



TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

February 21, 2020

Meeting Minutes

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The Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) met in Nashville, at The William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower, Room D, on the 3rd floor, located at 312 Rosa L Parks Ave, Nashville, TN 37243. *All attachments referenced herein were sent to the Commission along with the agenda one week prior to the meeting.* Members present were Vice-Chair for West Tennessee Derita Coleman Williams; Ernie Bacon; Beth Campbell; Dr. Doug Cupples; Dr. Kent Dollar; Sam Elliott; Loni Harris; Toye Heape; Tiny Jones; Lucy Lee; Dr. Bill Lyons, Joanne Moore, Don Roe, Ray Smith, Joseph Swann, and Judge David Tipton; and Kelly Wolfe. Communications explaining their absences were received from Chairman Dr. Reavis Mitchell; Vice-Chair for East Tennessee Allen Carter; Linda Moss Mines; and Commissioner Salyers' Representative and TDEC Division of Recreation Educational Services Director Gerald Parish; State Librarian Chuck Sherrill; and State Historian Dr. Carroll Van West. Also absent were Jeremy Harrell; Dr. Keith Norman; Beverly Robertson; and the Director of Constituent Services & Community Relations for the Office of the Governor, Don Johnson. Staff members present were Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer Patrick McIntyre; Historic Sites Program Director Dan Brown; Tennessee Heritage Protection Act and Outreach Specialist Susan McClamroch; Cemetery Preservation Program Specialist Graham Perry; Administrative Secretary Ashlee Pierce; Director of Programs for the Tennessee Wars Commission Nina Scall; Grants Administrator Brenda Vaughan; and Assistant Director for State Programs Linda Wynn.

Chairman Mitchell was unable to attend. Serving in his place was Vice-Chair for West Tennessee Derita Williams, who introduced herself and brought the meeting to order. She thanked Ms. Pierce for arranging the accommodations and tour at the Hermitage Hotel, and Tom Vickstrom for giving informative and interesting tour at the hotel the night before. Vice Chair Williams announced that one person, Glen Allen Graham, had signed up to speak during the public comments time at the beginning of the meeting and that two minutes is the allotted time for comments. Mr. Graham spoke briefly about Nathan Bedford Forrest. The meeting was then turned over to Executive Director Patrick McIntyre to introduce staff. Mr. McIntyre then announced the staff in attendance.

B. Approval of Minutes

Meeting minutes from October 18, 2019 were considered. Mr. Wolfe asked for the minutes to reflect that he was in attendance via telephone for the meeting.

Motion

Mr. Wolfe then moved for approval of the minutes. Mr. Elliott seconded. The motion was moved and properly seconded. The motion passed to approve the October 18, 2019 meeting minutes with corrections noted.

C. Finance Committee

The Finance Committee Chair, Mrs. Beth Campbell, presented the Finance Committee report and reviewed the financial statement for July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019 (*Attachment C1*).

Motion

Madam Chair Williams requested a motion for approval of the Finance Report. Dr. Cupples moved, and Mr. Elliott seconded. The motion was moved and properly seconded. The motion to approve the financial statement passed.

Mr. McIntyre noted that the governor's budget included several key requests including \$13.4 million for the state's historic site's maintenance and improvements, which is overwhelmingly appreciated, and will fund work on sites Burra Burra Mines, Rock Castle, Chester Inn, and Hotel Halbbrook. In addition, after years of requesting it, a second position has been added to help administer the Historic Sites program, which would finally give Mr. Brown some much needed assistance. Mr. Elliott noted he had watched via video the Commission's presentation at the Senate budget hearing, and he commended Mr. McIntyre and staff present at the hearing on doing a fine job. Vice-Chair Williams thanked Mr. Elliott for that and acknowledged that thanks are not often said enough for all the work everyone does. Mr. McIntyre thanked him for watching.

