

City of Franklin Civil War Historical Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 9, 2023—8:00 AM
Meeting Minutes

Present: Patrick Baggett, Rich Buckner, Heather Doleshel, Colbi Layne Hogan, Marlene Holmes, Kelly Kautzman, Alma McLemore, Alan Simms, Pam Lewis, Tony Morreale, Mary Pearce, Fred Reed, Clay Perry, Sam Huffman

Absent: Steve Bacon, Eric Jacobson, Rachael Finch

Guest: Chip Huffman

Staff Present: Amanda Rose, Emily Huffer, Brian Walker

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Buckner called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m. and took official roll call. Chair Buckner had a moment of silence for Commissioner Sam Gant.

ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Rose stated there is a subcommittee meeting at 9:30 a.m. Ms. Rose apologized for the different meeting location and explained the reason for the new location.

Chair Buckner stated he would not be at the next meeting and the Vice-Chair would not be able to be at the meeting as well.

Ms. Rose stated according to the by-laws someone else must be elected for that meeting.

Commissioner Pearce moved to select Commissioner Lewis to be the temporary Chair for the May 11, 2023, meeting. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion and motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES

- **Approval of the January 12, 2023 Minutes.**

Commissioner Lewis moved to approve, January 12, 2023, meeting minutes. Commissioner Baggett seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Parks Audio Tour Project**

Commissioner Hogan stated at the last meeting we were still brainstorming what new things we might want to add to the tour and analyzed the current audio stock. Commissioner Hogan stated today we have a meeting to kind of combine some things like how many stops we need, and Commissioner Doleshel has talked with the company that will be creating all this (Guide By Cell) and there is not a limit on how many stops we can have. Commissioner Hogan stated we think we have fifteen signs and when you go to a sign there will be multiple numbers and multiple audio stops within that one sign.

Commissioner Lewis stated the shorter audio versions are more attractive than the longer versions.

Commissioner Doleshel stated she wanted to add they have mapped out visually where the stops currently are and what would be to interpret between the stops and has strategically looked at how the stop locations should be.

Chair Buckner commended the subcommittee on the great work that has been done.

- **U.S. Line Markers**

Ms. Rose stated the committee has been meeting very regularly and this committee is ready to move forward to the March 28th work session for the Board of Mayor and Alderman. Ms. Rose stated the subcommittee will be providing a presentation to seek a formal endorsement. Ms. Rose stated the work session starts at 5 p.m. and she isn't sure where the item is on the agenda yet. Ms. Rose encouraged commissioners to attend.

Commissioner Lewis requested to know if there could be any pushback.

Commissioner Baggett stated he didn't think so, but the only issue would be the cost has increased.

Ms. Rose presented the presentation and explained the overview of the project is to provide a U.S. Army defense line during the Battle of Franklin and the line has been based on the historical mapping. Ms. Rose stated the intent of this proposal is to better understand the extent and impact of this battle on the community with visuals to the landscape.

Commissioner Lewis stated this has been talked about for many years and we now finally have a source to get the markers and we have all agreed on limestone and some of the hold up has been getting easements and state right-of-way and there are 19 markers.

Ms. Rose stated there are 10 locations, which Ms. Rose showed, and 19 markers.

Discussion ensued on the maps and how this is the best guess map.

Commissioner Baggett suggested it be made clear in a resolution what maps it is based on for the record.

Commissioner Lewis requested to know the two maps and Ms. Rose stated Moscow Carter and Ruger.

Ms. Rose stated the marker has changed to a 5ft. tall marker, made from limestone material.

Mr. Walker stated having deep engraving for the lettering makes it stand out.

Ms. Rose stated a pilot project has been proposed to place the first two markers at the Carter Hill Battlefield Park and these two initial markers are pledged to be donated by a non-profit of Save the Franklin Battlefield and Battlefield Trust. Ms. Rose stated this pilot program is for the community to see these markers and see how they will look. Ms. Rose stated staff is proposing to phase this program over the next two years.

Commissioner Perry moved to endorse this presentation. Commissioner Huffman seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Pearce questioned if there was a budget laid out.

Ms. Rose stated there needs to be surveying done and explained she was working with Finance and the budget director.

Commissioner Lewis stated it has been her knowledge that if you go to BOMA with some numbers from private entities it helps.

Ms. Rose suggested any members of the Commission should show up at the BOMA meeting.

Commissioner Pearce stated she would like to see some numbers of a private goal.

Ms. Rose stated they are asking for \$145,000 and broke down the cost per statue of \$5,600 per marker and \$20,000 has been put in for surveying.

Commissioner Lewis stated there is money to at least start at Carter Hill.

Commissioner Pearce stated the Sons of the Union Veterans would probably do something and we can say we anticipate some private money.

Commissioner Lewis suggested anyone email Ms. Rose about any money.

Discussion ensued on possible donations for the project and how to collect the money.

Commissioner Reed questioned if there were any grants available.

Ms. Rose stated that it was too premature for her to speak to that because we haven't figured out the educational component.

Commissioner Reed suggested maybe doing a comparison and contrast to other cities.

