

**City of Franklin Civil War Historical Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 8, 2026—8:00 AM
Meeting Minutes**

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

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

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?

Chair Simms stated hearing none we will move on to the next item.

MINUTES

- **Approval of November 13, 2025, Minutes.**

Commissioner Aiello moved to approve November 13, 2025, meeting minutes. Commissioner Macon seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously 11-0.

Item #2: Consideration of the 2026 Chair & Vice-Chair

Chair Simms stated it was that time of the year when we will need a new Chair and Vice-Chair and opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Lewis nominated Commissioner Tony Morreale who was the only person nominated.

The commission voted 11-0 to appoint Commissioner Morreale as the 2026 Chair.

Chair Simms opened the floor for nominations for the Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Alma McLemore nominated Commissioner Macon.

With no other nominations Commissioner Macon was appointed the 2026 Vice-Chair 11-0.

There was a brief transition for the 2026 Chair to assume the position of Chair.

ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Bulay stated she was going to send a sheet of paper around with the Commissioners email information on it and requested the Commissioners look over that information and change whatever needs to be changed, so she and Ms. Huffer can update their contact information. Ms. Bulay stated they had on the screen the updated version to the annual presentation to the Board and Mayor of Alderman and stated there were a few tweaks that was suggested from the last meeting. Ms. Bulay stated those tweaks were added to the presentation they were seeing. Ms. Bulay went over the power point with the commission and stated it would be on January 27th at 5 p.m.

Commissioner Lewis suggested looking at other overlays and historic districts be added to the plan.

Discussion ensued on the ideas of suggested places.

Ms. Bulay stated that upcoming meetings to the Preservation Plan update will be sent out later on as they are created.

Item #4: Historic Parks Audio Subcommittee Report

Commissioner Doleshel stated they are meeting after this meeting and met last month. Commissioner Doleshel stated they are 85% done. Commissioner Doleshel stated they are reaching out to the Leadership Franklin team who started this to give them a update on all the new things being added. Commissioner Doleshel stated the great thing is there is a website about it and audio tour. Commissioner Doleshel stated the next step after this is who will be recording it.

Commissioner Lewis suggested reaching out to one of our theater companies for voice recordings. Commissioner Lewis also suggested maybe WAKM would do a news story.

Chair Morreale asked if there was, anyway, we could help with this project to help it progress.

Commissioner Doleshel stated that in the last seven months they have gone from 20% to 85% and she didn't think there was any more that they could do to be more organized.

Item #5: U.S. Line Markers Subcommittee Report

Ms. Huffer stated they were still working with the Purchasing Department to make sure the remaining markers are in the process of being purchased. Ms. Huffer stated they had to make sure it was done in this year's budget and it is.

Commissioner Announcements

Commissioner Hogan stated Franklin’s Charge has closed on the Priest building and William’s property on Columbia Avenue.

Commissioner Pearce stated the visitor center is supposed to open in May, but not completely sure.

Commissioner Jones stated her deadline for anyone who wanted to buy a paver to go in at Veteran’s Park is February 1st.

Commissioner Doleshel stated the annual meeting of Visit Franklin partner meeting is Wednesday, February 4th.

Commissioner McLemore stated they are trying to decide for the Black Tie event if they should drop the number down to 600. Commissioner McLemore stated the event is February 7th. Commissioner McLemore stated they needed money for 264 Natchez Street project and explained that there are so many stories to be told.

Commissioner Kautzman stated they are still telling stories and working hard on women’s history ghost tours, etc.

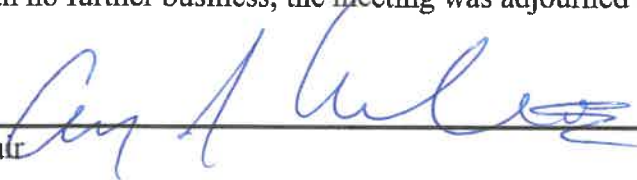
Mr. Walker stated in the last two weeks Parks has received a \$10,000 grant that the city will match to do an invasive species removal at Eastern Flank.

Commissioner Lewis stated that a statue is going to be installed at Carter Hill Park of May Me the Mule. Additionally, the Ben Franklin statue is being unveiled on Saturday, the 17th. Commissioner Lewis stated there will be a show put on by Tony Rolo who has a show called Ben Franklin Lives.

Chair Morreale stated in October there will be national reenactment of the Battle of Franklin held in Lebanon. Chair Morreale stated they are expecting 3,000 to 4,000 participants.

Adjourn.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Chair  3/19/20