D. Historic Sites Committee

Vice-Chair Williams requested Historic Sites Program Director Dan Brown, to introduce individuals from various historic sites and invite them to speak. Mr. Brown announced Interim Director Bob Beatty and Director of Education Tonya Staggs from Historic Castalian Springs, the new entity that administers Cragfont, Wynnewood, and Hawthorn Hill State Historic Sites as well as the Castalian Springs Mounds; Director of Education & Events Jess Gilbert, and Mike Fussell from Rock Castle State Historic Site; along with new Director of Rocky Mount State Historic Site, Cody Boring. Dan invited Mr. Boring to begin with a few words about his new position. Mr. Boring obliged and spoke of new programming with a focus on customer service and education, a new caretaker with connections to special education and will focus on accessibility at the site. In regard to Cragfont and Wynnewood, Mr. Brown recapped that the sites are in the middle of merging, as the Carter House and Carnton did. Ms. Staggs was previously with Traveller's Rest for eighteen years and has joined the new organization as Director of Education. Mr. Beatty spoke of the merger of the sites, thanked Dan for being extremely helpful to the merger, and introduced Ms. Staggs with high praise. Ms. Staggs reviewed the merger, which will eventually be known as Historic Castalian Springs. Mr. Beatty added that the Tennessee Historical Commission are the major funders of these sites, that their investment is critical, and thanked them, Mr. Brown, and Mr. McIntyre for the assistance. Rock Castle's Jess Gilbert spoke next on their mission of education and learning the best way to engage within the community by gearing events around the family, including events that make Nashville and Tennessee unique, such as music series featuring the Nashville Symphony. Mr. Brown announced an update to his report, adding Alicia Washer, as the new Executive Director/Site Manager at Halbbrook Hotel State Historic Site in Dickson. Ms. Washer briefly reviewed the work at the Clement Railroad Hotel Museum, which operates in the building. Mr. Brown then also briefly reviewed his latest report from the historic sites.

E. Monuments and Markers Committee

In the absence of Mrs. Robertson, Vice-Chair Williams requested Mrs. Lee review the report (*Attachment E*). She informed the Commission that nine markers were reviewed by the committee for approval, with seven passing and two deferred. She asked if there were any questions and Dr. Dollar questioned Rose Terrace House and perceived it more as a tribute to Mr. Baker than the site. Discussion ensued between the members.

Motion

Dr. Dollar motioned to approve the six presented markers, excluding the Rose Terrace House which will be sent back for additional verification. Dr. West seconded. Mr. Elliott restated the motion and stated we first must vote to accept Dr. Dollar's amendment which was first and seconded. Mrs. Lee questioned Dr. Dollar as to what exactly he was looking for, as she was not certain how return this to the sponsor of the marker. Dr. Dollar explained his position on the text and Mrs. Lee requested sending him the reference material to see how he would prefer it worded. Dr. Dollar felt it needed to return to the sponsors to be worked on. Dr. West explained why he seconded the motion, expanded on the history of Howard H. Baker Jr. and his importance to the state, and contended that he should be more than a footnote in the marker, along with his father who was also a prominent figure. Mr. Elliott once again restated the motion, which was Dr. Dollar's motion to amend the motion made by the committee to accept the seven presented markers but remove and remand the Rose Terrace House to its sponsors for revision. The motion was moved and properly seconded. The motion to approve sending back the Rose Terrace House to its sponsors for revision passed.

Next, the amended motion was up for approval. The markers were listed to be voted on. The motion was moved and properly seconded. The motion to approve the six remaining presented markers passed.

Mrs. Lee reviewed the two markers that were rejected and relayed that there was discussion that there was a precedent that for not just churches, but that any site has to have some historic basis to it, and it was felt that the Bethel United Methodist Church and the St. John's Baptist Church did not fulfill that in their text. She requested that a motion be made to approve the decision of the committee to not approve them.

