

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Minutes 11-2-2020 by Video Conference

1. **The November 2, 2020** meeting of the Montgomery County Historical Commission was called to order by Larry Foerster, Chair, at 6:04 p.m. by Zoom video conferencing hosted by Annette Kerr.
2. **Members present:** Larry Foerster, Anna Sheppard, Sharon Russell, Missy Ringo, Annette Kerr, T. J. Wilkerson, Maria Banos Jordan, Ron Saikowski, Elijah Easley, Dell Wise, Carolyn Carroll, Barkley Dominey, Ryan Londeen, JoDell Whitehead and Sue Ann Powell.
3. **Guests:** Frank Martin, Victor Harris, Doug and Elaine Collings and Kreizchi Hister.
4. **Comments:** Frank Martin, member of Chaparral, spoke briefly.
5. **Announcements:** None
6. **Motion was made by Anna Sheppard and seconded by Sharon Russell to accept the minutes of 8/31/2020 as written. Motion carried.**
7. **Discussed the History Road Rally in Willis.** Missy Ringo will make reservations with the Willis Community Center.
8. **Committee Reports:**

- a. **Bylaws:** JoDell Whitehead led the following discussion of Article III Membership and Article VI Election of Officers. She stated it was good for Larry to serve both as Chair and Treasurer, but wants a Treasurer Report. Anna reminded Larry that she was elected Treasurer 8 years ago, but felt redundant and deferred to Larry. Larry explained his job was mainly work with the political officials to prop up and help other historical groups in county. Establish good relationship. Larry is for having a Treasurer. Sharon added since we're setting up our rules to follow—don't let the head guy have the checkbook. Ron recommended having a periodic report from County Comptroller. Larry will work on Job Descriptions. Larry stated Gertie Spencer, current Vice Chairman/Parliamentarian, may be ready for Emeritus position. **Ron Saikowski made the motion to approve updating the Bylaws as amended (see below) and Annette Kerr seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

- **While there must be at least 7 members who reside in Montgomery County, anyone who resides outside of our County may serve if he/she demonstrates an interest in historic preservation and an understanding of local history and resources.**
- **Members who desire to serve and be reappointed to the Commission every two years must attend at least 4 Commission meetings each year and actively work on a Committee or project.**
- **Three (3) absences in a row and the Member is automatically dropped from Membership, UNLESS the Member gives the Chairman written notice of a reasonable cause for an absence.**
- **A quorum for a Commission meeting must be a minimum of 7 Members present at the meeting.**
- **Telephone conferencing and video face conferencing meetings are permitted per the Governor's orders in times of public disaster or calamity. In that event, these meetings must be open to the public with notice of the meeting to the public so they can observe.**
- **The Officers of the Commission will be the Chairperson (who is appointed by the County Judge and approved by Commissioners Court), the Vice-chairperson, the Secretary and the Treasurer. These four officers serve as the Executive Committee.**
- **The three officers will be elected by the Commission for a two-year term at the first calendar meeting of the new two-year term (typically at the January meeting).**
- **Standing Committees are the following: Executive Committee, Grants Committee, Fundraising Committee, Research and Historical Marker Committee, Historical Cemetery Committee, Communications, Website and Media Committee, Endangered Buildings Committee, and Youth Advisory Board Committee.**
- **Other *ad hoc* or special projects committees may be appointed from time to time as necessary, such as a Publicity Committee, Archives and Research Committee, and Distinguished Service Award Committee.**
- **The Historical Resource Survey of all historic buildings and sites will be under the supervision of the Endangered Buildings Committee.**
- **The History Road Rally will be under the Fundraising Committee. (A subcommittee may actually organize the History Road Rally).**
- **The YAB Scholarships Committee will be under the supervision of the YAB Committee.**
- **All cash donations and sales proceeds will be placed in the Special Donations Account that has been established by the County Treasurer.**
- **Under the supervision of the Research and Historical Markers Committee, the Commission will review all applications for the Official County Historical Markers, as it does for the State Historical Markers.**
- **The annual budget will be proposed by the Treasurer and submitted to the Commission for approval and will be submitted to Commissioners Court for final approval (based upon the annual budgeted funds)**
- **The County Treasurer will continue to be the depository for all Commission funds (budgeted and donations) and no funds will be released without Commissioners Court approval.**

REMINDER: By law, all Members must take the one-hour Open Meetings Act video offered online by the Texas Attorney General.

- b. **No report MCHC Website and Social Media.**

- c. **Youth Advisory Board:** no students this year. Sue Ann will correct the application to reflect two instead of three letters of reference

- d. **No grant applications** have been submitted at this time.
 - e. **Historical Markers:** Sharon Russell reported that the Dean House marker dedication was done, the Cartwright Cemetery Marker is completed and she will contact Russell Cartwright. The Addison House is scheduled for November 14, 2020 at 11 a.m.
 - f. **Cemetery Committee:** Sharon Russell reported that the Turner Thomas Cemetery is lacking a survey; Tamina Historical Freedman waiting on Commissioner to sign the paperwork. Will get the narrative to them before deadline. Tamina Sweet Rest – Elijah and his committee have submitted everything, and the State Commission is reviewing it. Expect from the State in the next four months. Piney Grove Baptist Church and Cemetery is in the research stage. She and Anna plan to mentor and help with the work on the following: Henry Dean – General Store; Charlie Riley – Decker Prairie School Marker (will be ready after the first of the year); Magnolia High School (1937) on Main St.; Celeste Graves – Arnold-Dean Cemetery on Old Hockley Road.
 - g. **Endangered Buildings:** Ron Saikowski is working with City Manager on Downtown Conroe (east side of Railroad). Larry announced that the LDS Church volunteers will be doing historical resource surveys for MCHC (7-10 historical houses in Conroe).
 - h. **No report Document Preservation-Archives.**
 - i. **Distinguished Service Award:** This will be awarded to Jon Edens and John Meredith next Tuesday at Commissioners Court. On Saturday at 10 a.m., the bridge over Alligator Creek (45/105) will be named for Luther Dorsey, the Buffalo Soldier buried in the Conroe Community Cemetery.
9. **Motion made by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Sharon Russell to reimburse Annette Kerr \$35 for hosting the ZOOM meeting. Approved.**
 10. **Motion made by Sharon Russell and seconded by JoDell Whitehead to appoint Jean Mann to the Commission. Motion carried.**
 11. **The next meeting of the Commission will be January 4, 2021.**
 12. **Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.**

Submitted by:

Sue Ann Powell, Secretary