

City of Franklin Civil War Historical Commission
Regular Meeting
Thursday, July 11, 2019—8:00 AM
Meeting Minutes

Present: Steve Bacon, Rich Buckner, David Eagan, Rachael Finch, Sam Gant, Sam Huffman, Pam Lewis, Alma McLemore, Mary Pearce, Clay Perry, Bob Ravener, Alan Simms, Alderman Scott Speedy, Megan Weisinger, Blake Wintory

Staff Present: Amanda Rose, Brian Walker, Kelly Dannenfelser, Susan Coleman

Call to Order:

Ms. Lewis called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Minutes: May 9, 2019

Mr. Perry moved to approve the May 9, 2019 meeting minutes. Ms. Finch seconded the motion, and the motion carried 15-0.

Introduction of New Commissioners:

Ms. Rose introduced the new Commissioners. Ms. Rose stated all eighteen seats are now filled. Ms. Rose stated Ms. Mary Pearce serves as the new Franklin's Charge member. Mr. Alan Simms and Mr. Bob Ravener are the two new at-large members. Everyone on the Commission introduced themselves.

Subcommittee Updates:

Chair Lewis requested Ms. Rose let everyone know who is on which subcommittee.

Ms. Rose stated that Mr. Bacon, Ms. Weisinger, and Mr. Buckner are on the Wayfinding Sign Subcommittee. Ms. Rose asked that any new members who wished to be added to this subcommittee to please let her know. Ms. Rose asked Mr. Buckner to give an update on this committee.

Mr. Buckner explained Wayfinding and stated they have looked at I-65 first and then on Highway 96 coming into town. Mr. Buckner stated they want to look at all major corridors first and then deal with the core of the City and then Mack Hatcher Pkwy. Mr. Buckner stated they have completed I-65, 96 into town from the east, and lastly Franklin Road going south into Franklin. Mr. Buckner stated it will be nice to have just one kind of sign used instead so many different ones.

Ms. Pearce stated she like using the brown sign, like the other historic informational signs.

Mr. Buckner stated the Visitor Center is very important as well.

Discussion ensued on possible grant money and other ideas.

Ms. Rose stated the Parks Department has a cell phone tour and explained there are things in the works to revamp this.

Mr. Speedy stated one needs about an hour and half to listen to the cell tour and made comments on his thoughts of what could be updated and changed.

Discussion ensued about this topic. Ms. Rose stated maybe capture the highlights and then add more information on the website. Ms. Rose stated she is excited about this and stated she will be meeting with Parks to discuss more options.

Ms. Rose stated the Public Outreach/Interpretation Committee is pledging to listen to all recordings and revamp what is needed to be updated.

Ms. Rose stated the other subcommittee is Historic Cemeteries with Commissioners Mr. Gant, Mr. Eagan, Mr. Wintory and Mr. Perry on this subcommittee. Ms. Rose stated Mr. Simms and Mr. Ravener also have an interest in being on this committee. Ms. Rose stated they had planned to go over to the cemeteries today, but it is really hot outside and she would leave the decision up to the subcommittee. Ms. Rose explained how hard it is to get funding with the City's budget and thanked Parks who dedicates \$5,000 every year in their budget for the cemeteries. Ms. Rose stated both the cemeteries are listed on the National Register and explained about some grant funding for preservation. Ms. Rose explained that the needs are vast. Ms. Rose stated that is why a subcommittee can help prioritize everything. Ms. Rose explained about the ground penetrating radar and how it was used.

Mr. Walker stated there has been some stone wall restoration, and we have done some marker cleaning.

Mr. Gant stated his late wife worked on a project with Mr. Rick Warwick in placing small markers to identify who was located at each grave.

Ms. Rose gave Ms. Norma Gant applause for all her work on that project.

Ms. Rose stated she and Chair Lewis are working on a plan with Save the Franklin Battlefield to try to figure out a way to accept donations from the public to facilitate cemetery restoration.

Discussion ensued about the signs on the Square and federal line markers.

Parks Department Update:

Mr. Walker stated there was tree damage to Eastern Flank, Collins Farm, and Harlinsdale due to the storms that came through recently. Mr. Walker stated there have been some trail improvements from gravel to concrete at Eastern Flank, and there are some more to finish.

Mr. Gant stated there are two monuments on Columbia Pike. Mr. Gant stated one is at the old trench line marker at Carter Hill and one in front of the old BGA and requested to know if they had been moved.

Mr. Walker stated not that he knew of.

Mr. Gant stated those had been talked about being moved at one time and feels those two monuments should be moved to where they belong.

Mr. Gant moved to have those two monuments moved to the trench line and forward line. Mr. Eagan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Individual Organizational Announcements:

Chair Lewis stated she attended a wonderful symposium put on by the Heritage Foundation, where Ms. Rose did a presentation.

Ms. McLemore stated on July 20th, the African American Heritage Society is having a prom.

Ms. Finch stated they have a summer series going on, and on August 15th, Mr. Mark Cheatham is coming doing a presentation. Ms. Finch stated September 13 and 14, there will be a symposium concentrated on Native American and African American history.

Ms. Pearce stated Franklin's Charge is doing a symposium in November and they will send out more information later.

Adjournment:

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

Acting Secretary