

City of Franklin Civil War Historical Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, November 12, 2020—8:00 AM
Meeting Minutes

Present: Steve Bacon, Rich Buckner, David Eagan (arrived at 8:15 am), Rachael Finch, Sam Gant, Sam Huffman, Alma McLemore, Alan Simms, Pam Lewis (arrived at 8:15 am), Mary Pearce, Alderman Scott Speedy, Tim Stillings, Megan Weisinger, Blake Wintory (left during Item 1), Kelly Kautzman (left during Item 2), Bob Ravener

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

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Finch called the virtual meeting to order at 8:06 AM and took official roll call.

RESOLUTION 2020-125

Consideration of Resolution 2020-232, “A Resolution Declaring That The Civil War Historical Commission Shall Meet On November 12, 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 2020-232. Mr. Stillings moved to approve Resolution 2020-232. Mr. Buckner seconded the motion, and the motion carried 13-0.

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 1-312-626-6799 meeting ID: 96423487699, Password 836833 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 July 9, 2020 Minutes.

Mr. Eagan, Ms. Lewis, and Mr. Sam joined the meeting.

Mr. Buckner stated he did not see the July 9th minutes, but he had the May meeting minutes.

Ms. Rose apologized and said she would send the July 9th meeting minutes out now for review, or the commission could wait until the next meeting to review and vote on them. Chair Finch suggested to send them now.

After review of the July 9th, 2020, Mr. Huffman moved to approve the July 9, 2020 meeting minutes. Mr. McLemore seconded the motion, and the motion carried 16-0.

Consideration of 2021 Commission & Subcommittee Meeting Dates:

January	Full Commission – 14 th Historic Cemeteries – 14 th Wayfinding – 26 th
February	Public Outreach/Interpretation – 11 th Wayfinding – 23 rd
March	Full Commission – 11 th Historic Cemeteries – 11 th Wayfinding – 23 rd
April	Public Outreach/Interpretation – 8 th Wayfinding – 27 th
May	Full Commission – 13 th Historic Cemeteries – 13 th Wayfinding – 25 th
June	Public Outreach/Interpretation – 10 th Wayfinding – 22 nd
July	Full Commission – 8 th Historic Cemeteries – 8 th Wayfinding – 27 th
August	Public Outreach/Interpretation – 12 th Wayfinding – 24 th
September	Full Commission - 9 th Historic Cemeteries – 9 th Wayfinding – 28 th
October	Public Outreach/Interpretation – 14 th Wayfinding – 26 th
November	Full Commission – 11 th Historic Cemeteries – 11 th Wayfinding – 23 rd
December	Public Outreach/Interpretation – 9 th Wayfinding – 28 th

Chair Finch requested to know if anyone had any comments on the meeting date schedule.

Mr. Ravener noted November 11th, a regular Commission meeting, is on Veterans Day.

Ms. Rose stated it is a bit more difficult to reschedule full commission meetings. Ms. Rose stated the subcommittees are easier to reschedule. Ms. Rose stated she would certainly look into that.

Ms. McLemore ask if it would be a problem to change this meeting, since that day is Veterans Day and several Veterans are involved in these meetings.

Ms. Rose stated it maybe we can cancel the meeting that month or look into other options. Ms. Rose stated she can't say at this moment she can reschedule for the day before or day after. Ms. Rose stated she would ask that they, the Commissioners, vote that staff come back with another date to consider for that month and would reconsider in January.

Mr. Buckner stated he may have a conflict on the May Wayfinding Subcommittee due to possibly traveling and requested for staff to consider alternative date for May 18th Wayfinding Sign Subcommittee meeting,

Mr. Ravener requested to know if there has been any thought to having hybrid meetings in the future for in person and Zoom.

Ms. Dannenfesler explained the state gives us the authority to be able to have virtual meetings during this time because it is a state of emergency. Ms. Dannenfesler stated that we have the authority until the end of this year to hold virtual meetings or hybrid meetings, and we will have to wait and see what the state says going into next year as to whether we are able to continue to have virtual meetings going into the new year.

Ms. Dannenfesler suggested the commission go ahead and adopt the meeting schedule for next year, staff can then research alternate dates in the meantime, and come back in January and so we have the January date set.

Chair Finch agreed with Ms. Dannenfesler.

Mr. Ravener moved to approve, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Huffman.

