



Meeting Minutes

Civil War Historical Commission

Thursday, November 13, 2025

8:00 AM

Eastern Flank Event Facility

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

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

Board Members Present: Mary Pearce, Kelly Kautzman, Alan Simms, Colbi Layne Hogan, Eddie DeGarmo, Marlene Holmes, Alma McLemore, Sean Aiello, Bill Macon, Tony Morreale, Tina Jones, Sam Huffman, Eric Jacobson

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS (Open for citizens to be heard on any issue or concern, including those related to items on the agenda. Please submit a Speaker Card at the beginning of the meeting if you would like to address the Commission. If you would like to speak on an agenda item, the Chair will hold your comment until the public comment period associated with the item. As provided by law, the Commission shall make no decisions or consideration of action of citizen comments for items not on the agenda, except to refer the matter to the Planning Director/Staff for administrative consideration, or to a schedule the matter for consideration at a later date. Those addressing the Commission are requested to come to the microphone and identify themselves by name and address for the official record. The Chair may restrict the period for public comment, including the length of the public comment period, the number of individuals who can speak and the length of time each individual may speak. When time allows, the standard individual public comment time is two minutes.)

Chair Simms opened the floor for citizen comments.

Mr. Carter Gentry stated he was interested in dry-stacked stone wall restorations and noted a couple of people he had been involved with over a two-year period, with help from the Heritage Foundation.

Comments on agenda items may be made in person at the meeting location or by emailing planningintake@franklintn.gov before noon the day before of the meeting. Comments will be submitted for the record.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Consideration Of Approval Of Minutes

Sponsors:

Commissioner Hogan moved to approve the September 11, 2025, meeting minutes. Commissioner Morreale seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously 11-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Huffer stated there would be two meetings next week coming up for the Preservation Plan Update at Harlinsdale Barn. Ms. Huffer stated Tuesday's meeting will be centered on historic preservation and Wednesday meeting would be centered on civil war and battlefields. Ms. Huffer stated both meetings are from 5 pm to 7 pm.

Ms. Huffer stated that in January 2026 the chair and vice chair will be elected so everyone needs to think about who they would like to elect for these positions.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Consideration Of An Update To The Historic Parks Audio Tour.

Sponsors:

Chair Simms stated they needed a motion to approve continuing with the project and send it to BOMA.

Ms. Huffer presented the updated audio tour on the new website platform and the bi-annual presentation to BOMA in January. Ms. Huffer stated she welcomed any feedback.

Commissioner Baggett questioned the size of the sign and suggested it be tested.

Commissioner Baggett suggested to reduce a phrase by using the word "at" and it would reduce four words.

Commissioner Jones questioned if there would be a brochure or rack cards.

Ms. Huffer stated that there were previous rack cards and that new ones could be printed.

Discussion ensued on having stickers on signage with QR code.

Commissioner Macon made a motion for a positive recommendation for the Historic Parks Audio Tour Subcommittee Signage to continue moving forward with the work as presented today. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion, and the motion carried 15-0.

Ms. Huffer continued with the presentation showing maps of the proposed signs with the 24 locations. Ms. Huffer stated there have been 8 markers placed out of 20 so we are almost halfway there.

Commissioner Jacobson requested Ms. Huffer to go back to location number 13 (for the audio tour signs) on the map and stated it conflicts with Carter Hill Park.

Ms. Huffer stated there are 3 markers that will go there.

Commissioner Jacobson stated they should go to Carter Hill Park, Lotz House, Carter House, and remove the assault on the Cotton Gin.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Baggett stated it should be put in there we will proactively answer that there is a process this commission will seek new additions and promote quarterly.

3. Discussion Of A Commission Update To The Board Of Mayor And Aldermen.

Sponsors:

This was discussed with item 2.

4. Discussion Of A Completed Cemetery Restoration Project.

Sponsors:

Mr. Walker stated that a digital copy had been sent to everyone about this and that he wanted to go over a little bit of it. Mr. Walker stated that last May/June, they contacted Richard Grubb and Associates, which provides cemetery restoration, and the work they performed included cleaning the stones, raising some stones, resetting some stones, and repairing some broken stones. Mr. Walker explained the complicated work they did and presented a presentation with slides. Mr. Walker stated he created a grid pattern of Resthaven and pointed out that you could see what had been done. Mr. Walker stated there is a tremendous amount of work left to be done.

OTHER BUSINESS

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**5. Historic Parks Audio Tour.****Sponsors:**

Commissioner Hogan stated she didn't have anything to add to what had already been discussed.

6. U.S. Line Marker.**Sponsors:**

Ms. Huffer stated they are in the process of getting the funds in line so we can go ahead and make an order.

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Pearce stated we all needed to remember the Civil War consultants are in town for next Tuesday and Wednesday. Commissioner Pearce stated that at 264 Natchez, they were moving forward.

Commissioner Baggett stated Franklin's Charge and partners have put a contract on a piece of property on Columbia Avenue north of the Waggner line, adjacent to Water's Funeral home.

Commissioner Macon stated he gave a personal tour to some friends, and they were so fascinated with Carter Hill that they spent most of the time there.

Commissioner Kautzman stated on November 30th, there will be a Battlefield Walking Tour at 10 or 10:30 am.

Commissioner Huffman stated there will be a Civil War show on December 6th & 7th at Williamson County Agriculture Center.

Mr. Walker stated that at Fort Granger, they have removed the invasive species of foliage so you can have a good viewshed.


Commissioner Jacobson stated he met with members from the Parks Department, Kevin Lindsey and Brian Walker, to talk about trees, historic fencing running down Columbia, and Interpretative signage at properties of Spivey, Williams, and Depriest. Commissioner Jacobson stated they are about to receive a deed from the developers who are building homes around the earthworks, and they are donating 14 acres that will be placed in a conservation easement. Commissioner Jacobson stated there are discounted tours on November 28, 29 & 30, and the Visitor Center will open May 1st.

Commissioner Jones stated on Monday, the 24th, there will be porch talks at the Public Library.

Commissioner McLemore stated there will be a Christmas Open House on December 14th from 3 pm to 5 pm at the McLemore House.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.


Chair


Date

