

City of Franklin Battlefield Preservation Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 13, 2017—7:30 AM
Training Conference Room
Meeting Minutes

Present: Deborah Warnick, Ernie Bacon, Sam Gant, Sam Huffman, Mike Skinner, Pam Lewis, Rachael Finch, Mary Pearce (left at 8:15), Rich Buckner, Thomas Cartwright, Tim Stillings (left 8:40), Eric Jacobson

Staff Present: Amanda Rose, Joey Bryan, Brian Walker, Emily Hunter

Call to Order

Chairwoman Lewis called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

Ms. Pearce spoke strongly against two bills that are before the State Legislature, State Bill 520 and House Bill 476, which intend to do away with design review regulations of new construction that is not located in historic districts, which is most of Williamson County. Ms. Pearce requested if anyone could help to please spread the word against these two bills. Ms. Pearce stated Rippavilla is getting a conservation easement.

Discussion ensued on the topic.

Minutes: March 9, 2017 Meeting

Mr. Stillings moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Buckner seconded the motion, and the motion was approved 10-0.

Consideration of Cannons for Carter Hill Battlefield Park

Ms. Rose stated Mr. Cullen Smith was present at the meeting today to speak about the specifics of the cannons the group called the “Cannons on the Battlefield Committee” has generously requested to purchase for the battlefield. Ms. Rose stated the goal of the discussion today is to decide whether the cannons should be accepted by the City.

Mr. Smith stated on behalf of Franklin’s Charge and the Cannons on the Battlefield Committee that he was delighted to be here today. Mr. Smith stated they have raised enough funds to purchase four replica cannons and carriages. Mr. Smith stated there was a tremendous amount of time, work, effort and financial commitment put into this project and introduced several of the committee members. Mr. Smith stated the Franklin’s Charge board voted to get the cannons from Historic Ordinance Works of Woodstock, Georgia. Mr. Smith provided slides for specifications of the cannons.

Mr. Walker stated at the last meeting he was asked to contact Jim Lewis at Stone’s River National Battlefield Park regarding the placement of their cannons on pads, and Mr. Lewis stated they do not place cannons on anything other than the ground.

Mr. Jacobson suggested that the cannons not be set on pads.

Mr. Bacon moved the Battlefield Commission recommend acceptance of these cannons on behalf of the City parks. Mr. Skinner seconded the motion, and the motion passed 10-0.

Discussion & Consideration of Expansion of the Historic Preservation Overlay (HPO) District to include additional properties on Columbia Ave.

Ms. Rose stated this discussion is following up on different discussions the commission has had at previous meetings concerning the block between Fowlkes St. and Cleburne St. off Columbia Ave. Ms. Rose stated she created a map showing the area. Ms. Rose had the map projected and pointed out the areas.

Mr. Bacon moved to have staff reach out to property owners of the specified properties along Columbia Avenue regarding expanding the Historic Preservation Overlay [map is attached to end of minutes]. Mr. Skinner seconded the motion.

Ms. Rose passed out a sheet showing the rezoning process through which this expansion would have to proceed and explained.

After some discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Update on Federal Line Markers Proposal

Mr. Bryan stated he was still working with the State for the markers along the state routes and that it is progressing as quick as it can. Mr. Bryan stated he has started reaching out to the property owners where the right of way is to narrow and that overall, the feedback has been positive.

Discussion of Cannons on the Square Interpretative Signage

Chairwoman Lewis stated we have been talking about this for months and she would like to see this done.

Ms. Rose stated it sounds like the committee is content with the verbiage as presented but that it still has a concern of whether it should be a two-sided freestanding sign or one-sided wall mounted sign.

Chairwoman Lewis stated if it is a two-sided sign it would be more visible.

Mr. Gant stated that in looking at the square with the landscaping, a two-sided sign would be more visible for pedestrians.

Ms. Rose requested to know if there was a preferred location for a freestanding sign.

After discussion, Mr. Huffman moved to have the sign ordered. Mr. Buckner seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Parks Department & Organization Announcements

Mr. Walker stated a company has been selected to clean the markers at City Cemetery. Mr. Walker stated that sometime in the next four to six weeks the Parks Department will begin switching out the gravel to mark the Federal Line.

Ms. Rose stated she wanted to thank the Parks Department for their work on selecting the company to work on the cemetery markers.

Chairwoman Lewis stated the Boy Scouts are looking for a project.

Discussion ensued on signage at Pinkerton Park concerning alternate access from Eddy Lane.

Mr. Jacobson suggested more radical directional signage and explained the need for this change.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Acting Secretary