Ms. Rose stated she has written down May 18th Wayfinding, November 11th Commission meeting, and November 11th Historic Cemeteries Subcommittee meeting as potential meeting dates to reschedule.

The motion carried 16-0.

Welcome to Newest Commissioner: Lotz House Representative Kelly Kautzman!

Ms. Rose introduced Ms. Kelly Kautzman and everyone welcomed her.

Ms. Kautzman stated she was happy to be a part of the commission.

Item 1:

Consideration of U.S. Line Marker Subcommittee Proposal Recommendation to BOMA

Chair Finch asked if everyone had been able to look at the proposal Ms. Rose sent out to everyone.

Mr. Gant stated the recommendation is to pass and forward the proposal for putting the markers into place to BOMA. Mr. Gant stated he shared with the subcommittee a picture of the markers as they are designed.

Ms. Rose pulled up everything for everyone to see.

Mr. Gant stated each marker is 4'-6" tall, to be set on each side of the street where the trench lines where. Mr. Gant stated the entire length of the line will extend to all major streets shown on the map projected. Mr. Gant stated there is a total of eleven streets. Mr. Gant stated the markers will go on Lewisburg Avenue, Adams Street, Columbia Avenue, W. Fowlkes, Natchez Street, W. Main Street, Fair Street, New Hwy 96, Hillsboro Road, and there are some small streets in between where it will be hard to place a marker.

Ms. Rose stated there is an offset intersection at W. Fowlkes and Natchez St., so the proposal committee wants to have one marker on W. Fowlkes and two on Natchez's. Ms. Rose explained that this is the reason for seventeen markers and not eighteen.

Mr. Gant stated this has been in works for more than fifteen years and with committee working on it more than five years.

Ms. Rose stated we have a good faith estimate from someone who could provide the service of making the markers.

Mr. Gant stated the estimate is about \$450 when you figure in the cost of the mold, and he has gotten other estimates, and none were under \$1,200 per marker.

Ms. Lewis requested to know of what material the markers would be made.

Mr. Gant stated special cement, like that used on the City streetscape markers.

Mr. Gant confirmed that verbiage is on two sides of the marker.

Ms. Lewis requested to know if it be permitted to have the cannon on the bottom now, based on the road standards that the Wayfinding Subcommittee is consulting.

Ms. Rose stated she has spoken to the Engineering Department about the placement and also explained certain symbols cannot be placed on public street signs unless they are consistent with the symbology that has already been approved by the Federal Government and administered by the state or special approval by state process. Ms. Rose stated we may need to seek state approval for some of the markers shown on the projected screen due to the state's rights of way. Ms. Rose stated she could not definitely give an answer for this question due to it not having come up yet.

Ms. Pearce asked if this could be considered more of a monument than a street sign.

Ms. Rose stated that was a great question and explained the state has a transportation art program under which she knows that these markers will need to be approved if any markers are placed in the state's rights of way. Ms. Rose stated it could be determined by the state as transportation art and not transportation signage but that they have to be approved either way.

Ms. Dannenfelsler stated Ms. Rose brought up a good point specific to the number of proposed that we think are in the rights of way versus on the number of those proposed on private property where we would need an easement to place them. Ms. Dannenfelsler stated one of the reasons for it to go to BOMA is to request their general support but also to request their support specifically to take the next approach to go to the adjacent property owners to gather support from them as well.

Mr. Buckner stated regarding the symbol, he thinks it comes down to transportation art or sign. Mr. Buckner stated from what we have heard from the state and the city, that if this is determined to be a sign, that cannon would not be approved due it not being a registered logo.

Ms. Rose stated in her best knowledge, based on information received through research, this would be considered by the state as transportation art.

Mr. Huffman stated he wanted to make two points: one is that cannon profile is from the Revolutionary War era, and number two, he asked if we have a ballpark number of property owners that we need to talk to that we can stay inside of to present that is kind of a boundary of the project that we can live with later on.

Ms. Rose requested clarification on Mr. Huffman's boundary statement.

Mr. Huffman stated we need a number of what the project is going to cost, including spares, that the contractor will live with.

Ms. Rose stated the number she has as the best estimate received by Mr. Gant from a contractor, which does not include shipping cost or spare sets, but does consist of the pedestal for seventeen markers, including the setup cost for the mold, is \$8,050.

Mr. Huffman stated he is suggesting we add a few spares and that what we submit to BOMA is kind of the size of the breadbasket.