Motion

Mr. Bacon moved to approve of the committee's decision not to approve the two aforementioned markers. Mr. Swann stepped in and commented that it had been made clear within the commission that we do not do churches just because of its age, but stated it was unfortunate they continue to be submitted only to be turned down and it would be helpful if this could be presented early on to applicants to prevent these occurrences. Dr. Cupples agreed that historical significance should be stated in the application. Mr. Elliott commented that the policy in place is an ill-defined policy and agreed that it should be stated that historical significance is not evident in the two churches being discussed. Judge Tipton mentioned he had brought up the issues with the policy in regard to historical significance previously to the Commission and also agreed that the churches discussed did not show such in their texts. Mr. Elliott seconded Mr. Bacon's affirmed motion. Vice-Chair Williams called upon Mrs. Wynn for comments. Mrs. Wynn discussed churches, markers, state significance and the need to establish a policy on churches. Vice-Chair Williams thanked her for her comments. Dr. Cupples agreed with Mrs. Wynn and commented that it might be best at this time that the churches be referred back to the committee to come up with some guidelines for more specific approval. Mrs. Wynn stated that it

can be difficult to define state significance due to perspective. She reviewed several examples and stated that when people submit marker texts that they are looking at what is significant in their area. Further discussion continued. Mr. Parish also agreed that a policy change was needed and that the two churches should be sent back for now, but that would not occur today so it would be best to continue moving the meeting along. Instead of turning down the markers and risk unintentionally upsetting the sponsors, Mr. Wolfe motioned to defer them until the next meeting or until such time proposed guidelines have been put into place to assist with clarification with churches. Agreeing with Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Bacon withdrew his original motion to approve of the committee's decision not to approve the two aforementioned markers and Mr. Elliott withdrew his second. Mr. Lyons motioned and Mr. Sherrill seconded Mr. Wolfe's motion to defer the two churches until the next meeting or until such time proposed guidelines have been put into place. Mr. Lyons added he had heard from one of the churches, the St. John Baptist Church, himself, and he wanted to give them another opportunity to rewrite their text. Discussion continued. The motion was moved and properly seconded. The motion to defer Bethel United Methodist Church and the St. John's Baptist Church until the next meeting or until such time proposed guidelines have been put into place passed.

Mrs. Lee said the committee and Mrs. Wynn would get together prior to the next meeting and go over the policy on churches and the two markers deferred. Mr. Elliott noted that at the last meeting the commission approved a marker for Medal of Honor recipient Charles Coolidge, who is now 98 years old and following the meeting an old policy was discovered stating there needed to be three readings on the text if it is for a living person.

Motion

Mr. Elliott moved to waive the policy in light of Coolidge's remarkable service to our country, the fact that he is 98 years old, and that he would like Mr. Coolidge to be able to see his marker go up. Mr. Sherrill seconded. The motion was moved and properly seconded. The motion to waive the three readings required prior to approval of a marker of a living person so that Mr. Charles H. Coolidge, Medal of Honor Recipient, aged 98 years, would be able to see his own marker go up, passed.

Mrs. Wynn requested that each proposed marker that goes out is sent to the Commission member geographically closest to where the marker is to be erected and she very seldom receives a comment back. A lot of the verbiage could be eliminated if the members would respond back to her, so that she could respond to the proposal, but when she does not hear from anyone, the silence gives consent. Therefore, it appears as if it has been approved when the member does not respond. So, the members need to respond when they get a marker request, along with responding to the list of markers that the committee has approved that is sent out prior to every meeting. Hence, many issues involving the markers could be discussed and taken care of prior to the meeting. Vice-Chair Williams thanked Linda for her comments.

F. Tennessee Wars Commission Committee

Vice-Chair Williams called upon Mr. Elliott for the Tennessee Wars Commission Committee report. Mr. Elliott then called upon Ms. Scall, the Tennessee Wars Commission Program Director, to review the report. After a brief review of the Wars Commission's report (*Attachment F1*), she presented the Civil War Sites Preservation Fund grant proposed projects (*Attachment F2*). Mr. Elliott made some comments on the tracts of land and their seemingly large price tag and assured the commission that this was highly valuable land.

