



Meeting Agenda

Civil War Historical Commission

Thursday, January 12, 2023

8:00 AM

Training Room

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Civil War Historical Commission will be held on the date and time listed above at 109 3rd Ave. S., Franklin, TN 37064. You may call 615.791.3212 for additional information. For accommodations due to disabilities or other special arrangements, please contact the Human Resources Department at 615.791.3216 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Consideration Of Approval Of Minutes

OFFICERS

2. Consideration Of 2023 Chair & Vice Chair

Sponsors:

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

3. U. S. Line Markers Project

Sponsors: Amanda Rose

4. Parks Audio Tour Project

Sponsors: Amanda Rose, Emily Huffer

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. Wayfinding Sign Project Update

Sponsors: Amanda Rose

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURN

Anyone needing accommodations due to disabilities please contact the ADA Coordinator at 615-791-3277 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

City of Franklin Civil War Historical Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, November 10, 2022—8:00 AM
Meeting Minutes

Present: Steve Bacon, Rich Buckner, Heather Doleshel, Rachael Finch, Sam Gant, Colbi Layne Hogan, Marlene Holmes, Kelly Kautzman, Alma McLemore, Clay Perry, Alan Simms

Absent: Patrick Baggett, Eric Jacobson, Pam Lewis, Tony Morreale, Mary Pearce, Fred Reed

Staff Present: Amanda Rose, Emily Huffer

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Buckner called the meeting to order at 8:14 a.m. and took official roll call.

MINUTES

- **Approval of the September 8, 2022, Minutes.**

Commissioner Simms moved to approve September 8, 2022, meeting minutes. Commissioner Bacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 1:
Consideration of 2023 Meeting Calendar

Commissioner Gant moved to approve the 2023 Meeting Calendar. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 2:
Nominations for 2023 Chair & Vice-Chair

Commissioner McLemore nominated Chair Buckner to serve as Chair and nominated Commissioner Simms to serve as Vice-Chair.

Chair Buckner stated this would be voted on at the January 2023 meeting.

Item 3:
Subcommittee Updates & Presentations

- **U. S. Line Markers Project**

Ms. Rose stated they did schedule to meet but she forgot to post the agenda notice in the newspaper so they could not meet, and she wanted to apologize for that happening. Ms. Rose explained when there is meeting with this Commission it must be publicly noticed in the newspaper. Ms. Rose requested to know if there were any new updates.

Commissioner Gant stated Commissioner Pearce has discovered a new source of material, limestone. Commissioner Gant stated the indication is that the mold maker will be in operation by the end of the year but that is a tentative thing. Commissioner Gant stated the vendor does not have another mold maker and is hurting, which has caused a tremendous increase in cost.

Commissioner Gant stated they need to have on file the financial commitments. Commissioner Gant stated they have a \$2,000 commitment from the Sons of the Union Veterans National. Commissioner Gant stated that this commitment is contingent on us showing that we have additional commitments of \$6,000; otherwise, we will lose that money.

Commissioner Perry stated he knew Franklin's Charge is committed and can get a letter to Commissioner Gant. Commissioner Perry requested to know if there were any letters currently.

Commissioner Gant stated the only letter he has is from the Sons of Union Veterans. Commissioner Gant stated Commissioner Jacobson has promised a letter from the Battle of Franklin Trust.

Ms. Rose stated she would ask Commissioner Jacobson about a letter. Ms. Rose explained the money pledged is to Save the Franklin Battlefield and not to the City.

Discussion ensued on the possibility of using limestone, and Ms. Rose explained that material would have to be approved by the City Engineering Department and TDOT.

Ms. Rose requested to know if the subcommittee wished to meet in December and asked for dates.

It was decided that the US Line Marker subcommittee will meet on December 13th at 8am.

- **Parks Audio Tour Project**

Ms. Rose thanked the committee for meeting last month and stated it was a great meeting. Ms. Rose stated one of the big takeaways from that meeting is that we need to sit down as a group to brainstorm and develop some goals.