Ms. Rose stated the way it can be approached at the meeting is we can say that Save the Franklin Battlefield will purchase the first two and we have very strong interest from private groups who that will pledge in the amount of such and such. Ms. Rose stated in addition as we move forward, we may find a number of grant opportunities for which we may apply that may soften that a little bit.

Commissioner Lewis questioned where we will be at next year at this time.

Ms. Rose stated as the subcommittee continues to discuss how we want to enhance this with some sort of educational component whether it is to have little signs next to it with a QR code, or to do physical hard copies, or to do some kind of mapping on our website, these are some things that could be done for an educational aspect.

Commissioner Lewis stated she felt Ms. Rose was right in that we have the educational component for Mr. Sam Gant.

Mr. Chip spoke stating he was a concerned citizen who worked closely with Mr. Gant on the trench line markers as part of the Save the Franklin Battlefield he also worked with him on the grants from Sons of the Union Veterans because he is the local camp commander as well as the senior vice commander of the state of Tennessee. Mr. Chip stated grants from Sons of the Union Veterans were approved two years ago but he is in the process of redoing those due to the changes that have occurred. Mr. Chip stated those grants are earmarked to go to Save the Franklin Battlefield for the first two markers. Mr. Chip stated he just wants to make sure this continues in Mr. Gant's honor and memory.

Discussion ensued on how much money was earmarked for the first two markers and it was stated about \$12,000.

Commissioner Baggett stated he would work to get a number.

Commissioner Huffman stated he felt his number should be no more than this amount and there will be some private money raised. Commissioner Huffman stated once these two are put up people will want to send us money. Commissioner Huffman suggested the money should be sent to the Battle of Franklin Trust.

Commissioner Lewis stated there are enough nonprofits to accept donations.

With the motion having been made and discussed the motion carried unanimously.

- **Historic Wayfinding Signs**

Chair Buckner stated the signs are going in and has heard wonderful reviews. Chair Buckner stated they have made progress, but the Streets Department is getting busy with other work besides the signs and the pace will go slow with getting them up.

Ms. Rose explained the Streets Department will be able to pick up again in the fall when things slow down for them. Ms. Rose noted the signs that have been put up already and stated the entirety of Murfreesboro Road from city limits to downtown has been completed as well as the majority of Hillsboro Road to Five Points and there are a few downtown like around MLK Way and Lewisburg is underway to Goose Creek and then go to Cool Springs/McEwen area.

Commissioner Simms requested to know the number of how many are up.

Chair Buckner stated there are a total of 94 signs.

Ms. Rose stated about she didn't have that exact number available but guessed 25 to 30.

Chair Buckner stated the Wayfinding Subcommittee is not done because we have to deal with I-65. Chair Buckner stated he met with Mr. Paul Holzen to discuss the proposed sign that we always wanted on the highway that says Historic Franklin and next so many exits. Chair Buckner stated the concerns we have had all along is how we deal with TDOT and whether we can get the word Historic in front of Franklin which would be adding two signs. Chair Buckner stated he was told the signs would be \$7,000 each and Mr. Holzen stated that he didn't think putting the word Historic in front of Franklin would be a big deal. Chair Buckner stated he wanted to bring up to the commission and get everybody's thoughts on whether to have two signs that say, "Franklin next five Exits or to have two signs that say Historic Franklin next four Exits".

Commissioner Simms requested to know if there is an existing sign now.

Chair Buckner stated there is none.

Commissioner Simms requested to know if the color will be like the other signs.

Ms. Rose stated no since it is a federal highway and explained the colors must match all the other federal signs on the highway.

Commissioner Lewis suggested Ms. Rose get in touch with Mr. John Schorer who used to be the TDOT Commissioner and ask how to go about doing this.

Chair Buckner stated Mr. Holzen stated he didn't think it would be a big issue to put up two signs that it would cost money. Chair Buckner rephrased his earlier question of whether to have a sign that said "Franklin" and it would be before the Moores Lane exit or one that said "Historic Franklin" before Cool Springs on the South.

Commissioner Reed stated he felt Historic Franklin would be best.

Chair Buckner further explained the placement of the I-65 signage in relation to the other signs that will be put out.

The consensus was to have "Historic Franklin" on the signage.

Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Baggett stated Franklin's Charge has the Williams tract next to the library under contract and explained the grants submitted to collect the money.

Commissioner Lewis stated the DAR is honoring Margaret Martin, Lillian Stewart and Ann Petersen tonight.

Commissioner Kautzman stated they have specialty tours going this month and one is a Women's History tour.

Commissioner McLemore stated they did get final approval on 264 Natchez St. and they are really excited about that and we are ready to get started. Commissioner McLemore stated there are a couple of other events coming up and would send information to Ms. Rose to get the information out to everyone.

Commissioner Huffman stated that Save the Franklin Battlefield is ready to get the first two markers started.

Staff Announcements

Mr. Walker stated the windstorms from the other day caused some trees to come down in our parks like Harlinsdale and the cemeteries, but no markers were harmed. Mr. Walker stated they are starting construction on the bridge that will go across from Harlinsdale to Chestnut Bend which connects into Bi-Centennial Park. Mr. Walker stated at Winstead Hill they installed 13 additional Chestnut trees and explained the blight of the Chestnut tree.

Adjourn.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 a.m.

Acting Secretary