

**City of Franklin Battlefield Preservation Commission  
Regular Meeting**

**Thursday, March 8, 2012—7:30 AM  
Community Development Conference Room**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Ernie Bacon, David Eagan, Thomas Flagel, Sam Gant, Joe Grosson, Sam Huffman, Mike Plumley, Jim Roberts, Jay Sheridan, Mark Shore, Michael Skinner, J.T. Thompson, Sam Whitson

**Absent:** Pam Lewis, Margie Thessin

**Staff Present:** Amanda Hall, Susan Coleman, Deanna Scheffel, Kevin Lindsey, Brian Walker, Chris Edwards, Micky Dobson

Chair Sheridan called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m.

**Item 1:  
Minutes February 9, 2012**

Mr. Grosson moved to approve the minutes of February 9, 2012 as submitted. Mr. Plumley seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Item 2:  
Illumination Event Discussion.**

Chair Sheridan stated Ms. Monique McCullough was present to answer any questions anyone had concerning the illumination and stated that from his understanding, the city will produce this year's illumination event with the commission's assistance, and he stated that beyond that is what the commission is entertaining now.

Mr. Jacobson stated at the last Battle of Franklin Trust meeting this topic was discussed and the idea of the Trust taking this event over was well received. Mr. Jacobson stated the Trust wanted to wait and see how the city responded and then take a vote later.

Ms. Hall asked Mr. Jacobson if he had any questions for Ms. McCullough on how the city would facilitate the event if the Trust took over the event.

Mr. Jacobson stated he did not really have any questions but suggested Ms. McCullough and Ms. Hall attend the next Battle of Franklin Trust meeting to discuss and stated the next meeting is next Tuesday at 5:45 pm.

Mr. Skinner stated the city has set up a grant that helps events that are not city sponsored, so that manpower and so forth can be allocated and suggested it might be good to get on their approval for 2013 due to them being limited.

Ms. McCullough stated the program is an application process, and it applies to community-wide events held on city property. Ms. McCullough explained there is a committee that reviews the applications, that points are awarded based on how questions are answered from the applications, and fifty dollars is awarded for every point up to five-thousand dollars.

Ms. Pearce asked when one could start applying for the grant.

Ms. McCullough stated it started January 1.

**Item 3:  
Commission Goals Discussion.**

Chair Sheridan stated he felt the commission should dedicate the April meeting to this discussion.

Mr. Thompson moved to discuss this item at the April Battlefield Commission meeting. Mr. Jacobson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Item 4:  
Fort Granger Park Development.**

Ms. Scheffel stated Mr. Lindsey, Brian Walker, and Chris Edwards from the Parks Department were here to present a PowerPoint presentation on the plans for Fort Granger park development. Ms. Scheffel stated they wanted to give a quick update on where everything stood at the moment.

Mr. Lindsey showed slides of the front and sides of the 4-H property and stated they have consulted with the state and county, they have made sure there is no asbestos, taken out the sewer tank, turned in permits, and they are ready to go. Mr. Lindsey stated the fence has been taken down and stated they would go back and fill in any holes. Mr. Lindsey explained some of the obstacles and hoops they have to go through are the MTEMC easements on the property, and he explained each easement. Mr. Lindsey stated Middle TN would be coming out soon to get rid of all the undergrowth under one of the easements and they appreciated the help. Mr. Lindsey stated there was a fence they had to take down so Middle TN could get in there to get rid of the under growth and stated the parks workers had already gotten rid of some of the foliage. Mr. Lindsey pointed out several other easements.

Mr. Edwards stated they would be doing the work on property in phases and that everything would be done in-house. Mr. Edwards pointed out on the slides what would be torn down or taken out, including the old 4-H barn and a concrete pad, and he explained there is one building that may be kept to be worked into the park. Mr. Edwards stated Phase 1 would be to tear down the lean-to, Phase 2 would be to take out brick blocks that were bleachers, Phase 3 would be the removal of the main barn, and the Phase 4 would be the removal of the restrooms and concession stand. Mr. Edwards stated they were estimating 5 weeks to tear all that down and that they would salvage all materials they could.

Mr. Walker, the landscaping grounds foreman, stated that the next slide showed a concept plan for the landscape of the property. Mr. Walker explained that some of the main concerns are

how the power lines would affect the landscaping that would be placed and that they would be using some fencing to assist with the gaps caused by the power lines with the landscaping. Mr. Walker stated the fencing would be similar to what has been done at other parks and that there would be an information kiosk, bigger parking, and an extension of the boardwalk. Mr. Walker stated all plant material used would be native to Tennessee.

