

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

Present: Steve Bacon, Rich Buckner, David Eagan, Rachael Finch, Sam Gant, Sam Huffman, Alma McLemore, Alan Simms, Alderman Scott Speedy, Tim Stillings, Megan Weisinger, Blake Wintory

Staff Present: Amanda Rose, Brian Walker, Kelli Gibson

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Finch called the virtual meeting to order at 8:05 AM and took official roll call.

RESOLUTION 2020-125

Consideration of Resolution 2020-125, “A Resolution Declaring That The Civil War Historical Commission Shall Meet On July 9, 2020, And Conduct Its Essential Business By Electronic Means Rather Than Being Required To Gather A Quorum Of The Members Physically Present In The Same Location Because It Is Necessary To Protect The Health, Safety, And Welfare of Tennesseans In Light Of The COVID-19 Outbreak”

Chair Finch asked for a motion for Resolution 2020-125. Mr. Wintory moved to approve Resolution 2020-125. Mr. Huffman seconded the motion, and the motion carried 11-1, with Mr. Simms voting no.

Chair Finch read an announcement regarding limited public access, as follows:

- Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, this meeting will be a virtual meeting. The public may call 615-550-8434 to listen to the meeting and make comments during any public comment period. The public may also email comments to planningintake@franklinTN.gov to be read aloud during the meeting. Emailed comments will be accepted until 1 hour prior to the meeting. The meeting video will be available for public viewing 24 hours following the meeting on the City of Franklin on the YouTube accounts.

MINUTES

Approval of the May 14, 2020 Minutes.

Mr. Stillings moved to approve the May 14, 2020 meeting minutes. Mr. Eagan seconded the motion, and the motion carried 12-0.

Item 1:

Consideration of Proposed Memorandum of Understanding between Save the Franklin Battlefield and the City of Franklin Parks Department Regarding Historic Cemeteries Restoration.

Ms. Rose stated in the past, a memorandum of understanding was brought before the commission for Save the Franklin Battlefield—which was very generous to offer their assistance with this—and the City of Franklin Parks Department, for the passing of collecting donations for the restoration of the two historic cemeteries that the City maintains. Ms. Rose stated a draft was brought forward and some suggestions were mentioned, and the document was amended to include Ms. Pearce’s suggestion that the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation be included. Ms. Rose stated a copy of the final draft that has been approved by the Law Department has been circulated and that it has been submitted to the Franklin Save the Battlefield. Ms. Rose stated that she would like a recommendation made here today to send to the BOMA.

Mr. Huffman, the Save the Franklin Battlefield (STFB) representative to the commission, stated this arrangement is similar to the raising of the funds for the carriages on the square. Mr. Huffman stated in that case, Save the Franklin Battlefield carried those funds and made payments to the various vendors. Mr. Huffman stated with the cemeteries it would be better if STFB transferred the money on a periodic basis to the Parks Department or to whomever, so STFB don’t have to decide whom to pay. Mr. Huffman stated that was the only consideration STFB had.

Ms. Rose stated we certainly respect and understand that and will work with you on that. Ms. Rose stated that would be worked out before going to the BOMA. Ms. Rose pulled the document up on the screen for everyone to look at.

Mr. Simms requested to know if landscaping was included with the work.

Ms. Rose stated it is very specific as to what the money can be used for and stated that is due to managed expectations. Ms. Rose stated it does state the funds will be given to Save the Franklin Battlefield and read the improvements that will be allowed. Ms. Rose stated she would defer to Mr. Walker about the landscaping and the landscaping could fall under Parks.

Mr. Walker stated they have been trying to find any photographs where landscaping was involved with the cemeteries but haven’t found any. Mr. Walker stated there has been some dead plant material removed, but we don’t have any documentation showing how it looked in the past.

Ms. Rose stated they are still doing documentation on how it looked.

Mr. Gant requested to know how he could donate to get rid of the gaudy bronze markers.

Ms. Rose stated it would go to the Save the Franklin Battlefield, but this must go through BOMA first.

Mr. Huffman requested Mr. Gant may want to wait before making the donation until see how the arrangements are going to made.

Mr. Gant stated he would.

Ms. Rose stated today we just want to get the recommendation ready for BOMA.

Mr. Simms requested to know when this would go to BOMA.

