

**City of Franklin Civil War Historical Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 9, 2024—8:00 AM**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:**

Mary Pearce, Kelly Kautzman, Heather Doleshel, Ray Eldridge,  
Alan Simms, Colbi Layne Hogan, Bill Macon, Sam Huffman, Sean  
Aiello, Eddie Degarmo, Rachel Finch, Marlene Holmes, Clay  
Perry, Joseph Ricci, Alma McLemore

**Staff Present:**

Emily Huffer, Brian Walker, Elizabeth Bulay, Kelly Dannenfelser

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Simms called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and took an official roll call.

Chair Simms stated there are a few new commission members that have been appointed and confirmed by BOMA. Chair Simms stated he would like to welcome them to the Commission and had everyone go around and introduce themselves.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Huffer stated at the last meeting the Preservation Plan update was discussed and it went to the Budget and Finance Committee, and it will be moving on to the Board of Mayor and Alderman worksession where it will be presented on May 14. Ms. Huffer stated it will be budgeted by half of the hotel/motel tax and half of the general fund. Ms. Huffer stated they would advertise for proposals as soon as it is approved. Ms. Huffer stated staff will work with the consultants once someone is selected to create a comprehensive engagement strategy for the community and the process would start in June. Ms. Huffer stated this commission will be involved with the battlefield preservation discussions that is an important part of the plan.

Ms. Huffer stated an email was sent pertaining to the Law Department doing a training with this commission on June 26<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm and a new email would be sent out with all the information to the commission.

**CITIZEN COMMENT**

This is open for citizens to be heard on any issue or concern. Are there any citizens who would like to speak to the Commission?

Hearing none we will move on to the next item.

**MINUTES**

- **Approval of the March 14, 2024, Minutes.**

Commissioner Doleshel moved to approve the March 14, 2024, meeting minutes. Commissioner Macon seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously 14-0.

## **ITEMS**

### **Parks Audio Tour Project**

Ms. Huffer stated they were looking into a different platform than guide by cell so that a map could be incorporated into the tour. Ms. Huffer stated they were exploring different options. Ms. Huffer stated they were trying to get the best technology and best user-friendly option.

Commissioner Hogan explained that this was a Leadership Franklin project a decade ago and we are working to update it. Commissioner Hogan stated they would love to have some extra volunteers with fresh eyes on it if anyone was interested. Commissioner Hogan stated the next subcommittee was to after the next July meeting. Commissioner Hogan explained they would not be scraping the old audio tour and nothing would be lost.

### **U.S. Line Markers**

Ms. Bulay stated they currently have four easement documents signed from property owners to get the monuments installed and we are still in need of three easement documents to be signed and one of those has been completed with the Fowlkes Street Church of Christ and are hoping to get that one completed soon. Ms. Bulay stated that leaves us with two right of way adjacent property owners, but we do not have to get those signed since they are in the right of way.

Ms. Huffer stated they are working on all the easements, but we went ahead and ordered two batches. Ms. Huffer stated the bases can go ahead and be poured.

Commissioner Pearce voiced her concern that the monuments will match what has already been put out.

Ms. Huffer stated a new company would be making the next batches because we had to put it out for bid and a new company won the bid.

Ms. Dannenfels explained we must adhere to the state purchasing requirements.

Chair Simms requested to know where we were on Dr. Gant's plaque.

Commissioner Pearce stated it could be done it is just the matter of getting the money.

Ms. Dannenfels stated the money for the plaque was not in the monument budget.

Discussion ensued on ways to get the money needed for the memorial plaque and why the memorial plaque is needed.

Commissioner Huffman commented this must be done correctly.

#### **Commissioner Announcements**

Commissioner Huffman stated Save the Franklin Battlefield is redoing their website.

Commissioner Kautzman stated they were doing tours and what-not.

Commissioner Ricci stated Battle of Franklin Trust has started planning the 160<sup>th</sup> Battle of Franklin commencement.

Commissioner Holmes stated the memorial service at the McGavock Cemetery will be June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Commissioner Perry stated Franklin's Charge has lots of exciting things going on.

Discussion ensued about the house on Columbia Avenue that needs to be moved.

Commissioner Perry stated Franklin's Charge has the Dan Marc property and the whole block in front of the Carter House will be saved. Commissioner Perry stated Roper's Knob will now have an access in the future. Commissioner Perry stated Franklin's Charge has received a grant for the Masonic Hall. Commissioner Perry stated Commissioner Finch wrote the grant.

Commissioner Hogan stated she thought everyone may have got the email that Franklin's Charge will unveil the Texas monument on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm.

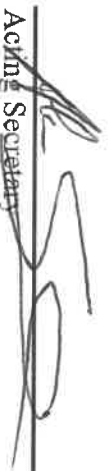
Mr. Walker stated the Hayes home at Harlinsdale has been refurbished and the main barn restoration process will start soon.

Commissioner McLemore stated the McLemore house is looking good and tours are taken by appointment. Commissioner McLemore stated the house on 264 Natchez is looking good, but they need money to get the house done because they have run into a lot of issues. Commissioner McLemore stated the Porch Talks will go to Harlinsdale.

Commissioner Doleshel stated they are gearing up for National Tourism week and will be reopening the Visitors Center at this event.

#### **Adjourn.**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 a.m.

  
Acting Secretary 9/12/21

