

**City of Franklin Civil War Historical Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 11, 2025—8:00 AM
Meeting Minutes**

Present: Mary Pearce, Kelly Kautzman, Heather Doleshel, Alan Simms, Colbi Layne Hogan, Eddie DeGarmo, Marlene Holmes, Alma McLemore, Sean Aiello, Pam Lewis, Bill Macon, Tony Morreale, Tina Jones, Ray Eldridge

Staff Present: Emily Huffer, Bill Squires, Elizabeth Bulay, Kelly Dannenfelser

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Morreale called the meeting to order at 8:15 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 May 8, 2025, Minutes.**

Commissioner Simms moved to approve the May 8, 2025, meeting minutes. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously 14-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Huffer introduced Ms. Tina Jones as a new commissioner.

Commissioner Jones told her history with Williamson County and that she started the Slaves to Soldiers project. Commissioner Jones stated she was happy to be there.

Ms. Huffer stated the following: Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Special Called Meeting in August. We have received a few emails with additional feedback regarding the presentation that was sent to everyone. If you have not yet done so, please review the presentation and provide feedback to the staff to share with the consultants. We will be having the next set of meetings for the preservation plan in November.

Item #2: Consideration of the 2026 Meeting Calendar

Commissioner Hogan moved to approve the 2026 Meeting Calendar. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion, and the motion carried 14-0.

Subcommittee Reports:

Historic Parks Audio Tour

Commissioner Hogan stated they were making really good headway and are at the end of drafts they have been listening to. Commissioner Hogan stated that hopefully, very soon, they will be closer to putting stuff on the new platform.

Vice-Chair Morreale inquired whether there was a target date for completion.

Commissioner Hogan stated no, there was no target completion date set.

U.S. Line Markers

Ms. Huffer stated they have been working on the Wagner Line, which is on Columbia Avenue. Ms. Huffer stated they are trying to get it interpreted. Ms. Huffer stated they were working with Engineering to order the next batch. Ms. Huffer stated the next batch would include West Main, Adams Street, Mt. Hope Street, and West Fowlkes Street. Ms. Huffer stated that for the following set, they were working on a budget amendment. Ms. Huffer stated they would order 12 markers. Ms. Huffer stated the Wagner Line would be the same as the others.

Discussion ensued on the language for the Wagner Line, and it was decided to keep it the same as the others.

Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Hogan stated that there is an event on September 25th at 10 am, and there will be a ceremony by Franklin's Charge to start the demo of the DePriest House. Commissioner Hogan stated that there will be people from DC who helped with the grants to purchase.

Commissioner Pearce passed around the original vision plan to purchase battlefield land.

Commissioner McLemore stated on September 22nd at Porch Talks, there will be Reverend Crossings speaking, and it starts at 6 pm at the Public Library. Commissioner McLemore stated on October 4th at 10 am, there will be the 2nd Annual Pumpkins on the Porch, and in May of 2026, as a tentative date, there will be a dedication to the house at 264 Natchez Street.

Commissioner Hogan stated there is another property on Highway 96 that has been purchased by Franklin's Charge. Commissioner Hogan stated the property backs up to the Hard Bargain neighborhood.

Commissioner Lewis elaborated on the Hard Bargain property, stating that there will be a park. Commissioner Lewis stated on November 6th that there will be an event honoring veterans at New Hope Academy. Commissioner Lewis stated that a Ben Franklin statue will be coming soon, and the DAR is creating a plaque for it.

Commissioner Kautzman stated that she was gearing up for the upcoming Halloween season, which would be here in the next couple of weeks, with ghost tours at the Lotz House.

Commissioner Aiello stated that they accepted the donation of the Ben Franklin statue and will be doing the maintenance.

Adjourn.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Chair  11/13/25