Ms. Rose explained that a meeting financing is scheduled next week to see how this will be done and then some final documents will need to be created before going to BOMA. Ms. Rose stated it could be a couple of months but getting closer and closer.

Mr. Simms moved to approve the MOU and was seconded by Ms. McLemore. The motion carried 12-0.

**Item2:
Subcommittee Progress Reports.**

- **Public Outreach/Interpretation**

Ms. Finch stated Alderman Speedy transcribed the two Toussaint cemetery audio tours and at our May commission meeting, Mr. Stillings agreed to transcribe the Hard Bargain and McLemore House tours. Ms. Finch stated several have agreed to listen to the audio stops and make recommendations where there could be some modifications. Ms. Finch stated they discussed at length the need for additional stops. Ms. Finch stated the Masonic Hall is one and there are some others that could be added.

- **Wayfinding Signage**

Mr. Buckner stated they have been progressing well and have met a couple of times virtually. Mr. Buckner stated that they have finished the Mack Hatcher loop and are now diving into the historic core. Mr. Buckner stated things are going really well and that he appreciates all the help with this.

- **Historic Cemeteries**

Ms. Rose stated they are working on rules and regulations and will meet today. Ms. Rose stated they would be bringing more information soon. Ms. Rose stated there has been an offer from the Rotary for some assistance and more information will come at a later date. Ms. Rose requested to know if Mr. Walker had anything to add.

Mr. Walker stated as far as the cemeteries go, the parking lot to the west of Rest Haven and Hillsboro Road is underway.

Ms. Rose stated they did get a grant contract extended to us from the Tennessee Historical Commission for some iron work at the City Cemetery. Ms. Rose stated she is working through that with the Law Department.

- **Federal Line Markers**

Ms. Rose stated she, Ms. Finch, and Mr. Buckner have been talking about the Federal Line Markers Subcommittee that has been created. Ms. Rose stated the commission set up the members and that they are Mr. Buckner, Mr. Huffman, Mr. Gant, Alderman Speedy, Ms. Finch, and Mr. Jacobson. Ms. Rose stated they would meet July 23, 2020.

**Item 3:
Parks Department Updates.**

Mr. Walker stated that the Parks Department is working with a development/design company on the area of the cemetery and the former Georgia Boot Factory for Bicentennial Park. Mr. Walker stated it is very early in the process.

**Item 4:
Organizations Announcements.**

Mr. Huffman stated he wanted to commend the Parks Department for all the work on the Carter Battlefield Park.

Mr. Gant stated there was a comment by Mr. Bacon concerning the Harpeth River bridge abutment and would like a statement on where it stands.

Mr. Bacon stated they had struck a deal with the owner of the land for \$10,000 but did a title search and found there are some 34 heirs across the country that are a part of the ownership. Mr. Bacon stated they don't have the time or power to further ensue this. Mr. Bacon stated he met with City staff and he believes BOMA has given the go-ahead for condemnation of that property.

Ms. Rose stated they were moving forward, but no plans are in place yet. Ms. Rose stated it would protect the property.

Ms. McLemore stated they have not reopened the McLemore House yet. Ms. McLemore stated they have received a \$25,000 grant for renovations. Ms. McLemore stated they had a virtual Juneteenth all week and the City and County were very helpful with that. Ms. McLemore stated they are not having the prom either but will be giving 10 scholarships to students and will be having a virtual reception on the 25th.

Mr. Wintory stated they had virtual symposium held at the theater, with Tom Mayes and a panel of different people.

Ms. Weisinger stated they have not been able to hold any in-person ambassador programs but will be taking it virtually next week. Ms. Weisinger stated they are in the process of figuring out what the ambassador program will look like the rest of the year. Ms. Weisinger stated they have launched two different tourism programs this month and launched a distillery and dinner tour and explained. Ms. Weisinger stated they release an official trail for 31A, which runs straight through

Nolensville and highlights a lot of small businesses. Ms. Weisinger stated all this is on the CVB website.

Ms. Rose explained about the electronic meetings and the resolutions. Ms. Rose stated these meetings will continue until the end of August.

Ms. McLemore stated there will be a bridge dedication at 10am at the bridge on 96 and Clovercroft for PFC Richard Carothers.

**Item 5:
Adjourn.**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

Acting Secretary