

City of Franklin Battlefield Preservation Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 10, 2017—7:30 AM
City Cemetery
Meeting Minutes

Present: Ernie Bacon, Sam Gant, Mike Skinner, Pam Lewis, Rich Buckner, Thomas Cartwright, David Eagan, Alma McLemore, Tim Stillings

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

Call to Order:

Chairwoman Lewis called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

Minutes: July 13, 2017

Ms. Rose stated due to a lack of quorum, the July 13, 2017 minutes cannot be considered.

Update on City Cemetery Restoration Work

Ms. Rose stated that the commission has met at the City Cemetery today on a site visit. Ms. Rose stated these cemeteries are public, and the City will be responsible for taking care of them.

Mr. Walker stated there will be some pruning to the tree that has been here since close to 1916.

Ms. Rose explained the layout of the cemetery. Ms. Rose stated if you explore the grounds, you will see some of the founding families. Ms. Rose stated it was an integrated cemetery. Ms. Rose stated the Parks Department stated overseeing the cemeteries about four years ago, and she would turn the discussion over to Mr. Walker.

Mr. Walker presented the results of the GPR study done by Omega Mapping on a map. Mr. Walker explained the process of the ground penetrating radar and the results. Mr. Walker stated there has been some stonewall repair work and explained areas there was flooding. Mr. Walker stated there are 1506 potential unknown burials identified by the study. Mr. Walker pointed out the locations on the map.

Ms. Rose stated the Toussaint L'Ouverture Cemetery is across the street and explained it has been on listed the National Register of Historic Places longer than City Cemetery.

Chairwoman Lewis suggested earmarking some of the tourist money to care for the cemeteries.

Ms. Rose suggested organizing the commission into three or four subcommittees to work on different projects and that perhaps one of the subcommittee groups could be focused on the cemeteries.

Mr. Walker stated there is an evaluation and maintenance plan in place for the cemeteries and explained. Mr. Walker state this a 20 to 30-year project.

Discussion ensued on the need for volunteers and training to do the work correctly.

Chairwoman Lewis suggested to reach out to Friends of Franklin Parks.

Chairwoman Lewis suggested interpretative signage with information on how to help.

Discussion ensued on options for a cell phone app, etc., and Ms. Rose and Mr. Walker pointed on the burial markers that have been identified for and are currently under restoration.

Recording faded out and is difficult to hear.

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Organization Announcements

No announcements.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Acting Secretary