Ms. Pearce requested to know if we were asking the city for the installation.

Ms. Rose requested someone from the subcommittee to speak to this.

Mr. Gant stated we were considering the city to donate it.

Mr. Huffman suggested someone talk to the Streets Department.

Ms. Rose stated she had talked to Mr. York when he was with the City, but he has retired, and she would need to speak to the new director, Mr. Steve Grubbs.

Ms. Pearce stated that conversation should be held with the Streets Department before going to BOMA. Ms. Pearce stated another consideration might be to discuss with the Public Arts Committee.

Chair Finch stated she agreed.

Mr. Gant stated this thing has been delayed years and years and that he doesn't like to see it delayed further. Mr. Gant requested to know if it could be made tentative to BOMA's approval.

Ms. Rose stated she understands what Mr. Gant is saying but wanted to add that she thinks the Public Arts Commission will need to be involved at some point anyway. Ms. Rose stated it would not be a benefit to postpone the project but present to BOMA and then later on get with the Public Arts Commission.

Mr. Buckner stated one of the things talked about in the subcommittee meetings was a combination of funding of private and City. Mr. Buckner stated he didn't see anything in the document about that.

Chair Finch stated it was also talked about seeking a grant (voice cutting in and out).

Mr. Gant stated all we are doing is asking BOMA about moving forward.

Mr. Buckner and Ms. Finch stated BOMA is going to want to know who is paying for it.

Alderman Speedy stated BOMA is going to want to know where the money will be coming from. Alderman Speedy stated he felt the money could be raised some way or somehow without asking BOMA. Alderman Speedy stated he did not want the funding to delay this.

Chair Finch agreed.

Ms. Rose stated she sees Alderman Speedy's point that BOMA is going to want to know about funding. Ms. Rose explained again about the cost of the markers plus cost of shipping needing to be included in the amount and noted there is no contract with any company at this point. Ms. Rose stated the project would need to be bid out by Purchasing.

Ms. Pearce stated private dollars will get this done quicker.

Mr. Walker suggested talking to a vendor or contractor to get an estimate of shipping.

Ms. Lewis questioned if we still must go through a bidding process through the City if this is funded privately.

Ms. Rose stated it is not her understanding that it would but would need to seek confirmation of that.

Ms. Lewis stated the reason being that she recently worked on a project in Spring Hill and because it was not publicly funded, it did not have to go through the bid process.

Mr. Simms stated looking at the map, there seems to be a big gap at Mt. Hope Street, and he questioned if one would be put there.

Ms. Rose stated she was told placement there would be very difficult and that it isn't on the list and she does not advocate for either way.

Mr. Buckner and Mr. Gant stated it should be on the list.

Ms. Rose stated it was not on her list she was given by the subcommittee and went over the map locations again. Ms. Rose stated she could add but isn't sure about whether one could be placed there due to the size of the location.

Ms. Pearce stated if more were to be ordered extra, which she supports, then one could be placed there.

Ms. Rose spoke on the cost of extras mentioned earlier and then Ms. Pearce suggested maybe order 24 instead of 18.

Mr. Buckner proposed to set a maximum number of about \$15,000 for this and work out details later. Mr. Buckner stated take to this to BOMA with this number and see about a 50/50 match or private funding and move this forward.

Discussion ensued on placement of the marker for Mt. Hope Street and if it does need to be added to the list.

Ms. Rose stated we are trying to seek BOMA go-ahead before we do anything else.

Ms. Weisinger requested to know if there will be a place for people to get information for these markers.

Mr. Gant stated there will be plenty of time to work that out due to the making of the marker process.

Ms. Rose stated that was a good point Ms. Weisinger brought up and feels BOMA would want to know that as well. Ms. Rose asked if that is something the subcommittee would want to talk about. Ms. Rose noted we need to get this before BOMA to see if they think this is something they would want done and then seek out the details.

Chair Finch agreed the committee should meet to discuss education programming.

Ms. Rose requested to know what Alderman Speedy thought.

Alderman Speedy suggested moving forward with Mr. Jacobson speaking on this with BOMA and how long a process this has been and get it funded and move forward.

Ms. Pearce requested to know if Alderman Speedy was suggesting moving forward with the request and saying the commission will fund it.

Alderman Speedy stated yes and explained BOMA, even at a 50/50 match, would not bat an eye at funding something like this.

