

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Chamber of Commerce
Minutes - March 7, 2022

1. **The March 7, 2022 meeting of the** Montgomery County Historical Commission was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Larry Foerster, Chair.
2. **Roll call:** Larry Foerster, Beverly Smythe, Ron Saikowski, Mark Canada, Robin Bartholet, JoDell Whitehead, Missy Ringo, Elijah Easley, Dell Wise, Ron Londeen, Ann Meador, Victor Uher and Sue Ann Powell
3. **Guests:** Luther Powell and John Meredith.
4. **Comments:** none.
5. **Announcements:** Ann Meador and Ron Saikowski gave an update on the work done on Thomas Chapel in Willis. This work is being done through the Heritage Museum. The property is owned by Thomas Chapel trustees. Ann donated \$10,000 (to be reimbursed) to get leveling done. Lay Pastor stopped the process—said it was damaging property although the leveling punch list was in progress. MCHC had granted reimbursement. Lawyer says go ahead. Ron knows what needed to be repaired: Restrooms, waste piping and A/C ducts, leaking roof estimated to cost between \$50,000-\$80,000. Elevated floor and men's restroom have been repaired. The church has been zooming services the last two years. Object is to save the church and get the church functional again.
6. **Real Places reports:** Larry Foerster, Elijah Easley, Angela Levenson (Sweet Rest secretary), Ann Meador and Victor Uher attended. Comments: Elijah—great networking. Ann Meador—technical, climate-controlled archives. Interesting. Victor Uher—excited about presentation on Texas Historical Restoration of Courthouses. State-funded master plan. Jon Edens and John Meredith's presentation on cemetery restoration was exceptional. Larry Foerster enjoyed the networking, the brochures and highlights. Jon and John's presentation was outstanding. It will be on the Texas Historical Commission's website. John stated people have already requested copies of their steps to restore. "Do no harm", "be cautious", "Research first before start cleaning up". John was impressed by how many young people attended.
7. **Road Rally:** 10 teams. Many of the same groups from previous years attended. Hopefully, East County will be the location of the Road Rally next year. Distance is a problem for an East County rally. Mr. Gullo donates \$500 each year for the trophies.
8. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Communications and website** – David Frame sent his report. Website is getting traffic.
 - b. **YAB** – Two seniors are eligible to apply for the scholarship.
 - c. **Grants** – application from Heritage Museum for the leveling of the two buildings. On hold until the draining issue is corrected.
 - d. **History Marker Committee** – Ryan Londeen is seeking a State Historical Marker rather than a County Marker. Deadline is May 16. Get committee report back and approve the Chilton House at May meeting. Thomas Clinton was a friend of Davy Crockett. Became a Stagecoach stop—across the street from Old Magnolia house built by Peter Willis.
 - e. Cemetery Committee – no report.
 - f. Endangered Buildings – none.
 - g. Fundraising – none.
9. **Reimbursement for MCHC** – Austin Hilton. Four members for two nights (\$330.00 +) – Ann Meador, Elijah Easley, Larry Foerster and Victor Uher. **Ron Saikowski made the motion to approve the regular fees for these members. Motion was seconded by Missy Ringo. Motion carried.** Larry requested Jon Edens and John Meredith be reimbursed for two nights. State paid for their registration. **Motion made by Ron Saikowski and seconded by Elijah Easley to pay for two nights for Jon Edens and John Meredith from the Donations account. Motion carried.** Larry recommended paying Frank and Merlynn Hersom \$75 each and one-night hotel for attending the sessions in Georgetown on Historical Resource Surveys out of the Donations Fund. **Ron Saikowski made the motion to reimburse the \$150 registration for Frank and Merlynn Hersom and \$104.70 for one night stay, seconded by Robin Bartholet. Motion carried with one dissension.** As part of the ministry of the LDS Church for genealogy, its volunteers have done the historical survey, which is to be done every 10 years. If they paid for this themselves, MCHC will reimburse them out of the Donations Account. Angela Levenson, secretary of Sweet Rest Cemetery in Tamina attended with Elijah Easley who requested reimbursing her. JoDell Whitehead stated it would be setting a precedent to pay for someone who is not a member of MCHC out of the budget. **Motion by Ron Saikowski and seconded by JoDell Whitehead to reimburse Jon Edens and John Meredith, Frank and Merlynn Hersom and Angela Levenson out of the Donation Account. Motion carried.**
10. **Nominations** – Motion made by Ron Saikowski and seconded by JoDell Whitehead to nominate Brittney Wallace, Montgomery ISD teacher, for membership in MCHC. Motion carried.
11. **Motion by Elijah Easley and seconded by Ryan Londeen to approve May 2nd as the next MCHC meeting.**
Approved.
12. **Motion by Mark Canada and JoDell Whitehead to approve the minutes of the January and March meetings at the May meeting.**
Approved.
Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by:

Sue Ann Powell, Treasurer