

City of Franklin Civil War Historical Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 13, 2021—8:00 AM
Meeting Minutes

Present: Steve Bacon, Rich Buckner, Rachael Finch, Sam Gant, Pam Lewis, Mary Pearce, Clay Perry, Alan Simms, Alderman Scott Speedy, Blake Wintory, Bob Ravener, Alma McLemore, Kelly Kautzman, Tim Stillings

Staff Present: Amanda Rose, Kelly Dannenfelser, Brian Walker

CALL TO ORDER

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

MINUTES

Approval of the March 11, 2020 Minutes.

Ms. Lewis moved to approve the March 11, 2021 meeting minutes. Mr. Perry seconded the motion, and the motion carried 14-0.

Item 1:

Subcommittee Progress Reports

- Wayfinding Signs

Mr. Buckner stated they have had good progress and are close to being on target. Mr. Buckner stated that the subcommittee will have a proposal, probably at the September meeting, for the whole program. Mr. Buckner stated that then we anticipate two readings from the Commission before going to BOMA before the end of the year, which is our target. Mr. Buckner stated they have identified all the signs we think are appropriate for the City, and he believes everyone is proud of what we have come up with. Mr. Buckner stated it is a very uniformed look, giving a system that gets people to all the historic venues with them all being the same way. Mr. Buckner stated there is not a different approach for the bigger venues. Mr. Buckner stated it is a very systematic and uniformed system with some dynamic things.

Ms. Rose stated Mr. Buckner has done a fantastic job. Ms. Rose stated there will be a visual map in September for everyone to see.

The questioned was asked if the new signs were going to replace the existing or if the intent is to supplement the existing signs.

Mr. Buckner stated they would all be replaced.

Mr. Buckner stated they are down in the weeds of colors and shapes of signs at this point. Mr. Buckner stated there is just a lot of steps and noted they had to work with Engineering and TDOT. Mr. Buckner stated all the signs they are looking at within the City limits of Franklin.

- U.S. Line Markers

Chairwoman Finch stated Mr. Gant, Ms. Rose and herself went before BOMA at the end of April.

Ms. Rose stated the subcommittee had been meeting to create a proposal for BOMA and explained that due to all the moving parts, it was staff's recommendation that it go to BOMA. Ms. Rose stated they paused and wanted a proposal to go to BOMA to refresh its memory of the project and to get its consent to move forward with the requisite research that would be needed in order to bring a major proposal forward at a later date. Ms. Rose stated the requisite research being to find out exactly where these markers would go. Ms. Rose stated that right now, we have a general idea based on some historical mapping. Ms. Rose stated we would need to know if easements are required, looking to see what would be a potential clear zone issues for traffic and pedestrians, working with Engineer to determine where the markers would go, and also looking into more detail on the affected property owners. Ms. Rose stated that even though the markers would be placed in the public right-of-way, we would the property owners to supportive of it. Ms. Rose stated we do want everybody to feel comfortable with the placement. Ms. Rose stated research is needed to work with TDOT on state routes and making sure we get approvals from them. Ms. Rose stated BOMA did have some questions and seemed supportive of the proposal.

Ms. Rose stated that her recommendation for the subcommittee and full Commission now would be to identify with her where the markers can be placed. Ms. Rose stated she would start working with Engineering on that and keep the subcommittee updated. Ms. Rose stated she would work directly with Mr. Gant on imagery, samples of how the markers will look, materials, who the affected property owners are, and start having conversations with them to see if they are supportive of the markers. Ms. Rose stated at that point, we would have enough information to go back to BOMA with our presentation and seek feedback.

Mr. Simms requested to know if there was a target date.

Ms. Rose stated that was a good question and stated she would first need to have her meeting with Engineering to see where those markers can go to be able to set a target date.

Mr. Gant stated he wanted to mention one thing and stated the vendor we have is probably the best in the country and is shown on their website and Facebook. Mr. Gant stated they do detail work and that the quality is very good.

Ms. Lewis requested to know the name of the company.

Mr. Gant stated D&D Ornamental Concrete out of Louisiana.

Ms. Lewis asked how much it would be for the markers.

Mr. Gant stated it would come out to be about \$485.

Ms. Rose stated the proposal brought before BOMA was based on the Commission's motion. Ms. Rose stated the motion was to seek direction and approval to move forward with the research mentioned earlier, as well as having BOMA pay fifty percent of the cost, to not exceed \$10,000, with the remaining coming from local non-profits, and the City would install the markers.

Mr. Ravener stated we had a good price and would hate to see the price go up.

Ms. Rose stated BOMA has directed us to provide more information.

It was suggested to push forward quickly.

Mr. Rose stated there are twenty-four sets, which include five spares.

**Item 2:
Parks Department Updates.**

Mr. Walker stated so far Spring has been relatively quiet. Mr. Walker stated the Rotary Club has continued to help with the marker cleanup, and about 70 to 80 percent of the markers have been cleaned at Rest Haven, and the intent is to continue with that through the rest of Spring and Summer and then move over to City Cemetery and continue the cleaning process over there. Mr. Walker stated they are working with Ms. McLemore on the Juneteenth Celebration with sign installation at Pinkerton Park.

Ms. Rose stated they are continuing work with ironwork restoration, and we are looking for someone who specializes in historic ironwork and have not found anyone as of yet. Ms. Rose stated we have received some tips to check out.

Ms. Lewis stated there is a guy in Spring Hill that deals with ironwork.

Ms. Rose stated she appreciates the Rotary Club's work.

Mr. Simms stated all the headstones have been done and just the posts remain to clean.

Mr. Ravener thanked others who have worked on this.

Ms. Rose requested to know if there was an update on the proposed cemetery rules and regulations yet.

Mr. Walker stated no but would check on it.

Mr. Simms requested to know about any landscaping decisions for Rest Haven.

Mr. Walker stated there hasn't been any design for that yet.

**Item 3:
Organizations Announcements.**

Ms. Rose introduced Ms. Kelly Kautzman to the Commission from the Lotz House, as it was her first in-person meeting with the commission, and everyone welcomed her.

Ms. Kautzman stated thank you and noted that everything is doing well at the Lotz House.

Ms. Pearce invited everybody to Juneteenth at Pinkerton Park.

Ms. McLemore noted the Juneteenth Celebration will be held on June 19, 2021 at 12 pm.

Ms. Pearce and Ms. McLemore updated everyone on the work at the McLemore House.

Ms. McLemore stated there will be a City Proclamation on Juneteenth. Ms. McLemore stated they are grateful to everyone involved with making this a success. Ms. McLemore stated she wanted to thank Parks for all their help.

Ms. Pearce stated they are raising money for the Merrill Williams House.

Ms. Rose stated the Merrill Williams House is at the corner of Natchez Street and 11th Avenue.

Ms. Lewis noted on September 18, there will be a Tennessee Waltz event held at the State Museum.

Chair Finch stated there will be a Heritage Foundation Symposium on August 21st at the Williamson County Enrichment Center with other events.

Mr. Wintory stated July 8th is our next Warwick lecture series in the conference room of the Old Old Jail.

Ms. Rose stated the Battle of Franklin Trust has been very busy.

Ms. Pearce stated there is going to be a regional educational workshop on teaching African American history using resources that is part of the Center for Historic Preservation from MTSU.

Ms. McLemore stated there has been 25 scholarships granted by AAHS and that one recipient is going to be doing internship at John Hopkins. Ms. McLemore stated this event will be July 17th.

**Item 4:
Adjourn.**

With no further business, Ms. Pearce moved to adjourn, with Mr. Buckner seconding the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

Acting Secretary