Ms. Dannenfelsler stated it is relatively a small amount of funding and that she thinks the bigger question we have as staff is engaging the surrounding property owners, making sure that they are aware of and supportive of this initiative. Ms. Dannenfelsler state that it is particularly important to engage the property owners were markers may need to be placed on private property due to needing an easement to place the marker. Ms. Dannenfelsler stated more than half, approximately, would be on private property versus in the public right of way and that is the reason we are trying to take a recommendation to BOMA to get their support and then go out to the property owners to get their support so it could be a positive initiative for the City.

Alderman Speedy stated in the past he got the impression property owners were positive about this initiative.

Ms. Rose stated she did think that was the understanding at the time, but the location of the proposed line has shifted based on reevaluation on some historic documentation, so we don't have confirmation of property owner sentiment at this time.

Ms. Pearce moved to make a motion to present a favorable recommendation to BOMA for the subcommittee's proposal (including the Mount Hope St. location), with a note that the commission plans to provide 50% matching funds, that the funds from the City will not exceed \$10,000, and that Alderman Speedy will be as our sponsor. Mr. Gant seconded the motion, and the motion carried 15-0 (B. Wintory left during discussion).

Item 2:

Consideration of Juneteenth Marker Conceptual Proposal Recommendation to BOMA

Chair Finch stated today we are going to be considering the Juneteenth cneptual marker that is being put forth by the African American Heritage Society with Julian Bibb and Stacey Watson, who were awarded the Tennessee National Heritage Grant to fund the marker (Chair Finch cut out a lot).

Ms. Rose reiterated what Chair Finch said due to cutting out so much on the recording. Ms. Rose stated Julian Bibb and Stacey Watson are here representing a request the African American Heritage Society has made to the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area with grant funding for placement of a Juneteenth marker, which would cover interpretive information on General Granger and Emancipation, to be placed at Fort Grainger. Ms. Rose stated the language has not

yet been determined and that it is something that she believes Ms. McLemore, Ms. Watson, and Mr. Bibb plan to work on with the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area. Ms. Rose stated they are working on a recommendation to BOMA for the placement.

Ms. Watson stated she wanted Ms. McLemore to talk on the placement of the marker. Ms. Watson stated they started working on an application to the Heritage Area in August, before we knew where the placement would go, and it was about Juneteenth and the connection between Franklin and General Granger. Ms. Watson stated she thought everyone got the information from Ms. Tina Jones (Ms. Rose forwarded this to the commission prior to the meeting). Ms. Watson stated they really want to get something placed before Juneteenth of next year. Ms. Watson stated the application was approved last week for cost, and this is not a request to involve any money from the City. Ms. Watson stated they just need permission to place a marker at Fort Grainger.

Ms. McLemore stated they are so excited and grateful to Ms. Watson and Mr. Bibb. Ms. McLemore stated they wrote the grant and got it approved. Ms. McLemore stated when they were talking about the location, for the last sixteen years the African American Heritage Society has held a Juneteenth celebration to celebrate slavery to freedom. Ms. McLemore stated she chose Fort Granger because it ties in with Juneteenth and can see the story of how it all ties in. Ms. McLemore stated we would be the first to have a Juneteenth marker.

Ms. Rose questioned what the marker would look like.

Ms. McLemore stated we have not gotten to that point yet.

Ms. Watson stated we propose it would be like a Civil War Trails marker.

After discussion, Mr. Simms made a motion to present a favorable recommendation to BOMA for the proposal at Fort Granger. Mrs. Pearce seconded the motion, with a note that minutes reflect thanks to the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, Julian Bibb, Stacey Watson, and Alma McLemore for bringing forward the proposal. The motion was approved 14-0 (K. Kautzman left during discussion).

**Item 3:
Subcommittee Progress Reports.**

No subcommittee updates due to time constraints.

**Item 4:
Organizations Announcements.**

Ms. McLemore stated she would like Ms. Pearce to talk about our news.

Ms. Pearce stated they had completed the exterior renovation plans for the McLemore House and that rehabilitation is moving forward. Ms. Pearce stated that there is \$80,000 raised and that we only need \$15,000 to \$17,000 more to be raised.

Mr. Gant noted that it would be no more than a \$1,000 to \$1,500 for shipping for the line markers.

Item 5:

Adjourn.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Acting Secretary