

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
TELECONFERENCE MINUTES 8-31-2020**

1. **Chair, Larry Foerster, called the August 31, 2020 meeting of the Montgomery County Historical Commission to order at 6:04 p.m.**
2. **Members present:** Larry Foerster, Anna Sheppard, Sharon Russell, Maria Banos Jordan, Annette Kerr, Robin Montgomery, Barkley Dominey, Carolyn Carroll, Kim Hignett, Robin Bartholet, JoDell Whitehead, Missy Ringo, Elijah Easley, Joy Montgomery, Dell Wise, Ryan Londeen, Steven Muir and Sue Ann Powell.
3. **Guests present:** Rita Wiltz, Executive Director Children's Books on Wheels and volunteer at Sweet Rest Cemetery in Tamina.
4. **There were no comments.**
5. **Announcements:** Joy Montgomery and Larry met with Bob Goodman, Representative for Latter Day Saints, who wants the church to participate in volunteer projects (3 churches in county with 3,000 parishioners). Joy announced that the Heritage Museum had received an History Task Force grant. The Museum will be opening in the next couple of weeks with following procedures: sign up ahead of time and wear masks.
6. **Annette Kerr made the motion to accept the minutes of the July 6, 2020 meeting with one correction (Sweet Rest Cemetery). Motion seconded by Anna Sheppard. Approved.**
7. **Larry Foerster reviewed** information about the upcoming Texas Flag Festival on Saturday, October 3, 2020. At the last meeting, \$500 was approved for needs such as programs, etc. Volunteers are needed for the Commission's table from 5 – 7 p.m. Annette Kerr, Missy Ringo and Robin Bartholet volunteered.
8. **Committee reports:**
 - a. **MCHC Website and Social Media:** David Frame submitted the following written report: A basic website tracker has been installed. Numbers for the last 30 days indicates about 20 visits a day, with multiple visits to different pages by the same person. Volunteers are needed to provide coordinates for 50 cemetery sites. David paid \$100 for website update. H.O. #1.
 - b. **Youth Advisory Board:** Carolyn Carroll expressed concern for getting members together. Doesn't want to ZOOM. Joy Montgomery stated the LDS are interested in getting their youth involved. Larry expressed hope to have the History Road Rally and involving youth in a Historical Resource Survey.
 - c. **MCHC Historical Preservation Grants:** Anna Sheppard provided a summary of the expenditures for grants: Magnolia Historical Society for Magnolia Depot Museum - \$3,650; Montgomery Historical Society for replacement of 8 windows on Nat Davis Museum - \$2,500; Montgomery Historical Society for removal of dead tree by Davis Museum - \$1,500; Conroe Community Cemetery Restoration Project for fence on North side and east side - \$7,350. Total for grants \$15,000. **Motion by Anna Sheppard and seconded by Sharon Russell to award the \$15,000 for grants summarized above. Motion carried.** Amount remaining in account: \$3,955.60. Anna Sheppard and Gertie Spencer+2+4 had proposed splitting the remainder between the Montgomery Historical Society and the Conroe Community Cemetery Restoration Project. The consensus was not to give anything to the Crighton Theatre. Rather than split the remaining money, it was decided to award \$1,540 to the Heritage Museum for a sign. **Motion by Anna Sheppard and seconded by JoDell Whitehead to award a grant of \$1,540 to the Heritage Museum for a sign. Approved.** The balance of \$2,415.60 was awarded as a grant request filed by the Heritage Museum two years ago for an Archive Vault. **Motion made by Robin Bartholet and seconded by Elijah Easley to award a grant of \$2,415.60 to the Heritage Museum for additional expense incurred for the Archive Vault for the Museum. Passed with one abstention. H.O. #3**
 - d. **County History Marker Committee:** Sharon Russell provided a summary of markers that are at the foundry, 1) the Cartwright Cemetery, 2) the Dean House, 3) the Addison Gandy House and 4) the Danville Cemetery. She provided a list of items in working progress: 1) the Turner-Thomas Cemetery in Magnolia—waiting on the survey. Money has been donated. 2) Tamina Community Marker—will be a Texas Undertold Story marker. Working with Maria Banos Jordan and Elijah Easley and Dr. Roberts with the Freedman's Town Project at Texas A&M. If approved, the State will provide funds for the marker. Hopefully, the Turner-Thomas Cemetery and the Tamina Community Marker will be submitted at the November 2nd meeting. 3) Working on the Tamina Historical Cemetery—won't be ready for another year or so. 4) Conroe Community Cemetery—compiling the paperwork for that marker. Looking at next year for completion. 5) Pine Grove Baptist Church and Cemetery in Magnolia—just starting to collect information. H.O. #3
 - e. **Endangered Buildings Committee:** Ron Saikowski absent. Frank Robinson with the City is looking at preserving structures.
 - f. **Document Preservation-Archives Committee:** John Sellars absent.
 - g. **Cemetery Committee:** Covered in d.
 - h. **Bylaws Committee:** JoDell Whitehead stated they had read the bylaws and very few things needed to be addressed. Larry reminded the group that every two years, members have to be approved by Commissioners' Court. Consider having something in bylaws regarding severing membership after three unexcused absences.
 - i. **Distinguished Service Award: Motion by Larry Foerster and seconded by Sharon Russell to award the Distinguished Service Award to Jon Edens and John Meredith for their leadership in establishing the Conroe Community Cemetery Restoration project. Motion carried.**
9. **Disbursements: Motion by Dell Wise and seconded by Elijah Easley to reimburse David Frame \$100 for updating the website, and Annette Kerr \$35 for hosting the ZOOM meeting, to be paid out of the Special Account. Motion carried.**
10. **Nominations: none.**
11. **Next meeting: Motion by Sharon Russell and seconded by Annette Kerr to have the next meeting of the Commission on Monday, November 2, 2020. It will be a ZOOM meeting. Motion carried.**
12. **Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.**

Submitted by:

Sue Ann Powell, Secretary