

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**Televideo-Teleconference ZOOM Meeting – 7-6-2020**

1. **The July 6, 2020 meeting of the MCHC** was called to order by Larry Foerster, Chair, at 6:11 p.m.
2. **Sixteen members were present:** Larry Foerster, Joy Montgomery, Robin Montgomery, Dell Wise, Annette Kerr, Steve Muir, Brenda Beaven, David Frame, Anna Sheppard, Sharon Russell, Maria Banos Jordan, Robin Bartholet, Ron Saikowski, T.J. Wilkerson, Elijah Easley and Sue Ann Powell.
3. **Two guests were present:** Jean Smoorenberg and John Meredith.
4. **Comments:** Robin Montgomery suggested constructing a monument to former slaves or to J. B. Reiner, President of Conroe College in 1905. Maria Banos Jordan suggested erecting a monument to recognize Tamina. Since these suggestions were not on the Agenda, no action was taken.
5. **No announcements.**
6. **Anna Sheppard made the motion to accept the minutes of the May 6, 2020 meeting as written. Motion was seconded by Annette Kerr. Motion carried.**
7. **Discussion of Texas Flag Festival, Oct. 3:** Larry reviewed the purpose of the event--to promote history of the Texas Revolution, sponsored by the Friends of the Flag (of which he is the President). **Motion was made by Ron Saikowski to provide up to \$500 out of the Donations Account to endorse and support the Texas Flag Festival. Robin Montgomery seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
8. **Committee Reports:**
  - a. **MCHC Website** – David Frame will post items sent to him by members. Larry Foerster stated the East Texas History Website is posting the story about Earl Gentry. Annette Kerr asked if website is set up with a counter to see how many have visited the different stories. David will check and make sure this is activated.
  - b. **Youth Advisory Board** – Brenda Beaven stated things are up in the air due to the COVID-19. Maria Banos Jordan suggested on-line involvement if have a hybrid school year. Activities were discussed that students could do online, such as locating the coordinates for the cemeteries.
  - c. **Historical Preservation Grants** – Anna Sheppard and Gertie Spencer recommend granting \$690 to the Tamina Sweet Leaf Cemetery Project. Elijah Easley explained they are working to drain the swamp that the cemetery has become and identify the ones buried. The \$690 will reimburse the cost of preparing large flash cards with pictures of the ones known to be buried there. These were used for the Memorial Day Event and are available for display at future events. Joy Montgomery explained she had information from the Real Places Conference that the State, through A&M University, has Freedmen Colony funds available. **Motion was made by Anna Sheppard and seconded by Robin Bartholet to reimburse Elijah Easley \$690 for photographs/flash cards. Motion carried.** This will be put on the website. The recommendation to donate \$12,500 to the Conroe Community Cemetery for fencing was withdrawn until bids are received.
  - d. **County History Marker Committee** – Sharon Russell gave an update on the markers in production—the Elizabeth Shaw Cemetery marker and the Willie Dean House marker (money has been sent), and the Gandy House Marker. She will start work on the Conroe Cemetery marker. She wants to get state historical markers for Tamina Cemetery and for Tamina itself. The remainder of the funds available for markers will be determined at the next meeting on Monday, August 31.
  - e. **Endangered buildings** - No report.
  - f. **Document Preservation-Archives Committee** – No report.
  - g. **Cemetery Committee** – Covered in item d.
  - h. **Bylaws Committee** – Will report in August.
9. **Motion by Anna Sheppard and seconded by Ron Saikowski to reimburse Annette Kerr \$35 for hosting the ZOOM meeting. Motion carried.**
10. **No Nominations.**
11. **Motion by Anna Sheppard and seconded by Ron Saikowski to have a ZOOM meeting Monday, August 31, 2020. Motion carried**
12. **Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.**

Submitted by:

Sue Ann Powell, Secretary