

**City of Franklin Civil War Historical Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 9, 2020—8:00 AM**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Rich Buckner, Thomas Cartwright, Sam Gant, Sam Huffman, Rachael Finch, Alma McLemore, Bob Ravener, Alan Simms, Alderman Scott Speedy, Tim Stillings, Blake Wintory, Steve Bacon, David Eagan, Eric Jacobson, Pam Lewis, Mary Pearce, Clay Perry

**Absent:** Megan Weisinger

**Staff Present:** Amanda Rose, Brian Walker, Kelly Dannenfelser, Kelli Gibson

**Call to Order:**

Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

**Consideration of Meeting Minutes: November 14, 2019**

Mr. Gant moved to approve the November 14, 2019 meeting minutes. Mr. Buckner seconded the motion, and the motion carried 18-0.

**Nominations for 2020 Commission Chair and Vice-Chair**

**Ms. Rose stated they were going to do this a little different and let people say why they are interested in being Chair or Vice Chair.**

Ms. Lewis nominated Racheal Finch as the 2020 Commission Chair and explained all of Ms. Finch's qualifications for being Chair.

Ms. Finch stated she would be happy to be Chair and feels she could bring a lot to the Commission.

Ms. McLemore nominated Rich Buckner as the 2020 Commission Chair. Ms. McLemore stated he expressed interest in being Chair and feels he could do a good job.

Mr. Buckner stated he has served on the commission for three years and his strengths are organization and leadership. Mr. Buckner stated he has a strong commitment to historic preservation.

Ms. Rose stated she has enjoyed working with Ms. Lewis as Chair and everyone applauded Ms. Lewis.

Mr. Gant suggested the nominees leave the room and Ms. Rose stated that could only be their decision to do that and we could not ask them to do so.

Ms. Pearce moved to close the nomination portion of the meeting.

**Consideration of 2020 Chair and Vice-Chair**

Ms. Pearce moved to close the nomination portion of the meeting.

Chair Lewis requested to know who all was in favor of Mr. Buckner and there six votes.

Chair Lewis requested to know who all was in favor of Ms. Finch as Chair and received eleven votes.

Ms. Finch won the Chair position.

Ms. Pearce made a motion that the runner-up, Mr. Buckner, serve as Vice-Chair. Mr. Jacobson seconded the motion, and the motion passed 18-0.

### **Subcommittee Updates:**

- **Wayfinding:**

Mr. Buckner stated they finished 2019 basically on schedule. Mr. Buckner stated they were very close to finishing all the studies on major roads leading into Franklin. Mr. Buckner stated their goals for 2020 are to tackle Mack Hatcher and Downtown Franklin. Mr. Buckner stated they would start to meet with the sign staff at the Streets Department to talk about the most economical sign for them to make. Mr. Buckner stated that he would be providing regular reports.

- **Historic Cemeteries**

Ms. Rose stated they would be meeting upon the adjournment of the full commission meeting. Ms. Rose stated they are slowly but surely working through the City Cemetery. Ms. Rose stated they had a lot of items to talk through that people do not necessarily think of, like requests for burial markers to be added that be folks who may have family members buried there. Ms. Rose stated they are trying to determine where the funds should be allocated.

Chair Lewis stated they have set up an agreement with Save the Franklin Battlefield to serve as the holding organization to accept money for the cemeteries.

Ms. Rose stated the agreement has not yet been finalized.

- **Public Outreach/Interpretation**

Alderman Speedy stated they are looking at the Franklin Parks Historical Audio tour. Aldermen Speedy stated that there are about fifteen or sixteen things to listen to and they are taking a look at changing those.

Ms. Rose stated they did receive a letter from Mr. Massey and that the Public Outreach/Interpretation subcommittee discussed it at its last meeting and invited Mr. Massey to come speak today.

Mr. Stillings stated he filled a request yesterday with Tennessee Volunteer Challenge Academy—located in West Nashville—and that the organization has offered it services and their labor to any project this commission was working on.

Ms. Rose requested to know how everyone felt about the subcommittee structure.

Mr. Ravener suggested having a written recap of the subcommittee meetings to just have some notes as progress is made and the report could go circulate to the commission.

**Presentation by Ross Massey regarding artwork on Civil War signage in Franklin**

Chair Lewis stated that Mr. Massey requests to provide a presentation regarding artwork on Civil War signage in Franklin.

Ms. Rose stated she wanted to show a few things first. Ms. Rose stated Mr. Massey provided a letter to Mayor Moore and that the commissioners have all been provided the letter. Ms. Rose stated the letter was on behalf of Historians for Historical Accuracy Group, based out of Nashville. Ms. Rose explained the City signage currently.

Mr. Massey presented his presentation.

**Organizational Announcements:**

Ms. Rose noted that since we have a Chair and Vice-Chair for 2020, Ms. Lewis join to work with them to assist with a Work Session presentation to the BOMA. Ms. Rose stated she is slated to put together a presentation to present to BOMA the activities of the year.

Mr. Jacobson stated the Battle of Franklin Trust is about to release a short film at the Franklin Theater on Thursday night at 6:30.

Mr. Cartwright stated the Red Cross has asked them to do a blood drive on February 13<sup>th</sup> and a staff member is going to do a civilian aspect of the war presentation.

Chair Lewis stated she and Ms. Pearce are on the board for the State Museum and they have the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment exhibit that is about to open in March. Chair Lewis stated they are raising money.

Ms. Finch stated the Masonic Hall is slated to host Joseph McGill, the founder of the Slave Dwelling Project, on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. McLemore stated the annual Black-Tie Affair is coming up February 1<sup>st</sup> and they have sold out. Ms. McLemore explained a little about what would be presented at the event. Ms. McLemore updated everyone about the McLemore House happenings.

Mr. Wintory stated that the Heritage Foundation has started a lecture series. There will be a presentation about the Lee Buckner Rosenwald School.

Mr. Huffman stated the Spivey property will have a lot of details coming soon on what will happen to the house.

Some discussion ensued.

**Adjournment:**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

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Acting Secretary

*Rachael Finch*  
Chair  
May 14, 2020