Commissioner Hogan stated she wasn't able to make it to the meeting in September, but everyone talked about not only refreshing the tour but also about new stops that might be included. Commissioner Hogan stated that the subcommittee wanted to explore how to tie all the sites together to tell a bigger story, especially if there are new sites. Commissioner Hogan stated then if we are adding sites, we need to determine how do we make them cohesive because some of the stops are a lot longer than other ones. She stated that some of those sites include narratives from people who are important to us who have since passed on, and we want to archive those in some type of repository. Commissioner Hogan stated after the tours are updated, we need to discuss

how to market them and determine who are we trying to reach. Commissioner Hogan stated then it was talked about meeting with Guide by Cell, the company who hosts the tours, to find out what the parameters are, how we go about making the changes, and what are they able to do now on their end. Commissioner Hogan stated those were some of the major things, and at the next brainstorming session, we should have kind of a big picture look at where we want to have new sites, where we want to update things, and then how can make it a new marketable product—whether it is through the development of a map, or brochure, or signage.

Commissioner Simms stated that we don't want to lose some of the voices that we have, and so what we talked about is having a smaller narrative, and then have something like, "if you want to hear about Franklin in someone's own voice, press here," so that keeps the old voice too. Commissioner Simms stated that was Commissioner Reed's idea.

Ms. Rose stated it kind of falls into who our audience is because some of the tours, if you listen to them some of them, are really intended for anyone to listen too, but there are some that are a little more detailed, and we might lose some folks.

Chair Buckner stated he joined that subcommittee meeting, and the most interesting he heard was the information that the Guide by Cell company is now based in Brentwood, Tennessee, and the person who works for the City who talks to them [Suzanne Carter] stated she thought they would really want to meet with this commission to talk about their newest technology and how we can better integrate that into our program. Chair Buckner stated he thought that was a big plus to get their insight and input.

Ms. Rose stated she was excited to have them come in and meet with us. Ms. Rose stated we don't have to keep the same package with them; we can look at other options.

Commissioner McLemore stated she thinks they talked about that as being one of the next steps.

Ms. Rose stated she must have misunderstood but thought understanding our audience was to be the first step.

Commissioner Hogan stated getting the information from Guide by Cell on what they can do would be good information and could give an understanding of what we want the tour to be like, but we need to know what we want the audience to be first.

Ms. Rose stated she could get some data on what our tours are doing now from Ms. Carter in Parks.

Commissioner Doleshel stated it would be good to have data on some other sites they work with to show us what works well with the other sites.

Ms. Rose asked if the commission wants to do research on what we have in our mind in relation to other tours nationwide that are doing well.

They answered yes.

Ms. Rose requested to know if the subcommittee had a date in mind for their next meeting.

It was decided that December 15 at 8:15 would be the best date.

Ms. Rose stated she would get a map made from IT showing where the sites are currently located.

Item 4:
Wayfinding Sign Project Update

Ms. Rose stated that she received a question about the Wayfinding program was approved in January, specifically which stops were included. Ms. Rose stated that all the stops have been included that the commission asked to include, and she named them off. Ms. Rose stated there has been some trouble with supply chains, as everyone knows, but she has gotten most of the sign materials but is still waiting on the posts. Ms. Rose stated a prototype will be made just to see how they will look. Ms. Rose stated the budget allowed us to get medallions made to put on the signs located in the streetscaped areas. Ms. Rose stated she has to work with the Engineering team to visit to every single site to make sure everything is going to be installed in a safe way. Ms. Rose stated after they are installed, maybe we could celebrate and do some kind of press release. Ms. Rose noted the installation would be done in phases.

Chair Buckner stated it was phased by routes.

