



MEMORANDUM

July 2, 2012

TO: Franklin Board of Mayor and Aldermen

FROM: Eric Stuckey, City Administrator
Vernon Gerth, ACA Community and Economic Development
Catherine Powers, Planning & Sustainability Director
Amanda Hall, Historic Preservation Planner

SUBJECT: Battlefield Preservation Commission Update

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BOMA) with information regarding the Battlefield Preservation Commission (BPC) and its current priorities as related to Franklin's Civil War battlefield areas.

Background

Established in 2010, the BPC is composed of 18 citizen appointees that represent local heritage/preservation organizations, the education community, the re-enactment community, and the community in general. The purpose of the BPC is to serve as an advisory body to the BOMA and the City Administrator in the identification, preservation, interpretation, maintenance, and recognition of Franklin's Civil War heritage.

The 2004 Franklin Battlefield Preservation Plan provides direction to the BPC in developing its priorities. Many of the key recommendations within the Battlefield Preservation Plan, however, have been achieved by the City and/or various local heritage and preservation organizations or are in process at this time. Some of those Civil War-related accomplishments are as follows:

- Acquisition of the Eastern Flank of the Battle of Franklin
- Acquisition of the Pizza Hut property and development of the Assault of the Cotton Gin Park
- Carnton Plantation/Eastern Flank enhancements and interpretative signage
- Carter House garden property acquisition
- Formation of the Battle of Franklin Trust
- Formation of the Lotz House museum
- Development of linkages between the Battle of Franklin Trust and the Lotz House
- Downtown area hospital flag program
- Expansion of the Williamson County Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Development of the Battle of Franklin driving tour brochure
- Development of the Downtown Franklin walking tour
- Creation of Winstead Hill observation point and wayside
- Development and placement of Collins Farm interpretive marker
- Development and placement of Old Harpeth River Bridge interpretive marker
- Fort Granger improvements
- Park at Harlinsdale Farm improvements



Additionally, the BPC has undertaken the following Civil War related projects:

- Annual Battle of Franklin Commemorative Illumination
- Unknown soldier re-interment
- Development and placement of historic marker for Unknown soldier
- Battlefield location signs

The BPC has established three top priorities on which to focus between now and the Battle of Franklin Sesquicentennial in November 2014. Those priorities are as follows:

Fort Granger

- Park entrance and parking development
- Fort stabilization
- Development of vegetation and preservation plan
- Development of interpretative signage
- Restoration of earthworks and armament

Historic Cemeteries (Rest Haven and City Cemeteries)

- Tombstone restoration
- Development of interpretative signage
- Development of visitation guidelines
- Defined walking paths
- Stone wall reconstruction
- Landscaping

Connectivity & Expansion of the Battle of Franklin Story

- Developing better access to battlefield sites
- Providing consistency of fencing, signage, and markers
- Promoting greenways and walkability
- Holding public meetings to seek input
- Interpreting skirmishes & cavalry engagements, the Federal occupation, the slaves/freedmen experience, and Reconstruction

Financial Impact

Not applicable to this item.

Recommendation

Not applicable to this item.