Motion

Mr. Elliott moved to accept all Civil War Sites grants presented. Mr. Sherrill had a question about the size of the Olive Tract and its substantial price, comparative to the area it is in. Ms. Scall replied that while she was not involved with the appraisals, but that it was approved for purchase by the State at fair market value. Mr. McIntyre added this was only a few hundred yards from an interstate exit. Mrs. Lee seconded the motion to approve the grants. The motion was moved and properly seconded. The motion to approve the proposed Civil War Sites Preservation Fund grant projects passed.

Next, Ms. Scall reviewed project proposals for the Tennessee Wars Commission Grant Fund (*Attachment F2*).

Motion

Mr. Elliott moved to approve the six grant proposals presented. Dr. Cupples seconded. The motion was moved and properly seconded. The motion to approve the proposed Tennessee Wars Commission Grant Fund grants passed.

G. Federal Programs Report

Mr. McIntyre reviewed the Federal Programs Report (*Attachment G*). He noted that staff of the Tennessee Historical Commission are very proud of the new state historic preservation plan that has just been completed, that will guide the work for next ten years of preservation efforts from the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office.

H. Merit Awards Committee

Mrs. McClamroch came forward to present the nominations for the 2020 Merit Awards. (*Attachment H*). Mrs. McClamroch reviewed the history and qualifications of the awards. Mrs. Moore requested to speak on one of the nominations. Vice-Chair Williams requested the presentation of the nominations to precede comments. Mrs. McClamroch relayed that committee members, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Harris, and Mrs. Mines, held a conference call and looked at the nominations by category. She explained the categories and began her presentation of the Merit Award nominations. Under the Historic Preservation category, all nominations were recommended for approval except for Lee Millar, Alan Doyle, and Mike Cross of Memphis, whose nomination the committee recommended the application be resubmitted when the project is completed.

Motion

Following the reading of the nominations, questions were taken. Mrs. Moore spoke of her nomination of Lee Millar, Alan Doyle, and Mike Cross of Memphis and the reasoning and background of her decision. She then motioned that the three above-mentioned men, be awarded the certificate of merit award for historic preservation they were nominated for. Judge Tipton seconded the motion. Discussion ensued, with Mr. McIntyre stating the decision made by the committee to not award the nominee was not based on the merit of the nomination, instead it was based on the criteria on the application which stated the project was to be completed, and the monuments in this nomination have yet to reach their final destination. He also mentioned that it was suggested the nomination return following the completion of the project. Mr. Bacon expressed his opinion to support the motion. Judge Tipton explained why he supported Mrs. Moore's motion and mentioned the aforementioned men's recognized honor is being placed contingent on the project being completed. Mrs. McClamroch explained that the category of Commissioner's Special Commendations recognizes achievements that relate to the promotion of historic preservation or history but does not satisfy the criteria for the Historic Preservation

award and does not need to meet Secretary of the Interior's standards as the other awards do. She gave some examples and suggested this might be a better fit for Mrs. Moore's nomination. Mr. Elliott suggested the Commission go ahead and vote on the committee recommended nominations. Mrs. Moore rescinded her original motion which had not yet been voted on, with Judge Tipton seconding. She then motioned to change her nomination from the Historic Preservation category to the Special Commendation category. Judge Tipton seconded. The motion was moved and properly seconded. The motion to change the nomination for Lee Millar, Alan Doyle, and Mike Cross of Memphis from the Historic Preservation category to the Special Commendation category passed.

Motion

Mrs. Lee moved to approve the remaining seven Merit Award nominations. Dr. Lyons seconded. The motion was moved and properly seconded. The motion to approve the remaining seven 2020 Merit Award nominations passed.

