

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**Chamber of Commerce**  
**May 7, 2018**

1. **The May 7, 2018 meeting** of the Montgomery County Historical Commission was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Larry Foerster, Chair.
2. **Commission members present:** Larry Foerster, Gertie Spencer, Brenda Beaven, Mark Canada, Austin Smith, Frank Johnson, Robin Montgomery, Barkley Dominey, Carolyn Carroll, Robin Bartholet, Jo Dell Whitehead, T. J. Wilkerson and Sue Ann Powell.
3. **Special guests recognized:** Alexis Shum, who has a passion for history; Jessica Cartney, who offers help with Facebook; Cindy Cheney and Heather Jacobs, from Family Search; Elijah Easley, representing Tamina Cemetery and is seeking help with raising funds to restore the Tamina Cemetery; and Luther Powell.
4. **Comments from the public:** 1) Robin Montgomery announced the upcoming Sam Houston Folk Festival, May 19-21, sponsored by the Walker County Historical Commission. 2) Larry Foerster updated the group about the possible conflict of interest for Kimberly Sutton to receive 50% of the sale of the books she is promoting for the Commission. He has not received a response to his emails from the County Judge's assistant. He is hoping to get in writing, "As long as she does it on her own time, it is okay with the County". 3) Larry reported that the developer of the Malone property northwest of Willis wants to relocate the cemetery out of the subdivision. 4) Larry explained that the District Engineer for TX DOT is trying to see who owns the trestle bridge. Due to growth and road widening, the question is whether to leave it where it is or move it to the Flag Park. TX DOT and the San Jacinto River authority are being consulted. 6) Ron is still working on the Train Depot development. 7) Larry Foerster conveyed an invitation from Ron Saikowski for the Commission to join the Greater Conroe Arts Alliance. This will be tabled until a later meeting. 8) **A motion was made by Frank Johnson and seconded by Jo Dell Whitehead to approve a Resolution supporting the Arts and Cultural District – TCA (Texas Cultural Arts). The Montgomery County Historical Commission endorses and agrees to participate in the preservation and rehabilitation of downtown buildings. Motion carried.** Larry explained this special designation puts the Commission on the map—makes funding available.
5. **Motion was made by Frank Johnson and seconded by Robin Bartholet to approve the minutes of 3/5/2018. Approved.**
6. **Announcements were covered in #4.**
7. **Heather Jacobs and Cindy Cheney, representatives of Family Search on Genealogy,** spoke briefly and will make a presentation in July.
8. **Larry Foerster reported on the recent History Road Rally** in South County. Thirteen teams participated, less than usual but not surprising since the event was pushed back from January to March. The purpose of the event is to teach about history of Montgomery County. A profit of \$37.92 was recorded.
9. **Committee Reports:**
  - a. **Distinguished Service Award Committee** – no report.
  - b. **Website and Facebook – Jessica Courtney** will help with Facebook and Instagram. Frank Johnson concentrated on the History Section. YAB is next. Linked to Texas State Historical Assoc. Other links: Tombstone cleaning video on website. Frank wants input from members. Send critique of Website to Frank: [fjohnson@wt.net](mailto:fjohnson@wt.net).
  - c. **Youth Advisory Board** – Three seniors applied for scholarships: Katy Loof, Keller Houston and Keaton Hignett. **Motion by Carolyn Carroll and seconded by Jo Dell Whitehead that three \$1,000 scholarships (paid out of the Donations Account) be awarded to the three applicants. Checks will be sent to the Registrar's Office of their respective colleges. Motion approved.**
  - d. **Preservation Grants** – Montgomery Historical Society has applied for purchase of wood shakes to fix a leak in the roof of the Davis Law Office.
  - e. **County History Marker Committee** – Sharon Russell and Anna Shepard have okayed an application for a County History Marker for the Strake-Gray House at the Heritage Museum. Butch Bateman plans to pay for the marker. **Frank Johnson made the motion to approve the County History Marker for the Strake-Gray House and Brenda Beaven seconded the motion. Approved.**  
Anna and Sharon want to work on the narrative for the State Historical Marker that has already been approved for Conroe College. Owner won't sign off on the placement of the marker.
  - f. **Endangered Buildings Committee** – no report.
  - g. **World War I Book** – two to four articles have been done and will be featured by the *Courier* close to the November 18 Armistice date.
10. **Reimbursements:** 1) **Larry Foerster** – GoDaddy - \$60.68 for two website domains for two years. **Motion by Frank Johnson and seconded by Mark Canada to reimburse Larry. Approved.**  
2) **Larry Foerster** - \$754.10 for Road Rally reimbursement. **Motion by Mark Canada and seconded by Brenda Beaven to reimburse Larry from the budget account for Road Rally expenses. Approved.**  
3) **Frank Johnson** – Website update - \$279.00 for 15.5 hours work on the website. **Motion to reimburse Frank Johnson \$279.00 (\$18/hr. for 15.5 hours) for work on Website was made by Carolyn Carroll and seconded by Jo Dell Whitehead. Motion carried.**
11. **Nominations – none.**
12. **Mark Canada was recognized for taking pictures at the Road Rally. The next Commission meeting will be Monday, July 2, 2018.**
13. **Motion to adjourn was made by Frank Johnson and seconded by Kim Hignett. Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.**

Submitted by: Sue Ann Powell, Secretary