

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**Televideo -Teleconference ZOOM Meeting – 5/6/2020**

1. **The May 6, 2020 meeting of the MCHC** was called to order by Larry Foerster, Chair, at 6:23 p.m.
2. **Thirteen members were present:** Larry Foerster, Anna Shepeard, Annette Kerr, Ryan Londeen, Celeste Graves, Sharon Russell, John Sellars, Carolyn Carroll, Missy Ringo, Ron Saikowski, David Frame, Austin Smith and Sue Ann Powell. Larry announced that MCHC was the first Historical Commission in Texas to conduct a Zoom teleconference meeting.
3. **Four guests were present:** Jean Smoorenburg, John Meredith, Mark Cole and Cindy Amburgey.
4. **Comments:** John Meredith of the Conroe Community Restoration Project announced the new cemetery sign was erected today.
5. **Motion was made by Anna Shepeard and seconded by Sharon Russell to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2020 meeting as written. Motion carried.**
6. **Texas Flags Festival:** Larry Foerster reviewed the decision made at the last meeting to co-sponsor the Texas Flags Festival at the Flag Park in Conroe, along with other groups. It is scheduled to take place on Saturday, October 3, 2020.
7. **Texas Independence Day:** Ron Saikowski expressed a desire for the Commission to observe Texas Independence Day on March 2 with a formal event. The Downtown Conroe group is going to decorate downtown with flags. Ron was asked to offer further ideas on how we could participate. Larry will consult Amy Hammonds at THC for suggestions.
8. **Motion by Anna Shepeard and seconded by Ron Saikowski to table the report from the Ad hoc Committee regarding Bylaws until a later meeting. Motion carried.**
9. **Motion by Anna Shepeard and seconded by Ron Saikowski to table the report from the Ad hoc Committee regarding appointment of officers until a later meeting. Motion carried.**
10. **Committee Reports:**
  - a. **Website and Social Media** – David Frame announced that the website is up to date. (David left the meeting after his report.)
  - b. **Youth Advisory Board** – Carolyn Carroll stated there was one scholarship application from the only active senior in the YAB: Kiley Cheatham of Willis High School. Carolyn expressed concern that there were only two active members in the group. **Motion by Anna Shepeard and seconded by Carolyn Carroll that Kiley Cheatham be awarded the scholarship for \$1,000. Motion carried.** Larry stated the application form needed to be revised to a less intimidating format. Anna Shepeard suggested letting the Scholarship Committee handle the revision. Sue Ann Powell will contact Willis High School.
  - c. **Historical Preservation Grants** – Larry expressed concern that the Commission may not get the usual \$30,000 when the Commissioners Court prepares its budget this year. The remaining \$21,000 in the County account must be spent by September 30. The funds in the Donation account carry over. He then explained that grants were usually paid after the organization requesting the grant had paid the money up front, but two exceptions have been made—Thomas Chapel UMC and Conroe Community Cemetery Restoration Project.
    - (1) **Crighton Foundation** asks for reimbursement of any portion of their \$40,000 expense. **Motion by Annette Kerr and seconded by John Sellars to table this request until the next meeting since they were awarded \$8,500 previously.** If money is left at end of August, will consider a grant. **Motion carried.**
    - (2) **Conroe Community Cemetery Restoration Project** – John Meredith presented a request for \$1,500 for a Boundary Survey that is required by the Texas Historical Commission in order to get a State Historical Marker. **Anna Shepeard said she and Gertie Spencer recommend and make a motion to grant \$1,500 to the Conroe Community Cemetery Restoration Project for a Boundary Survey and Ron Saikowski seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
  - d. **Historical Marker Committee** – Sharon Russell explained there were several County Historical Markers in the queue waiting for the Foundry to reopen: Danville Marker, Dean House, and Cartwright Cemetery. Turner-Thomas Cemetery has not been surveyed. An heir to the people of Piney Grove Baptist Church and Cemetery at Butler’s Crossing was working on getting a County Marker for this 1924 black cemetery but has since died. This information has not been located. Larry explained he had an email from the Foundry and is expecting to get a design and cost for the Dean House. Martha Gandy and family will sponsor the Addison-Gandy House and that information will be sent to the Foundry. Larry has asked the Montgomery City Tourism Coordinator, Freida Joyce, to see if Montgomery City Council will pay for some of the markers since the markers will help tourism in that city.
  - e. **Endangered Buildings** – Ron Saikowski is working with Frank Robinson, who has been hired by the City of Conroe as Development Director, about building preservation for the downtown historical area. He feels Frank Robinson understands that tourism and history go hand-in-hand. Ron gave kudos to E. Tay Bond who is restoring the old bank building at Main and W. Davis. He stated Tay had done an outstanding job and suggested the Commission might want to create an award for building improvement. (Ron left the meeting.)
  - f. **Archive Committee** – John Sellars has talked to Darrin Nichols and Mark Turnbull at the County Clerk’s office about the 100 oldest documents the County has in the County Clerk’s Archives.
  - g. **Cemetery Committee** – Sharon Russell’s report was covered in item “d”.
11. **Reimbursement:** Annette Kerr has spent \$33.94 getting set up with Zoom. **Motion by Anna Shepeard and seconded by Sharon Russell to reimburse Annette Kerr \$34.00 for expense related to getting Zoom set up. Motion carried.**
12. **Nominations:** Steve Muir was unable to attend and has turned in his application for membership. **Motion by Ron Saikowski (this item was taken up at the beginning of the meeting) and seconded by John Sellars. Motion carried.**
13. **The next meeting of the MCHC will be Monday, July 6, 2020 at the Chamber of Commerce.**
14. **Motion to adjourn was made by Anna Shepeard and seconded by Annette Kerr. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.**

Submitted by: Sue Ann Powell, Secretary