon – Grogan-Cochran House (Heritage Museum). At a later date, one will be ordered for the Strake-Gray House.
 - **Antioch Baptist Church** is in the works
 - **Directional Markers** – Ron is working with the city and TX-Dot
 - g. **Endangered Buildings Committee – Ron Saikowski.** Report on the Historical Building Preservation Seminar on Feb. 13: Amanda Thorne did the presentation and 14 attended.
 - h. **Cemetery Committee – Sharon Russell:** No report
 - i. **World War I Committee – Larry Foerster** reported that the chapters would contain 2500 words and editing would take place this summer.
10. **Reimbursements approval:** \$100 to Larry for reserving Chamber for next 2 meetings (May 1 and June 27) and \$50.60 for wooden plaque for Kay Dawes. **Motion made by Anna Shepeard and seconded by Ron Saikowski to reimburse Larry Foerster \$150.60 for Chamber expense and plaque for Kay Dawes. Motion carried.**
11. **Approval of nominations to the County Historical Commission:** None
12. **Next meeting and location:** May 1, 2017 at the Chamber of Commerce at 5:30 p.m.
13. **Motion to adjourn was made by Anna Shepeard and seconded by Gertie Spencer. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.**

Submitted by:

Sue Ann Powell, Secretary