Item 5:
Parks Department Announcements

Ms. Rose stated Mr. Walker couldn't be with us today but he did have some updates. Ms. Rose stated the Parks Department needs this commission's input on an issue: people are leaving coins on burial markers, especially at the Unknown Soldier site. There has been a total of \$3.75 left there that covers up the text on the markers, which must be moved. Ms. Rose stated we want to be respectful on how we handle the situation. Ms. Rose requested to know if anyone has had any experience with this at another location, and if so, how was that addressed. Ms. Rose stated they could document the funds but asked for recommendations on what should be done with them.

Commissioner Holmes stated there are coins put at the McGavock Confederate soldiers' burial markers all the time, and we put the money in the donation boxes. Commissioner Holmes stated in their case, they have limestone markers, and having coins on the limestone markers is not good for the stones.

Chair Buckner stated if a sign should be put up stating that coins are removed monthly and donated to such and such.

Ms. Rose stated they did work through rules and regulations with the Parks Department, and while those have not been installed yet, next steps are forthcoming. Ms. Rose stated that is something that can be added pretty easily to the rules and regulations. Ms. Rose stated she didn't want people to feel discouraged to do it, but she certainly doesn't want people to expect that if you put a quarter

on a stone, it is going to stay there forever. Ms. Rose asked Commissioner Finch if she has ever encountered that.

Commissioner Finch stated she has colleagues who do deal with this at cemeteries, and the money goes toward the cemetery. Commissioner Finch stated there is sign noting the money is collected and put back into the cemetery.

Item 6:
Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Kautzman stated the only thing they [the Lotz House] have going on for this month is specialty tours in honor of the Battle of Franklin and stated there are Battlefield Walking Tours and Women's History Tour. She stated that you can check Facebook and the website for dates and times.

Ms. Rose stated the Lotz House also has the annual blood drive.

Commissioner Kautzman stated it was November 22nd.

Commissioner McLemore stated they [the African American Heritage Society] were moving forward with 264 Natchez Street and meeting with the City this afternoon. Commissioner McLemore stated she would like to have a dedication ceremony in November of next year.

Ms. Rose stated she would like to note the Battle of Franklin Trust is doing a commemorative event this year; all three houses will be open on the 29th and 30th.

Commissioner Doleshel stated painting in the park is this weekend, and the Chestnut Group have painted several Middle Tennessee landscapes and will be displaying them this weekend to benefit Friends of Franklin Parks. Commissioner Doleshel stated they will be giving Friends of Franklin Parks a large cut of what they bring in.

Commissioner Finch stated Pumpkin Fest was a large success, and we [the Heritage Foundation] have Dickens of a Christmas the second weekend of December. Commissioner Finch stated they had finished a second phase of archaeology at Franklin Grove and found a few Civil War artifacts but found a lot of early to mid-19th Century artifacts as well.

Commissioner Bacon stated he was affiliated with Franklin Preservation Partners, and they have contracted to preserve sixty-one acres on Franklin Road, and any help at BOMA would be appreciated. Commissioner Bacon explained why BOMA is involved, by stating they are trying to get them to donate at least half of that land on the left-hand side when you leave Mack Hatcher. Commissioner Bacon stated there is an old house there that would be put under easements against development, and we would sell that and hopefully work with the City so it can take that as part of the park system, and on the right side, we would find an affiliated use.

Commissioner Hogan stated Franklin's Charge had some exciting news and turned it over to Commissioner Perry.

Commissioner Perry stated it is not at a point to discuss yet, but Franklin's Charge is spearheading acquiring some land across the county. Commissioner Perry stated there are some plans to get underway for structural restoration for parts of the front wall at Masonic Hall at some point next year.

Adjourn.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Acting Secretary



File #: 21-04108

DATE: January 4, 2023

TO: Civil War Historical Commission

FROM:

SUBJECT:

Consideration Of 2023 Chair & Vice Chair

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information to the Civil War Historical Commission concerning the election of the 2032 commission chair and vice-chair. The commission nominated Rich Buckner for chair and Alan Simms for vice-chair during its November 2022 meeting.

BACKGROUND/STAFF COMMENTS:

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the commission determine a 2023 chair and vice-chair via vote.