

**City of Franklin Civil War Historical Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 9, 2025—8:00 AM
Meeting Minutes**

Present: Mary Pearce, Kelly Kautzman, Heather Doleshel, Ray Eldridge, Alan Simms, Colbi Layne Hogan, William Macon, Sam Huffman, Eddie DeGarmo, Marlene Holmes, Joseph Ricci, Alma McLemore, 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.

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 September 12, 2024, Minutes.**

Commissioner McLemore moved to approve the September 12, 2024, meeting minutes. Commissioner Macon seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously 11-0.

ITEMS

Consideration Of The 2025 Chair & Vice Chair

Commissioner McLemore nominated Commissioner Simms for Chair. With no other nominations Commissioner Simms was elected to be the Chair for 2025.

Commissioner McLemore nominated Commissioner Hogan for Vice Chair and Commissioner Hogan nominated Commissioner Morreale for Vice Chair. With no more nominations the voting proceeded with Commissioner Morreale being elected as Vice Chair for 2025 11-1.

ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Preservation Plan Update

Ms. Huffer stated they have been interviewing consultants who prepared packets for the update, and they have selected the Lakota Group. Ms. Huffer stated the group is out of Chicago, Illinois. Ms. Huffer stated the group said we need a bold plan. Ms. Huffer stated they attached the two plans for everyone to be reading on it and when the group comes on board, we will have a meeting to discuss the plans and create one action plan. Ms. Huffer stated the title will be Preservation Plan but will encompass a list of topics. Ms. Huffer stated it should go to BOMA this coming Tuesday.

Commissioner Lewis requested to know how long the process would take.

Ms. Huffer stated the consultants are projecting around two years.

Chair Simms requested to know if the plan would be like a guideline for the City.

Ms. Huffer stated no it would not be a guideline it would be more like Envision Franklin, just kind of like a game plan and the consultants recommended a Steering Committee and the Mayor has selected people from different organizations to be on that committee.

Ms. Dannenfelser stated this group would use the plan to prioritize future goals, etc.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Historic Parks Audio Tour Subcommittee Report

Commissioner Hogan stated the subcommittee was moving along and had created some drafts and submissions that they had drafted that Commissioner Macon read through for any changes or suggestions. Commissioner Hogan stated they heard from staff about a different platform they will be using that can incorporate mapping.

U.S. Line Markers Subcommittee Report

Ms. Huffer stated that she and Mr. Paul Holzen went out to the manufacturer to look at one of the ones they had created, and our specifications have been updated so they match the marker that is on Columbia Avenue. Ms. Huffer stated they are still in the process of making those because it takes eight to nine months to make. Ms. Huffer stated the first six are on order.

Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Hogan stated Franklin's Charge has closed on the DePriest property which is adjacent to the Carter House. Commissioner Hogan stated that is adjacent to the vacant lot beside the Williams property which will be cleared in 2025 to become part of Carter Hill.

Chair Simms questioned if the Round Table was moving from Franklin's Charge.

Commissioner Hogan stated it would be moving to the BOFT in February.

Commissioner Morreale stated there was a great turnout for the anniversary events.

Commissioner Holmes stated at the McGavock Confederate Cemetery all the cleaning of the stones and fence have been completed. Commissioner Holmes stated they are now getting quotes for painting.

Commissioner Doleshel stated they are having their annual partner event on February 5th. Commissioner Doleshel stated the CDB has been doing research and the results of the research will be unveiled at the event. Commissioner Doleshel stated registration is encouraged.

Mr. Walker stated the construction at Harlinsdale is coming along nicely. Mr. Walker stated a project they have started at Fort Grainger and Eastern Flank is getting rid of invasive species of plants and explained it would take about two years to fully decompose on the hill at Fort Grainger and they would be clearing by the creek at Eastern Flank.

Commissioner Huffman stated the plaque for Dr. Sam Gant has been applied and looks great.

Commissioner McLemore stated that the Franklin Theater and the African American Heritage Society are hosting an a cappella group tonight at 7 pm. Commissioner McLemore stated on the 18th, there will be the show at 6 pm at Johnson School, with tickets being \$10, and there will be a food truck there. Commissioner McLemore encouraged everyone to come. Commissioner McLemore stated there is a book club that now meets on the third Thursday of the month at the Archives building at 11:30 am. Commissioner McLemore stated on the 20th at 11 am there will be a Martin Luther King, Jr event. Commissioner McLemore stated the black-tie event is February 1st, and on the 18th, there will be an event for George Jordan to put a marker at the Jordan school that was named for him.

Commissioner Lewis stated at the Tennessee State Museum there are a lot of things going on and suggested everyone check out the website. Commissioner Lewis stated there is nominations going on right now for leadership awards for Mindy Tate's organization and suggested nominating Mr. Greg Way and explained why.

Commissioner Pearce stated she and Commissioner Hogan are working on a fundraiser committee to do over the African American Legion. Commissioner Pearce stated they found out yesterday that the funds have been raised to support this.

Commissioner Hogan stated she had one more thing and stated if you are not aware of Tennessee History Day, which is sponsored by the Tennessee Historical Society, it is middle and high school kids who do research for the year on a topic and present at regional and national competitions.

Adjourn.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 a.m.


Acting Secretary

3/22/25