Mr. Lindsey stated there has been some discussion on the sign and showed a replica of what is currently used at the majority of the parks. Mr. Lindsey stated it is his understanding with Eastern Flank that the signage may be changed to TDOT standards, so whatever signage is dictated at Eastern Flank will be used at Fort Granger as well. Mr. Lindsey showed cost estimates of everything that was to be done and stated the following:

- Signage (similar to what is done at Eastern Flank)—\$25,000
- Fencing (similar to what is done at other areas)—\$10,000
- Landscaping—\$30,000
- Parking Area—\$35,000 to 80,000
- Demolition—\$12,800
- Dumpster—\$1,650
- Entranceway Signage—\$25,000
- Interpretative Signage—\$20,000
- Amenities—\$3,000

Mr. Lindsey stated the total cost is estimated at \$150,000 and that he would be happy to answer any questions.

Ms. Scheffel stated this endeavor is to get the park in shape for the 2014 Sesquicentennial.

Mr. Bacon suggested contacting Mr. Van West for signage or brochures ideas.

Ms. Scheffel stated that she would.

Mr. Grosson questioned if there was any planning on putting signs to point people towards Fort Granger.

Ms. Hall stated there is wayfinding signage program that is being implemented slowly around Franklin and that Fort Granger can be addressed with it.

Ms. Pearce stated that this was so exciting. Ms. Pearce stated she would like to say that we have a National Historic Landmark nomination in Franklin that includes Fort Granger and Winstead Hill and that this information should be included on signage. Ms. Pearce stated there is the Civil War Trail Marker program in place as well and that she would like to see the signs be consistent. Ms. Pearce also noted that she would like for the city to look at MTEMC's long-range plan for that area to make sure there is not some big surprise planned for the future for this site.

Mr. Lindsey pointed some of the electric poles on the site.

Chair Sheridan questioned if there would be power there.

Mr. Lindsey stated there are no plans for restrooms or power on the site at this time and explained it would depend how much volume the park receives.

Chair Sheridan asked if Mr. Lindsey knew how much volume the park received now.

Mr. Lindsey stated at Fort Granger not so much, but at Pinkerton about 500 a day.

Discussion ensued on the Crosslyn property, boardwalk, the possibility of having cannons, etc.

Ms. Scheffel stated this item will probably return to this commission about a dozen times before it finished. Ms. Scheffel stated they just wanted to give the commission an update on what was currently going on and information on the plan they have developed.

The commission thanked Parks for all they have done.

Mr. Huffman passed out copies of pictures that mapped out how Fort Granger was related to the Eastern Flank Battlefield and the angle the gunners had. Mr. Huffman explained how the firing action could have occurred.

## **Item 5: Announcements and Other Business**

- Cemetery Nomination Status

Ms. Hall stated there is a contract between the city and Thomason & Associates, who are out of Nashville. Ms. Hall stated the consultant has a number of projects similar to this one under his belt and that she is confident the nominations will be successful.

- Loring's Advance Tour

Mr. Huffman stated it is set for March 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.

- Fort Granger Park Day

Chair Sheridan stated this to be held on March 31<sup>st</sup> from 8 am till noon.

Mr. Jacobson stated the Battle of Franklin Trust has been working in conjunction with the Franklin Housing Authority on the property south of Strahl street where the demolition occurred and new construction is about to begin. Mr. Jacobson stated that through the great generosity of the FHA folks, the Battle of Franklin Trust will be allowed one chance to do an archaeological dig. Mr. Jacobson stated what they have found is shocking and that one cannot even begin to fathom what was happening here on November 30, 1864 as based on what is they are finding on that property. Mr. Jacobson stated they would be allowed to dig until May 1.

Ms. Pearce stated that Franklin's Charge has to raise \$500,000 to get \$1.5 million from outside this community for the purchase of the Domino's property that the organization is only at around \$120,000 of that at this time. She stated that she and Ms. Angela Calhoun are asking for smaller donations of \$1,000 to help with this. Ms. Pearce stated this was an amazing opportunity that needed to be taken advantage of, and she requested the commissioners pass this along to help raise the money.

**Item 6:**  
**Adjournment**

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

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Acting Secretary