

City of Franklin Civil War Historical Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 12, 2024—8:00 AM
Meeting Minutes

Present: Mary Pearce, Kelly Kautzman, Heather Doleshel, Ray Eldridge, Alan Simms, Colbi Layne Hogan, William Macon, Sam Huffman, Sean Aiello, Eddie DeGarmo, Marlene Holmes, Clay Perry, Joseph Ricci, Alma McLemore, Patrick Baggett, Tony Morreale

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.

ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Huffer stated that the November 14th scheduled meeting would be held here at the Eastern Flank Event Facility. Ms. Huffer stated this is the potential meeting spot for our meetings during the construction of the new city hall.

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 May 9, 2024, Minutes.**

Commissioner Doleshel moved to approve the May 9, 2024, meeting minutes. Commissioner Macon seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously 12-0.

ITEMS

Consideration Of The 2025 Meeting Calendar

Commissioner Macon made a motion to approve the 2025 Meeting Calendar. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously, 14-0.

Consideration Of An Update To The Historic Parks Audio Tour

Ms. Bulay stated she would like to thank everyone for their hard work on this project. Ms. Bulay explained that the purpose of this presentation today is to seek a recommendation to go to BOMA for the update. Ms. Bulay gave a digital presentation. Ms. Bulay gave background information on the Audio Tour, explaining it provides listeners with a guide through six parks and other historical places. Ms. Bulay stated the program is a guide by cell program which can be stopped and started along the way. Ms. Bulay stated there are three primary goals: the first goal is to expand the narrative of Franklin's complete history, the second goal is to edit verbiage, and the third goal is to update the platform. Ms. Bulay stated they will be adding six new stops within the Downtown core, combining 9 existing stops into 5 stops, updating the platform, updating the on-site signage, and adding John Carothers House, Natchez Street Neighborhood, Merrill-Williams House, and Franklin Grove Campus. Ms. Bulay stated it will be an interactive web-based program. Ms. Bulay illustrated how it would work.

Discussion ensued on the updates.

Ms. Bulay stated it would go to BOMA in October.

Commissioner Pearce made a motion for a recommendation to proceed to present to the BOMA the update to the Audio Tour. Commissioner Perry seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously at 16-0.

Discussion Of The Preservation Plan Update

Ms. Huffer stated that, as of late last month, we have posted advertisements for consultants for the upcoming Preservation Plan update. Ms. Huffer stated that within the packet on Civic Clerk, we attached the existing Preservation Plan and the existing Battle Preservation Plan. Ms. Huffer stated both are circa 2001-2004 and in both of those plans, most everything has been accomplished. Ms. Huffer stated they want to update these plans, goals, and strategies. Ms. Huffer stated that with the new Preservation Plan, they hope to hire a consultant this fall and go before BOMA in December. Hopefully, by January 2025, they will start meeting with the consultants. Ms. Huffer stated there is a list of preliminary categories that might be of interest, and these categories are not set in stone. We can always change or add to them. Ms. Huffer named the categories. Ms. Huffer stated they plan to have the consultants meet with everyone.

Commissioner Pearce requested to know if a review of Historic Districts expansion, as well as the National Registry, would be added.

Ms. Huffer stated it could be.

Ms. Huffer requested everyone review the old plans and see what they liked about them and what updated things they would like to add to the new plans.

Commissioner Baggett requested to know if it would be possible to reach out to some of the groups represented here for their written feedback. Commissioner Baggett stated having it in writing is important.

Commissioner Pearce suggested having a page on the website to allow feedback. Commissioner Pearce stated another document that might be good to look at is Saving the Farmstead, and Mr. Harry Dotson did the drawings for it.

Chair Simms requested to know what is being asked of this group.

Ms. Dannenfelser explained this is to keep you informed of what is going on and to get your mind thinking about what you would like to see in the new plan.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks Audio Tour Project

Commissioner Hogan thanked Ms. Bulay for the PowerPoint and stated they still seek volunteers to help with editing.

Commissioner Kautzman stated they were writing the scripts more and had made a lot of progress.

U.S. Line Markers

Ms. Huffer stated the TDOT locations had been approved for the markers, and they have ordered the first six, which will be put out on 96 and Hillsboro Road. Ms. Huffer stated she and Mr. Paul Holzen would visit the manufacturer soon to get an update and inspect the first marker.

Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Ricci stated they will do the illumination again this year by working with the City of Franklin. Commissioner Ricci stated volunteers are needed to assemble bags, put out bags, and pick up the bags. Commissioner Ricci stated it starts at the end of October, around the 12th or the 26th. Commissioner Ricci stated the events will be on November 29th in Spring Hill and November 30th at 4 pm in Franklin. Commissioner Ricci stated that on December the 7th, there will be a living history from 5 pm to 8 pm at Carton.

Commissioner Holmes stated they have started cleaning the fence and stones at McGavock but have had to stop work because of the water shortage.

Commissioner Baggett stated Franklin's Charge and the city have partnered on four parcels and have just closed on the Roper's Knob piece to have public access. Commissioner Baggett stated there are three parcels on Columbia Avenue that will close on November 29th, and all three are to be transferred to the City by October 1st of 2025. Commissioner Baggett stated that the other thing this commission needs to know is that Turnpike Hill on Franklin Road is under review for an Envision Franklin Amendment and explained that action took place there.

Commissioner McLemore stated the porch talks that were held last month had a family talk about "Hot Chicken," who were the founders of the "Hot Chicken." Commissioner McLemore stated on Monday, September 16th we will have Porch Talks at 6 pm. Commissioner McLemore stated they have pumpkins on the porch on October 5th from 10 am to 12 pm.

Mr. Walker stated he had an update on Resthaven and stated this past week, he worked with DAR, and they have collected data from the cemetery. Mr. Walker stated he has transferred the data into GIS for the city but would like to figure out a way for the public to access it and asked for ideas on a way to do that. Mr. Walker stated it was very interesting.

Ms. Dannenfelser stated there could be some future discussions on this.

Commissioner Macon requested to know if there is any information on the Texas monument.

Ms. Huffer stated staff has not heard anything.

Commissioner Pearce stated she was contacted and notified they were going to do the letter, and the feedback she received on the letter was "to agree to disagree".

Commissioner Doleshel requested to know if they have comments, will they have to go through the formality of filling out speaker cards?

Ms. Huffer stated yes.

Commissioner Perry stated it is an exciting time with Franklin's Charge. Commissioner Perry stated they hosted a group to tour the Masonic Hall. Commissioner Perry gave a brief update on what is being done with construction.

Commissioner Ricci stated on Monday, we signed a contract with a realtor in Spring Hill to purchase 8.67 acres of land, and it is the place where Ed Johnson and William Bates took camp on November 29th. Commissioner Ricci stated they are working to get some new interpretive signage.

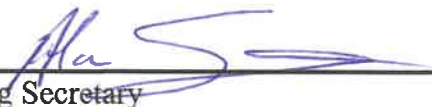
Commissioner Hogan stated that the American Legion Post in Hard Bargain is working on a restoration project and has just applied for a grant for interpretation.

Commissioner Kautzman stated they were gearing up for the Halloween season and the illumination. Commissioner Kautzman stated they are also doing antique appraisals.

Commissioner Pearce stated that 264 Natchez Street, when it was bought, had not been occupied for ten years, and they are finding new problems every day. Commissioner Pearce stated it is expanding the money needed for it, and she would like everyone to pray for them to get it done because it is an important site.

Adjourn.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.



Acting Secretary