Mr. Cupples gave some remarks on his appreciation of Dr. William Kennedy of Jonesborough for his preservation leadership and work.

I. Cemetery Committee

Mr. Perry reviewed the Cemetery committee meeting and report (*Attachment I*). He mentioned the database of Tennessee cemeteries he is working on putting in place and that he is working on getting the program's website running and for it to be interactive. Vice-Chair Williams thanked him for his report and apologized for having to rush him on his first report with time limitations due to the upcoming hearing on the agenda.

J. Other Business

1. Report from State Librarian

State Librarian Chuck Sherrill reported the new State Library and Archives building is nearing completion in north Nashville and will hopefully be ready for move in the last week of August and anticipate opening the week of November 9th. He invited the Commission to the opening. Vice-Chair Williams said she hoped we could hold a meeting there in the future.

2. Report from State Historian

Vice-Chair Williams invited State Historian, Dr. West, to speak. Dr. West spoke of the process that is starting of the Tennessee's celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence that is being planned by the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution Commission. He relayed the first event will be in May 2022.

3. Black History Month

Vice-Chair Williams noted it was Black History Month and encouraged the members to get involved with something regarding the topic in their local area.

4. National Historic Preservation Month

Mr. McIntyre relayed there are numerous events scheduled to go on in May, which is National Historic Preservation Month. Mr. Elliott mentioned May 5th was the 150th anniversary of the adoption of Tennessee's revised state constitution, which added the permanent abolishment of slavery.

5. June Meeting Venue

Vice-Chair Williams opened discussion of suggestions for a June meeting place, observing that the precedence of going to certain areas during certain meeting times has not been able

to work for some time, so all options were now open. Mr. McIntyre added the date of the next meeting will be June 16th. He also advised that would change if someone had to leave during the meeting as we would lose our quorum and have to meet back in Nashville again. Dr. West suggested that per Governor Lee's directive that we always try to focus on the fifteen distressed counties as much as possible, that we consider the Alex Haley state site in Henning, as the county Lauderdale, is among the fifteen distressed counties. He felt it would be an "appropriate response from this commission to the governor's directive." Vice-Chair Williams said that with that in mind, we always rely on commission members in areas to serve as the liaison and we do not have anyone in that area to assist and that lodging may be a concern there as well. Discussion continued.

Motion

Mrs. Campbell motioned to halt the discussion on the June meeting and let the Commission office work out the details. Dr. Dollar seconded. The motion was moved and properly seconded. The motion to approve halting discussion of the June meeting and to entrust the details to the Commission's office staff passed.

Mr. Cupples invited the Commission to come his way in October. Vice-Chair Williams reiterated the June 19th date of the meeting and the meeting place to be determined.

6. 2020 Committee Assignments

Vice-Chair Williams informed members they need to get in touch with Mr. McIntyre or Chairman Mitchell about committees they are interested in serving on.

Adjournment (Business Portion)

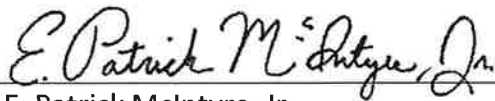
Vice-Chair Williams passed on that Ann Toplovich of the Tennessee Historical Society was unable to be in attendance today due to some health issues and asked to keep her in their thoughts as prayers. Mr. Roe announced it was Mrs. Jones' birthday and Mrs. Williams announced that in celebration, a five-minute break would commence prior to the hearing beginning. The regular business portion of the meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m. C.S.T..

K. Tennessee Heritage Protection Act

Hearing for Consideration of Waiver Request to allow the Sam Davis Memorial Association to sell up to 4 acres of the Historic Farm. (Attachment K)

(The official court transcript is available and filed separately with these minutes)

The hearing portion of the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:50 p.m. C.S.T..



E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr.
Executive Director



Derita C. Williams
Vice-Chair, West Tennessee