

**City of Franklin Battlefield Preservation Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday, November 11, 2015—7:30 AM**  
**Community Development Conference Room**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Ernie Bacon, Thomas Cartwright, Sam Gant, Mike Grainger, Sam Huffman, Eric Jacobson, Pam Lewis, Clay Perry, Mike Skinner, Deborah Warnick, Sam Whitson

**Staff Present:** Brian Walker, Lisa Clayton, James Bilbo, Susan Coleman, Amanda Hall, Emily Hunter, Andrew Orr, Joey Bryan, Bob Martin, Vernon Gerth

Chair Whitson called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m. and introduced the commission's newest member, Mr. Clay Perry.

Ms. Hall introduced new Planning staff member, Mr. Joey Bryan.

**Minutes: September 10, 2015 & October 8, 2015 Meetings**

Mr. Gant moved to approve the September and October meeting minutes. Mr. Grainger seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously (10-0).

**Discussion of Columbia Avenue Overlay Update.**

Ms. Hall stated that staff is working on developing a draft ordinance to amend the section of the Zoning Ordinance, which provides design and context guidance for the parcels largely fronting Columbia Avenue from Five Points to south of Mack Hatcher Pkwy. Ms. Hall introduced Mr. Andrew Orr, who is with the Planning staff and stated he would be presenting a PowerPoint to further explain the proposal.

Mr. Orr stated the Columbia Avenue Overlay Districts standards are located in Chapter 3 of the Zoning Ordinance and have not been updated since 2008. Mr. Orr stated the standards are based off a study that was completed about ten years ago by the Heritage Foundation. Mr. Orr stated that staff wants to identify the vision for each sub-district, identify standards that has caused some tension, and gather feedback from this commission. Mr. Orr stated he would come back in December to really get into more detail. Mr. Orr preceded to display slides showing the standards that currently exist today. Mr. Orr briefly went through the current zonings for areas along Columbia Avenue.

**Discussion of Ground-Penetrating Radar Detection Survey for Historic Cemeteries.**

Ms. Hall introduced Mr. Len Strozier, the consultant from Omega Mapping Services who conducted the survey of City and Rest Haven Cemeteries.

Mr. Strozier commended the commission for their proactive work. Mr. Strozier presented his findings on using radio wave technology and explained they were able to estimate the presence of 1506 unmarked burials between the two cemeteries. Mr. Strozier presented slides showing the use of the ground-penetrating radar and how they marked the unmarked graves with flags. Mr. Strozier displayed a large map of the findings. Mr. Strozier stated the Parks Department replaced the flags shown with metal caps that are flush with the ground so that these graves can still be located in the future. Mr. Strozier state that the caps are easier to use with maintenance of the grounds. Mr. Strozier stated Mr. Walker provided a

great comparison of two photographs dated 100 years apart and demonstrated the different things in the two pictures. Mr. Strozier presented a slide with his recommendations which are as follows:

- No future burials. Potential of disinterment is very high.
- Professionally repair as many historic crypts and “table top” monuments in City Cemetery as feasible
- New burials should take place in the designated 6’ by 10’ plot in Rest Haven
- New funerary compliment historical monuments
- Ample open space for a historically aesthetic columbarium for cremations along the western wall
- Roadway could be landscaped and extend into walking path enticing local visitors and tourists
- Northwest corner of Rest Haven ideal location for a private scattering area for ashes

Discussion ensued among Commissioners on the findings.

Ms. Hall stated at the December meeting that she, Lisa Clayton, and Brian Walker will discuss a proposed plan of action for the cemeteries based on the Preservation & Maintenance Plan developed last year and the GPR survey findings.

### **Organizational Announcements**

Mr. Cartwright stated a blood drive would be held at the Lotz House on November 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Cartwright also suggested each organization take a turn at each meeting to tell a story about a soldier.

Chair Whitson volunteered for the first story.

Ms. Lewis reminded everyone about the Dickens of a Christmas event.

Mr. Huffman stated Save the Franklin Battlefield will hosting a dinner on November 19<sup>th</sup> at Otey Hall.

Ms. Warnick stated the CVB now has a holiday page added to their website.

### **Other Business**

No other business.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

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Acting Secretary