

City of Franklin Battlefield Preservation Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 13, 2014—7:30 AM
City Training Room

Meeting Minutes

Present: Ernie Bacon, Dianne Christian, Thomas Flagel, Sam Gant, Mike Grainger, Robert Huff, Sam Huffman, Pam Lewis, Jim Roberts, Jay Sheridan, Mike Skinner, JT Thompson, Sam Whitson

Staff Present: Amanda Hall, Deanna Scheffel, Susan Coleman, Meghan Scholl

Chair Sheridan called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

Discussion of Federal Line Markers.

Ms. Hall stated due to most of the marker placement proposals being in the state right-of-way, she met with a gentlemen from TDOT along with Paul Holzen of the Engineering Department and Joe York of the Streets Department concerning this proposal. Ms. Hall stated she was received favorably and felt everyone was happy with the design and intent of the markers. Ms. Hall stated she was told this proposal would have to be discussed with another person concerning insurance, appearance, etc. Ms. Hall stated that she later corresponded with a Mr. Joseph Sweat at TDOT, and he stated that normally these types of markers would not be approvable at all, as the only types of historical markers approved for state right-of-ways would be the types of markers that approved through the TN State Historical Commission, like the big gray markers. Ms. Hall stated, however, that she was told that TDOT is working on documentation that would allow this type of thing to take place, so she believed it seemed promising.

Mr. Gant stated he has had very favorable comments with the builder. Mr. Gant stated it would be a stone surface with raised letter with a different texture and will stand out.

Chair Sheridan stated he and Mr. Jacobson drove around and marked the various locations and he has overlaid the historic maps with modern maps. Chair Sheridan questioned if it was appropriate to look at city streets and get those local markers done while waiting on approval from the state.

Ms. Hall stated there are about eight sites, so the local streets would be Fair, Adams, and possibly Fowlkes.

Mr. Gant stated once the mold is made, the markers can be made in increments.

Discussion of Gun Carriage Proposal.

Mr. Whitson stated a committee was formed consisting of Ms. Lewis, Mr. Huffman, Mr. Gant, Mr. Skinner and himself to raise money from private donations and coordinate the grant

development to make this happen. Mr. Whitson stated they estimate the cost to be around **\$60,000** for four gun carriages, which includes site preparation and signage. Mr. Whitson stated they need to move fast on because Mr. Prouty stated the opportunity for a state grant would need to be done right away. Mr. Whitson stated himself and Mr. Skinner met with Mr. Stuckey to discuss this, and they have proposed that the City should buy two of these carriages for \$28,000 from **Steen** Cannon Company.

Mr. Skinner moved that the Franklin Battlefield Commission recommend to the Board of Mayor Alderman to approve a project to place the Civil War cannon tubes with appropriate reproduction gun carriages on the square and that it requests that the City of Franklin provide \$28,000 of the cost, with the balance to be raised by grants and private donations. Mr. Grainger seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously (13-0).

Discussion of Proposed Bylaws/Ordinance Amendments

Chair Sheridan stated he felt last month there was a suggestion that the African-American Heritage Society be added to the commission, taking the place of Franklin on Foot, and this process is in motion. Chair Sheridan stated they have reached to the organization for a representative and then it will have to be recommended to the Mayor. Chair Sheridan stated the other change talked about is Section 2-404, Appointment and Term of Office, and whether this section should be changed or by removing the term limits.

Ms. Hall stated she would recommend eliminating the term limits due to some organizations only having one or two representatives available with the organization. Ms. Hall stated the process is in motion and explained the process.

Update on Interpretative Signage & Fencing at Eastern Flank

Mr. Flagel stated there are walking signs completed but that they still have kiosks to construct, but hopefully it will be done by April 3. Mr. Flagel requested suggestions on how to announce this. Mr. Flagel stated it was progressing very well.

Chair Sheridan stated it would be a ribbon-cutting event.

Ms. Scheffel stated directional signage is up and that split-rail fencing construction will begin next week. Ms. Scheffel passed around picture of banner that will be used. Ms. Scheffel stated kitchen renovations have started at the clubhouse.

Discussion of State Sesquicentennial Event

Ms. Scheffel stated she attended a couple of meetings with the planning committee for the event. Ms. Scheffel stated Blue Grey Day will be November 13 with the house tour and living museum, and on the Eastern Flank side, there will be someone showing the interpretative trail with re-enactors placed at various spots.

Announcements and Other Business.

- **Civil War Trust Park Day event**

Ms. Scheffel stated Civil War Trust Park Day event would be held April 5th from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Ms. Scheffel stated they have started to clear the river side of Fort Granger, and she will bring plans showing the decking that will be constructed. Ms. Scheffel stated interpretive signage is being updated.

- **"A Walk in the Park" Franklin TV Show**

Ms. Scheffel stated yesterday they interviewed Ms. Lewis at her home, The Harrison House, and that will appear on "A Walk in the Park" next week.

- **Individual Commissioner Announcements**

Ms. Hall stated she has confirmation on a signed grant contract for the cemeteries preservation and maintenance plan.

Mr. Bacon stated they have begun to clear the house at the Cotton Gin Project. Mr. Bacon stated one house has been moved, and this site will be graded and seeded next week. Mr. Bacon stated there will be one house that will have to be demolished due to no one wanting to move it. Mr. Bacon stated Mr. Flagel has archaeologists wanting to dig as soon as the site is available. Mr. Bacon stated it would probably be May before Domino's will be demolished.

Mr. Grainger requested Ms. Hall research the Werthen Property and stated the Civil War Trust meeting will be in May.

Chair Sheridan stated Ms. Warnick could not be here, but she said the banners were moving forward with a robust advertising campaign.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

Acting Secretary