

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

Present: Mary Pearce, Kelly Kautzman, Heather Doleshel, Alan Simms, Colbi Layne Hogan, Sam Huffinan, Eddie DeGarmo, Marlene Holmes, Alma McLemore, Sean Aiello, Eric Jacobson, Pam Lewis, Patrick Baggett, Bill Macon, Tony Morreale

Staff Present: Emily Huffer, Brian Walker, Elizabeth Bulay, Kelly Dannenfelser, Lisa Clayton

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 March 27, 2025, Minutes.**

Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the March 27, 2025, meeting minutes. Commissioner Hogan seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously 15-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Huffer stated that there was one announcement that Mr. Clay Perry has resigned from the commission. Ms. Huffer stated that if anyone knew of someone to fill his position, they should have them apply on the City website.

Recommendation to the BOMA for the Consideration of Placing a New Artillery Piece at Carter Hill Park.

Ms. Huffer asked Commissioner Jacobson to speak on this item

Commissioner Jacobson stated there have been five guns placed in the park over a number of years and there are some guys who are interested in this kind of thing, and they want to sell a gun at the price of \$12,000, which is a great price. Commissioner Jacobson stated this would be a great addition to the park and not cost the City anything.

Ms. Huffer stated that there will be a need to work through the processes since it is on City property, and this commission would need to vote to recommend approval to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to place it on the site.

Commissioner Pearce moved to recommend to BOMA the placement of the artillery piece at Carter Hill Park. Commissioner Macon seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously 15-0.

Recommendation to the BOMA for the Consideration of Installation of a Statue at Carter Hill Park.

Commissioner Jacobson stated horses and mules were a large part of the war, and the Sixth of Ohio was an outfit that came out of Ohio and was commanded by Erin Baldwin, and the guys of the troop had a mule they put a hat on and named May Me. Commissioner Jacobson stated she was here, but no one knows what happened to her. Commissioner Jacobson stated that the project for the statue costs \$35,000 and will not cost the City anything.

Ms. Laurie McPeak stated it would take 6 to 12 months to cast. Ms. McPeak stated someone is doing the research on the mule, so we can have the full story.

Commissioner Jacobson stated he felt one more interpretive marker was needed.

Commissioner Lewis moved to recommend approval to BOMA. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously 15-0.

Chair Simms inquired about the location where the statue would be placed.

Commissioner Jacobson stated the logical spot is close to the Cotton Gin. Commissioner Jacobson pointed out locations on a map.

Commissioner Lewis suggested there be a picture with the marker because it makes it so much more visual.

Commissioner Doleshel stated she is so excited to hear about this idea, and agrotourism is currently being worked on right now.

After discussion, a motion was made to approve the marker by Commissioner Lewis and Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously 15-0.

Subcommittee Reports:

Historic Parks Audio Tour

Commissioner Hogan stated she did not have much new to talk about, but they are still in the editing phase, and she thanked Commissioner Macon for doing the editing. Commissioner Hogan stated there will be 20 stops.

Commissioner Pearce stated she has done random information that she thinks people will like. Commissioner Pearce stated it talks about Federal soldiers being encouraged not to come to town, the number of soldiers versus the population, little human interest things like men could come into town and have a shave and a bath, but women did not have anything like that. Commissioner Pearce stated she felt people would be interested in this.

Commissioner Jacobson stated he had one request, and that is the words “ground zero” and “epicenter” not be used in any of this.

Commissioner Macon stated “ground zero” is not used anywhere, and maybe “epicenter” is used once.

U.S. Line Markers

Ms. Bulay stated that back in March, the second round of markers were installed, and now we are looking into the next phase. Ms. Bulay projected the map and explained that some of the line markers would have to be moved due to owners not wanting to go through the process, and some of the yards were just too small to place a line marker there. Ms. Bulay stated they have come to the commission to see what should be done.

Commissioner Jacobson stated that he thinks it is somewhat good and explained that part of the line has always been problematic. Commissioner Jacobson stated the secondary line ran through where the existing visitor’s center is today, and the line isn’t far from Acton Street. Commissioner Jacobson stated this allows us some orientation for guests to understand that in that residential neighborhood, the line did not stop there.

Ms. Bulay stated that it sounds like it is appropriate to move away from the originally proposed areas to new areas nearby.

Commissioner Huffman stated that as long as the idea of where the line was is known.

Commissioner Macon requested to know if there would be more markers made of the Union/Federal line than the one.

Commissioner Huffman stated that the spares made should be used for that.

Commissioner Jacobson stated there are two tracts that can be used.

Ms. Huffer requested to know how many spare markers are needed because Mr. Holzen may need to be notified of this, because there is a threshold on the budget.

Commissioner Huffman stated two.

Ms. Huffer stated they would talk to Mr. Holzen and let everyone know what he says about the markers.

Ms. Bulay stated further up and directed everyone to the slide projection, which showed Mt. Hope. Ms. Bulay stated there are two markers slated for the Mt. Hope area, and we need to know if we want to put two markers on, just move them down, or do one on one side. Ms. Bulay stated property owners would have to spoken to about moving them down.

Commissioner Lewis stated she had access to individuals who may agree to having a marker.

Commissioner Baggett stated he is fine with one getting it as close to the line as possible.

Commissioner Baggett moved to put just one marker on the Mt. Hope side. Commissioner Jacobson seconded the motion, and the motion carried 15-0.

Ms. Huffer stated that the lead time on the production of the monuments is now two to three months.

Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Holmes stated that June 1st is the annual memorial service at McGavock Confederate Cemetery at 2 pm.

Commissioner Huffman stated the Tennessee National Civil War Preservation Association is having their annual meeting this Saturday in Clarksville.

Commissioner Jacobson stated that a completion date for the Visitor's Center has been noted to be March 1, 2026. Commissioner Jacobson stated there will be a new address of 125 W. Fowlkes St.

Commissioner Pearce stated this has been a huge year, and Turnpike Hill is in play right now across from Harlinsdale Farm with the Historic Zoning Commission. Commissioner Pearce stated Ropers Knob will be finally open soon.

Ms. Clayton stated that, thanks to Franklin's Charge, we have acquired fourteen acres adjacent to Ropers Knob, and a master plan at the staff level has been started. We will be coming to this commission this summer.

Adjourn.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Chair

