

City of Franklin Battlefield Preservation Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 8, 2018—8:00 AM
Meeting Minutes

Present: Sam Gant, Sam Huffman, Pam Lewis, Rich Buckner, Thomas Cartwright, Alma McLemore, Alderman Scott Speedy, Megan Weisinger, Annabeth Hayes, Clay Perry, Tim Stillings, Steve Bacon, Rachael Finch, Ernie Bacon, David Eagan

Staff Present: Amanda Rose, Joey Bryan, Susan Coleman, James Svoboda, Brian Walker

Call to Order:

Chairwoman Lewis called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

Minutes: December 13, 2018

Mr. Gant moved to approve the December 13, 2018 meeting minutes. Mr. Buckner seconded the motion, and the motion passed 14-0.

Minutes: January 8, 2018

Ms. Finch moved for approval of the January 8, 2018 meeting minutes with a change to add Ms. Finch as being present. Ms. Hayes seconded the motion, and the motion passed 14-0.

Update on Federal Line Markers

Mr. Svoboda stated he still needed to talk to the contact at the State to verify some things we need to do. Mr. Svoboda stated they have reached out to the vendor that had been talked to before.

Ms. Rose stated the only thing that had changed would be the shipping cost.

Mr. Svoboda stated the money has been included in our base budget.

Ms. Rose introduced Ms. Megan Weisinger who will be representing the Convention and Visitors Bureau. Ms. Rose stated Ms. Weisinger's position will be made official at the March 13th BOMA meeting. Ms. Rose stated Ms. Warnick retired and will be missed but that is she is happy to have Ms. Weisinger joining.

Everyone went around the table introducing themselves.

Discussion of Commission Visioning Plan

Ms. Rose stated the intent of the Visioning Session was to collect comments from the commissioners to provide a better sense of the interests and concerns everyone had relating to the commission's mission as an advisory board on battlefield preservation and interpretation. Ms. Rose stated the Visioning Report is not a formal document that gets approved by any board or commission.

Chairwoman Lewis requested to know if BOMA would be hearing this plan.

Ms. Rose stated an Action Plan would be created from this and then presented to BOMA. Ms. Rose stated the plan would be reviewed today and then we would work together to create an Action Plan.

Mr. Svoboda agreed with Ms. Rose that an Action Plan will be created from this report.

Chairwoman Lewis stated she had spoken with the Mayor the other day and he stated BOMA would like to see more reports from this commission.

Ms. Rose stated that a lot of community goals are including in the document and this commission can help create some momentum to help facilitate seeing some of those goals getting done. Ms. Rose stated she just wanted to go over this document today to get any comments the commission may have. Ms. Rose stated the first part of this plan is Objectives and Strategies and stated this section discusses creating a Preservation Plan and a new Battlefield Preservation Plan. Ms. Rose went on to explain a new Preservation Plan will be considered after the Zoning Ordinance is updated. Ms. Rose went on to note the other comments in this section include land acquisition, an interest in preserving several sites, and a desire to pursue conservation easements and façade easements.

Mr. Bacon stated he was pleased to see the façade easements and requested to know the City's policy on that.

Ms. Rose stated the City does not have anything in place for that currently. Ms. Rose explained a façade easement.

Discussion ensued on the Historic Preservation Overlay and how it is different from façade easements.

Mr. Svoboda stated the activities within the Historic Preservation Overlay would fall into the purview of the Historic Zoning Commission.

Ms. Rose stated she would move on to the Interpretation section. Ms. Rose stated some of the comments were to redevelop the existing Carter House interpretative house into more of a visitor's center, enhancing the interpretation of the Collin's Farm property, and telling the story of the first and third Battles of Franklin.

Mr. Svoboda stated we should move on and just note the recommendations.

Ms. Rose stated the top two for recommendations for interpretation were to replace the Waysides signs to create greater visual consistency and cohesiveness. Ms. Rose stated the second recommendation is the interpretation of the U.S. Colored Troops and the interpretation of Reconstruction. Ms. Rose stated that consideration of the establishment a story-telling event was discussed as well as doing more to attract residents to Civil War sites.

