

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Chamber of Commerce - Minutes 8/30/2021

1. **The August 30, 2021 meeting of the Montgomery County Historical Commission** was called to order by Larry Foerster at 6:01 p.m.
2. **Members present:** Larry Foerster, Beverly Smythe, Anna Sheppard, Annette Kerr, Ron Saikowski, Mark Canada, Robin Montgomery, Barkley Dominey, Carolyn Carroll, John Sellars, Robin Bartholet, JoDell Whitehead, Missy Ringo, Dell Wise, Ryan Londeen, Ann Meador and Sue Ann Powell.
3. **Guests:** Victor Uher, Dr. Robert Kraus, John Meredith, S. Crighton, Bill Fowler, Frank and Merlyn Hersom and Bea Rouse. Frank and Merlyn Hersom were recognized for their wonderful work on the History Resource Surveys being performed in Conroe.
4. No comments from the public.
5. **Larry Foerster introduced Dr. Robert Krause** who explained THC's Certified Local Government (CLG) program offered by his company SEARCH. Highlights: expertise in programs and grant management; helps counties become part of the CLG program which funds historical and cultural resource projects like National Register nominations, preservation plans, local ordinance updates. Archaeology, Maritime Archaeology, Architectural History and Archives, Museum Services. More cities in program. Flexible timeline 6-12 months. Will email power point. Larry stated two aspects 1) CLG membership; 2) Locate historical sites (old sawmill sites, old historical African American churches).
6. No announcements.
7. **Motion to approve the minutes of the July 5, 2021 meeting made by Annette Kerr and seconded by Missy Ringo. Approved.**
8. **Sheriff's Museum.** Still looking for site. Need 1,000 sq. ft. in downtown Conroe.
9. **Discussed position of Vice Chair.** Larry would train. Job Description located in By Laws. JoDell suggested splitting up the responsibilities. Delegate. Larry will send out a list of duties.
10. **Texas Legacy Flag Fest.** To be held on Saturday, November 6 from 10 – 5 p.m., partnering with Texas Veterans Association. Distribute Activity Books for 4th graders. Participating with volunteers: Sons/Daughters of the Republic, Heritage Museum, etc. Table to promote Historical Commission.
11. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Communications – David Frame** sent the following information. There has been a huge spike in site visitors. Has plenty of time for updates if anyone has something to send (in Covid quarantine!). Plat Books at County Appraisal District office– David recommends setting aside \$3,000 to find a place to relocate these books. Needs to be a climate controlled environment. Now on digital format. Important resource for county history but where. Library? Heritage Museum? Ron will help Larry find a location.
 - b. **YAB – Carolyn Carroll** stated still don't have many students. Discussed activities—tombstone cleaning, tours, Road Rally, Scholarship. Stipend for teacher? Ron Saikowski offered \$1,000 from his company, Quest Engineering, to recruit one teacher to work with other teachers throughout the county to locate students. Standing offer. Challenge other districts. Extra credit incentive.
 - c. **Grants Committee.** **Anna Sheppard made the motion to reimburse the Conroe Community Cemetery \$4,126.80 for markers with slotted bases for unknown graves. Mark Canada seconded the motion. Motion carried. Motion made by Anna Sheppard and seconded by Ron Saikowski to reimburse Magnolia Historical Society \$2,145 for weather repairs to Magnolia Depot Museum. Motion carried.** Anna announced that Dell Wise will work with her on grants.
Possible uses of the excess funds:
 - 1) Funding on Pioneer Woman sculpture in Montgomery at Cedar Park. Haven't had money to send it to the foundry. Statute was supposed to be supported by City of Montgomery. Not 501c3. If Montgomery Historical Society could consider if this would be a preservation of history? New grant process begins October 1. Resolution: MCHC supports the project.;
 - 2) \$3,000 for Plat book archives.
 - 3) **John Meredith** submitted reimbursement request for rental of stump grinder/wood chipper for Conroe Community Cemetery for \$2,000. **Motion by Annette Kerr and seconded by Ryan Londeen to reimburse Conroe Community Cemetery \$2,000 for stump grinder/wood chipper.** John Meredith amended his request from \$2,000 to \$2,343.52. **Motion by John Sellars and seconded by Missy Ringo to approve the amended amount of \$2,343.52 reimbursement to Conroe Community Cemetery. Motion carried.**
Amount available \$7,343.52
 - 4) **Motion by Annette Kerr to allot \$5,000 to printing (1,000-1,500 additional copies) of The Lone Star Monument and Historical Flag Park Activity Book for 4th graders. JoDell Whitehead seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
Amount available \$2,343.52
 - 5) **Motion by John Sellars and seconded by JoDell Whitehead to offer \$2,000 for two YAB Coordinators' Stipend. Motion carried.** (The \$1,000 offered by Quest Engineering will provide a third coordinator).
 - d. **Historical Marker – Conroe Service League historical marker** is in.
 - e. **Cemetery Committee – No Report.**
 - f. **Endangered Buildings –** Ron Saikowski announced that the City of Conroe has adopted a policy regarding building code for endangered buildings.
 - g. **Fundraising – none.**
12. **No reimbursements** were requested.
13. **Motion by Ron Saikowski and seconded by John Sellars to nominate Victor Uher for membership in MCHC.** Victor Uher introduced himself as a retired Conroe ISD school principal and active with Galveston history. **Motion carried.**
14. **Next meeting will be November 1, 2021.**

Motion by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Robin Bartholet to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Submitted by: Sue Ann Powell, Secretary