

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Videoconference and Teleconference
May 3, 2021 Minutes

1. **The meeting of the Montgomery County Historical Commission** was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Larry Foerster, Chair.
2. **Present on Videoconference or Teleconference:** Larry Foerster, Annette Kerr, Dell Wise, Austin Smith, Kim Hignett, Ann Meador, Steven Muir, Ryan Londeen, David Frame, Sharon Russell, Frank Johnson, Ron Saikowski, Elijah Easley, Barkley Dominey, T. J. Wilkerson, Anna Sheppard and Sue Ann Powell
3. **Guests:** Annette Spikes, Marsha Porter, Capt. Tim Cannon, Nicola Weems and John Meredith.
4. **Comments:** Nicola Weems, former owner of Hodge Podge Lodge discussed recognizing the 12 founding members of the Conroe Service League (1961). Now 40 members. Wants a plaque in front of the location at 123 N. Thompson Street. Marsha Porter and Annette Spikes announced that the City of Conroe has purchased the old Sam Houston Elementary School (Jett Center) for the Conroe Performing Arts. Entrance will be in the back. Aim is to get all the arts housed in the same building and to offer office space to organizations such as the Historical Commission. It would provide a meeting place, screen/computer, a place to keep archives and other amenities. A full-time staff would be in place. Steven Muir offered his services as he worked in that building for many years. Could possibly house the Sheriffs' Museum there. A tour of the building for the Historical Commission members can be arranged. Another possible location for the Sheriffs' Museum might be the former Knox Furniture Store
5. **Announcements:** Larry mentioned that Frank and Marilyn Hersom with the LDS church in Conroe are working on researching downtown Conroe buildings for a historical resource survey and a historical district. There will be a new brewery on Thomason and W. Main. Elijah Easley discussed the Memorial Day Celebration in Tamina.
6. **Ron Saikowski made the motion to accept the minutes as written and Annette Kerr seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
7. **Commission's assistance with the location for the Sheriff's Museum.** Sheriff is in need of temporary housing during construction. This will be on the Agenda for next month.
8. **Selection of Vice Chair tabled until next meeting.** Larry will check with Missy Ringo.
9. **Discussed purchasing shirts and lapel pins** from Branding Iron on Main Street down from the Crighton.
10. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Communication and Social Media.** David Frame reported that the website was recording 20 visits per day; 600 per month.
 - b. **YAB. Motion by Sue Ann Powell and seconded by Kimberly Hignett to award the \$1,000 scholarship to Jesilyn Knight. Motion carried.** A check will be sent to Sam Houston University on her behalf.
 - c. **Grants Committee.** Anna Sheppard announced there were no applications. John Meredith wants to identify graves on all or part of the 3 ½ acres at Conroe Cemetery with ground sensitivity/penetrating equipment. He will need to get three quotes from Texas Historical Committee approved list. Annette Kerr and Anna Sheppard are seeking volunteers to help identify cemeteries for the Heritage Museum.
 - d. **Historical Markers.** Sharon Russell reported she and Anna are waiting for the survey of the Turner-Thomas Cemetery. The marker is paid for. Should receive the survey by the middle of May.
 - e. The marker is in place at the Cartwright Cemetery and the dedication will be in the fall. Ron Saikowski stated he wanted to see other towns in the County pay for Historical Markers like Montgomery and Magnolia.
 - f. **Endangered buildings.** Ron Saikowski is discussing the building code with the City of Conroe code enforcer. Larry announced the dedication of a marker honoring the female flyers during WW II at the Veterans' Memorial Park on Memorial Day. Celeste Graves will be involved. Future expansion was discussed.
 - g. **Fundraising. No report.**
11. **Reimbursement.** Annette Kerr will be reimbursed \$35 for hosting each Commission Zoom meeting.
12. **No nominations.**
13. **The next meeting will be July 5. Discussed continuing Zoom meetings.** Will continue for July meeting and possibly longer.
14. **Motion by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Annette Kerr to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.**

Submitted by:

Sue Ann Powell, Secretary