



City of Franklin

109 3rd Ave S
Franklin, TN 37064
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Meeting Minutes

Civil War Historical Commission

Thursday, May 14, 2026

8:00 AM

Eastern Flank Event Facility

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Morreale called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

Commissioners Present: Heather Doleshel, Kelly Kautzman, Alan Simms, Colbi Layne Hogan, Alma McLemore, Bill Macon, Tony Morreale, Pam Lewis, Patrick Baggett, Sam Huffman, Marlene Holmes, Sean Aiello

Staff Present: Emily Huffer, Elizabeth Bulay, Kelly Dannenfelser

Comments on agenda items may be made in person or by emailing PlanningIntake@FranklinTN.gov before noon on the day of the meeting. Emailed comments will be provided to the Commission and included in the minutes, but not read aloud in their entirety during the meeting.

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 Morreale asked for citizen comments. There were none.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Consideration Of Approval Of Minutes

Sponsors:

Commissioner Simms moved to approve the March 19, 2026, meeting minutes. Commissioner McLemore seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously 12-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW BUSINESS

2. Discussion Of Preservation Plan Update

Sponsors:

Chair Morreale stated he wanted to get everyone's thoughts on the Plan. Chair Morreale stated this commission's next steps will likely come from this Plan. Chair Morreale opened the meeting for feedback.

Commissioner Huffman stated his concern is the development around the battlefields, and something should be

done.

Chair Morreale stated he thought there was something in place to limit the number of stories.

Ms. Dannenfelser stated it depended on the location because downtown is limited to 3 stories while Columbia Avenue is limited to 2 stories.

Commissioner Lewis asked whether there should be language requiring a buffer around historic properties. Commissioner Lewis referenced stream buffers.

Ms. Dannenfelser stated that we do have something called Edge Treatments that are required along a developing property that is next to or on a National Register property, and there are different approaches depending on the context. Ms. Dannenfelser stated the Planning Department makes that determination.

Commissioner McLemore stated that Commissioner Baggett brought up the "Pathway to Freedom," which she thinks is amazing and that someone needs to grab and run with it.

Commissioner Baggett stated we could add in our section connectivity of the Carter House story to 264 Natchez Street. Commissioner Baggett stated that telling a fuller narrative in that area could create some good public opportunities.

Commissioner Lewis stated we shouldn't forget about the parks.

Commissioner Doleshel stated she was surprised at the last meeting to hear all they did was put on paper priorities we already identified. Commissioner Doleshel thought they would suggest how to get to the priorities or suggest steps on how to get there, not ask us what we suggest.

Commissioner Baggett stated when you think about strategic plans, this is where tactics come from. Commissioner Baggett stated that maybe there is something else we need to look at, like a daughter for this commission on other Preservation issues.

Commissioner McLemore stated that people don't know what this commission is all about, and we need to get people more informed, but how do we do that?

Chair Morreale stated that a couple of points he took away were education with the community and in the schools.

Commissioner Baggett stated what has been said are tactics, and maybe we should have a meeting on goals with tactics.

Commissioner Huffman stated he wasn't part of the original Save the Franklin Battlefield, but it was organized to do a reenactment at the old golf course. Commissioner Huffman stated that the reenactment drew a lot of people. Commissioner Huffman stated that the public wants something easy and without a time commitment.

Commissioner Baggett stated that, somewhere in the plan, there should be a city-sponsored event centered on the battlefield.

Chair Morreale stated this is all good stimulus for further conversations.

Ms. Dannenfelser spoke to the commission about the consultants' timeframe and explained the plan.

3. Presentations By Organizations

Sponsors:

Commissioner Hogan stated this goes back to 2003, and community members started working to stop it from being developed. Commissioner Hogan stated a group got together and formed Franklin's Charge. Commissioner Hogan stated there were people from all historical backgrounds. Commissioner Hogan stated that after Eastern Flank was saved, the next step was saving the battlefield of Carter House, piece by piece. Commissioner Hogan stated that since 2019, many new people have joined.

Commissioner Baggett stated to think of Franklin's Charge as the identifier of land, the coordinator for dealing with property owners, the one getting properties under contract, and the one working with the American Battlefield Trust for grants.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

4. Historic Parks Audio Tour

Sponsors:

Commissioner Doleshel stated they are listening to some voices and signage to look at.

5. U.S. Line Markers

Sponsors:

Ms. Bulay stated they are moving forward by meeting with property owners, and this afternoon is the final meeting with a property owner. Ms. Bulay stated that the Streets Department is working on the foundations and should have markers ready by June 30th for installation.

COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Holmes stated the annual memorial service at McGavock Cemetery is June 7th at 2 pm.

Commissioner McLemore stated that on May 18th, at 6 p.m., there is a gathering at Hayes House for the Porch Talk. Commissioner McLemore stated Juneteenth will be held at the Bicentennial Park. Commissioner McLemore stated the Tom Murdick scholarship will be awarded on July 25th.

Commissioner Kautzman stated that at the Lotz House, the tours are picking up, our women's history is still going on, and there is an archaeological dig in the cellar.

Commissioner Hogan stated that the county commission will allow BOFT to install interpretative signage at Academy Park.

Commissioner Lewis stated signage has gone up for Benjamin Franklin at Bicentennial Park. Commissioner Lewis stated on the 29th and 30th there is a Belmont Mansion Tour.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 09:02 AM.


Chair

7/9/24
Date

