

City of Franklin Battlefield Preservation Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 11, 2016—7:30 AM
Training Conference Room
Meeting Minutes

Present: Dianne Christian, Sam Huffman, Alma McLemore, Mike Skinner, Ernie Bacon, Sam Whitson, Pam Lewis, Jim Roberts, David Eagan, Deborah Warnick

Staff Present: Emily Hunter, Amanda Hall, Joey Bryan, Brian Walker, Susan Coleman, Jonathan Marston, William Banks

Chair Whitson called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

Minutes: July 14, 2016 Meeting

Mr. Skinner moved to approve the July 14, 2016, meeting minutes as submitted. Mr. Bacon seconded the motion and the motion passed 10-0.

Discussion on Columbia Avenue Improvements Project

Ms. Paula Harris and Daniel Spann from Barge, Wagner, Sumner & Cannon, Inc. introduced themselves.

Ms. Harris stated they were in the collection phase and wanted feedback from this commission.

Mr. Spann stated this is a very important project and when a roadway project is federally funded you must go through a lot of phases. Mr. Spann stated they are in the environmental planning phase and they referenced the handout on the table for everyone to look at that shows the process this project will follow.

Mr. Skinner stated there are two things that have come up in the past: the stacked stone wall as to what should be done with it, and the other issue is an easement on the Longview property to remain as a historical area. Mr. Skinner requested to know if there is some way to have a pull off to access this property.

Ms. Lewis requested to know if there may be some possible way to keep at least a portion of the original stone wall to show where it was located.

Chair Whitson requested to know from Ms. Harris which area of Columbia they were looking into.

Ms. Harris stated that they are looking into the area from Downs Avenue to just south of Mack Hatcher Parkway. Ms. Harris stated there was a map in the handout.

Mr. Skinner stated there should be some kind of indicator there were stone walls along Columbia.

Ms. McLemore requested to know if there could be some kind of signage.

Mr. Marston stated right now there is no funding for signage and all the funding is strictly for transportation. Mr. Marston stated the city could provide those at its own cost.

Ms. Warnick stated there could be grant funding to purchase interpretative markers and at the very least there could be a Civil War Trails marker that would talk about that corridor.

Ms. Rose stated she would like to make sure everyone understands what the commissioners are talking about when they say “pull off.” Ms. Rose explained there was discussion last month about a proposed restaurant coming in at the intersection of Werthen Circle and Columbia Avenue. Ms. Rose stated this commission did review the design and gave comments to the applicant. Ms. Rose stated there is no mention of a “pull off,” but there will be an access off of Merrill.

Discussion ensued on some type of signage/marker being placed at the site.

Ms. Christian suggested using the stone wall as a way to frame the open space historical site.

Chair Whitson stated maybe the Open Space site could be donated to the City.

Mr. Spann stated an archeological study will be done.

Ms. Rose requested to know if there were any other considerations the commission would like to discuss besides the stone wall.

Chair Whitson stated further setbacks need to be considered.

Ms. Rose stated that parking to not be in the front has been discussed.

Mr. Spann stated sidewalk paths will be incorporated along Columbia Avenue.

Mr. Bacon requested to know a timeline.

Mr. Spann stated that they are looking at about 18 months to 2 years for design and that overall it will be a 5-to-7-year process for construction to be complete.

Mr. Bacon requested that along the process he would like for the consultant to come back to this commission with updates.

Ms. Rose noted the Columbia Avenue Overlay standards have been updated and will be incorporated with this process.

Update on Federal Line Markers Proposal

Ms. Rose stated they would not be going to the August 23rd BOMA meeting for this, but I will be working with Ms. Emily Hunter, our new director, to get this information updated and to BOMA. Ms. Rose stated she would work with the other departments to make sure the locations are acceptable.

Organization Announcements

Ms. Rose stated Mr. Thomas Fligel has stepped down from this commission and the Mayor has appointed Mr. Tim Stillings from the FSSD board and will be joining us next month.

Chair Whitson stated the Flower Shop has been vacated and Franklin’s Charge can move forward in removing those structures.

Mr. Bacon stated they are taking bids for the demolition of the Flower Shop and Ms. Robanne Ligon will be taking and moving the Castle House to her farm.

Other Business

Mr. Walker stated that at Carter Hill there is an older stone marker with a bronze plaque that it is currently about 40 or 50 feet south of from the actual line. Mr. Walker requested to know what the commission would like to do with the older marker once the Federal Line Markers are installed.

Mr. Bacon stated it would depend on comments from Mr. West and Mr. Dickerson about this issue.

Ms. Warnick stated she agreed and thinks they should be consistent.

Mr. Walker stated the fencing at the City Cemetery should be completed soon. Mr. Walker stated they have received the text information for the Fort Granger signage and should be getting made soon. Mr. Walker stated they would continue to thin out the tree line for the trail system.

Ms. Lewis requested to know the status on the signage for the gun carriages.

Chair Whitson stated they have the money but that more time is needed to get these made.

Ms. Rose stated there has been a marker placed on the west side of the square away from Main Street that Mr. Rick Warrick wrote and Ms. Avalyn Berry Swain purchased.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

Acting Secretary