Ms. Rose stated the most important part of this document is section 3, which talks about recommendations specific to this commission. Ms. Rose stated the role of this commission is to focus on Civil War history and interpretation. Ms. Rose stated some commissioners wanted to focus on this and others wanted to do more. Ms. Rose stated that while the Historic Zoning Commission (HZC) does process a lot of applications, it also updates the Preservation Plan. Ms. Rose explained the HZC's function in more detail. Ms. Rose stated that this commission's duties should focus on Civil War interpretation and resources. Ms. Rose stated this commission consists of sixteen members and that a quorum is ten members. Ms. Rose stated the recommendation is to have a core group of voting members of nine folks. Ms. Rose stated Mr. Phil Walker, the consultant, has recommended certain groups for the

voting members and others as advisory committee members. Ms. Rose stated additional thoughts were to meet less often, with the consultant's recommendation being to meet bi-monthly unless sensitive issues arise. Ms. Rose stated the consultant also suggested that this commission keep an active role in the historic cemeteries.

Mr. Svoboda stated they want to hear the commission's feedback on the purpose of this commission and the structure and membership. Mr. Svoboda stated that future pass-through grant requests for the purchase of battlefield property will have to come to this commission for a recommendation to send to BOMA. Mr. Svoboda stated this needs to be formalized and a process set in place.

Ms. Rose stated further explained the process.

Mr. Bacon stated so the question being proposed is this commission would be a pass-through for funding.

Ms. Rose explained that if a piece of property was purchased and wanted to be donated to the City to maintain, this commission would be asked to make a recommendation to BOMA, so the board knows what that request entails.

Mr. Bacon stated he would not wish to subject Franklin's Charge to a government review. Mr. Bacon stated the back door of this discussion could be from City management.

Mr. Svoboda explained that if a property is acquired and the City is requested to own or maintain it, the request must go through BOMA.

Ms. Rose requested to know how this commission feels about the use of subcommittees.

Chairwoman stated there used to be subcommittees.

Mr. Bacon stated he likes the idea of less meetings and streamlining the composition.

Mr. Buckner stated in his past experiences, this concept has worked very well.

Ms. Rose stated the vision is to be more effective and get more things done.

Mr. Svoboda requested to know the thoughts of changes to the membership. Mr. Svoboda stated this would require an ordinance to change the municipal code and go to BOMA.

Ms. Rose requested everyone look at page 6, which is strictly Mr. Walker's recommendation and not staff's.

Mr. Bacon stated he had some suggestions as to specific entities in each group.

Chairwoman Lewis stated this a lot to digest and suggested everyone look at this further and shoot emails to Ms. Rose with any comments.

Mr. Svoboda stated this could be on next month's agenda.

Ms. McLemore stated she still feels strongly about the name and feels the African American Heritage Society should be on an advisory committee. Ms. McLemore stated we have accomplished a lot under a name that does not tell what we do.

Ms. Rose stated she was open to another name and explained.

Mr. Gant stated that Civil War Era Preservation could be a possible name.

Mr. Svoboda stated that we can discuss further at the next meeting.

Parks Department Update

Mr. Walker stated he had a handout and PowerPoint concerning Fort Granger. Mr. Walker stated they spoke with the National Park Service and looked at some of their techniques on earthworks and Civil War forts. Mr. Walker stated that based on their recommendations, the Parks staff made changes and showed examples of the changes. Mr. Walker stated they would like to incorporate goats and sheep to target grazing the underbrush. Mr. Walker ran a quick video that outlined the process. Mr. Walker stated that is the idea to bring in animals with temporary fencing. Mr. Walker stated that work that would normally take fifteen years to complete could be done in fifteen days. Mr. Walker stated this would be done on an annual cycle. Mr. Walker stated the contracted company would take care of everything. Mr. Walker stated they wanted to promote this on social media.

Organization Announcements

Mr. Gant stated the top brass of the council of the Sons of Union Veterans will be bringing their annual meeting to Franklin in two weeks.

Chairwoman Lewis stated the Tennessee Preservation Trust will be asking for applications of properties that are at risk of being threatened by demolish or neglect or destroyed. The ceremony will be in May at the Masonic Hall.

Ms. Rose stated May is Preservation Month.

Ms. Hayes stated March 17th is BrewFest, and on June 2nd, there will be a New Direction symposium.

Chairwoman stated there has been a group put together to discuss O'More's future.

Mr. Bryan stated he is now the communication manager of the Nashville Steam Preservation Society and that they have raised \$375,000 toward their \$500,000 goal to get the locomotive operational again.

Mr. Stilling stated that the Tennessee Association of Vintage Baseball starts off its fifth year and that the Franklin Farriers is the local team. He explained that Carnton is the Farriers' local field.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 a.m.

Acting Secretary