

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Minutes 7-2-2018 – Chamber of Commerce

1. **The July 2, 2018 meeting** of the Montgomery County Historical Commission was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Larry Foerster, Chair.
2. **Members present:** Larry Foerster, Gertie Spencer, Brenda Beaven, David Frame, Celeste Graves, Beverly Smythe, Anna Sheppard, Jim Walker, Ron Saikowski, Mark Canada, Annette Kerr, Frank Johnson, Robin Montgomery, Carolyn Carroll, Robin Bartholet, Jo Dell Whitehead, T. J. Wilkerson and Sue Ann Powell.
3. **Special guests:** Alexis Paul Sham, Rebekah Werner, SHSU graduate/history major. Employed by City of Conroe Parks, Heather Jacobs, Cindy Cheney, Floyd M. Montgomery and Luther Powell.
4. **Comments:** 1) Jo Dell Whitehead asked for prayers for her grandson, Parker, age 21. Has Stage 3 Lymphoma. 2) Robin Bartholet commented on the presentation at Commissioners Court of the State Distinguished Service Award to MCHC. She, Anna Sheppard and Beverly Smythe attended, along with Larry Foerster. 3) Larry Foerster reported that he and Robin Bartholet attended the Sweet Rest Cemetery ceremonies in Tamina. 4) Larry discussed the Walking Tour of Conroe and shared the brochure. 5) Ron Saikowski stays in touch with the man who bought the Everett Hardware building and Sparkle Ice building. The building below the Crighton Theatre was owned by Rodney Pool; was sold to man whose blind daughter lives at State Hotel. 6) Brenda Beaven reported that the old African American (Sears Building) Schoolhouse will be moved from Dobbin to a farm to be used as storage.
5. **Motion was made by Jo Dell Whitehead and seconded by Frank Johnson to approve the Minutes of 5-7-18 as written. Motion carried.**
6. **Announcements:** 1) Ron Saikowski reported on the development of Grand Texas Park on S.H. 242 in East County. 2) Larry Foerster stated the 2018-2019 proposed \$30,000 Budget can be modified once the amount is confirmed. Budget was not on Agenda as an Action item. **Ron Saikowski moved we continue to ask for \$30,000 from Commissioners Court. Approved by consensus.** 4) Guest, Floyd Montgomery, who came dressed in his "Montgomery Tartan Kilt", shared there are 250 spellings of "Montgomery".
7. **Discussion: consider joining the Greater Conroe Arts Alliance.** Ron Saikowski explained they are looking for members to get Cultural Arts District from downtown to Museum. Emphasis is on historical values and networking. Charge - \$50/yr. By joining, MCHC will show support for historical preservation in Conroe area. Can benefit from the Alliance's grant program. **Motion was made by Anna Sheppard to join the Conroe Arts Alliance at \$50/yr. and seconded by Jo Dell Whitehead. Motion carried.**
8. **Presentation by Family Search:** Cindy Cheney and Heather Jacobs explained that this non-profit family history organization is dedicated to joining families across generations; blessing lives of future generations. Their purpose is to Discover-Gather-Connect. Services they offer: image capture, digitizing, preservation and online access. Indexing of digitized record makes it searchable on-line. All "trees" connect. (familysearch.org). Create an account on the tree – free. On November 3rd, a Fair will be held to bring together representatives from all service organizations in Montgomery County.
9. **Discussion of fall Regional CHC Conference: Motion was made by Anna Sheppard to let someone else sponsor a conference this year. Consider hosting it for the following year. Motion seconded by Brenda Beaven. Motion carried.** Fort Bend Historical Commission is having one this year. There will be a Statewide event January 16 – 19, 2019.
10. **Discussion: consider development of Montgomery County Historical Marker booklet.** There are 237 Historical markers and cemeteries in Montgomery County, 82 State and 7 County Markers. Plan is to develop State Historical program in form of booklet that can be accessed through an App or on website. Larry will order replacement markers for Crater Hill, Esperanza and Sheriff Mabin Anderson. Ron Saikowski stated information was needed advertising county markers and flyers featuring markers in different cities. A project for the YAB students could be a Scavenger Hunt to locate GPS coordinates to locate markers. **Motion was made by Frank Johnson and seconded by Jo Dell Whitehead for Ron Saikowski and other volunteers to work on developing a hard copy of County and State Historical Markers Booklet. Motion carried.**
11. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Distinguished Service Award** – none.
 - b. **Website & Facebook** - Jessica Cartney will be putting pictures on Instagram and Facebook. Send information to Frank Johnson
 - c. **YAB** – Kim Hignett's name needs to be added to website as a sponsor. A way to reach Home Schoolers is needed.
 - d. **Historical Preservation Grants: Amount in budget \$13,767.03**
 - **Billy Ray Duncan – Montgomery Historical Society** requests \$8,250 for new roof on Davis Law Office Building. **Motion by Anna Sheppard and seconded by Ron Saikowski to reimburse Montgomery Historical Society \$8,250 for roof and interior of Nat Hart Davis Law Office. Motion passed.**
 - **Sweet Rest Cemetery, Tamina** – Funds needed to pay toward restoration of cemetery. Not critical at this point. Elijah Easley has met goal. **Motion made by Jo Dell Whitehead to table until next meeting to find out what needs to be done. Seconded by Annette Kerr. Motion passed.**
 - **Magnolia Historical Society** – building a platform around the Depot. Celeste Graves will get receipts in by August 20th for reimbursement to be voted on at the August 27th meeting.
 - e. **Strake-Gray Oilfield House** – The County History Marker Committee is waiting for corrections.
 - f. **Endangered Buildings Committee** – none.
 - g. **WWI narratives** – put on website and feature in *The Courier*. No book.
12. **No reimbursements requested.**
13. **Nominations:** Alexis Paul Sham was History/French major in college. **Motion by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Anna Sheppard to nominate Alexis Paul Sham. Motion carried.** Elijah Easley – not present. **Motion by Jo Dell Whitehead and seconded by Frank Johnson to table the nomination of Elijah Easley. Motion carried.**
14. **Next Commission meeting: Motion by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Mark Canada to approve moving meeting up before Labor Day to August 27th. Motion passed.**
15. **Motion by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Mark Canada to adjourn.** Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Submitted by: Sue Ann Powell, Secretary