

Walker County Historic Preservation Commission

Lafayette-Walker County Public Library

July 24, 2023

6 pm

Chairman John Culpepper called to order at 6:02 pm.

Public Notice of meeting was emailed (7/10/23) to Walker County Facebook page, the Walker County Messenger, and posted at the Lafayette Walker County Library.

Commissioners present: Chairman John Culpepper, Vice Chair Alan Slaven, Secretary Renee Griffin, Commissioners Theresa Dorsey, Randall Pittman, and Eddie Upshaw. Commissioner Frances Cobb was absent due to unforeseen circumstances. A quorum was established.

The commissioners introduced themselves to the visitors present. The visitors present were Jim and Susan Fontenot, Leon East, Beverly Foster, President Walker County African American Historical and Alumni Association and Walker County Commissioner Robert Stultz.

The visitors were invited to address the Commission. Jim and Susan Fontenot asked how to report an abandoned camper trailer that was blocking the Chief John McLemore War of 1812 Memorial Marker in McLemore Cove. After some discussion it was concluded that it had long since been abandoned and Walker County Commissioner Robert Stultz said he would check on the county procedure for removing abandoned property. Beverly Foster presented her research on the Rosenwald schools. For clarity, her research will be presented under the Status Report for Proposed Wayside Markers.

Commissioner Pittman moved to accept the agenda as presented and Commissioner Upshaw seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Pittman moved to accept the minutes of the July 24, 20243 meeting as amended, and Commissioner Upshaw seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Status Report on Proposed Wayside Markers:

Beverly Foster shared her research on the Rosenwald Schools that constructed for African American students. There is currently a national initiative to document all the Rosenwald Schools across the south. 7000 were known to be built. Fisk University in Nashville has extensive and detailed information on file about the schools, documenting the money given by the communities, monies and in-kind donations, teachers, sizes, building specs, etc. There are two confirmed Rosenwald Schools in Walker County, Wallaceville and Dewberry. Pleasant Grove is an unconfirmed Rosenwald School with further research and information to be gathered. Beverly requested the sign for the Dewberry Community first. Dewberry was a prosperous community, and the school was victim of a "mysterious burning." It was one of many buildings lost between 1958-1960 to "mysterious burnings".

Wright's Mineral Springs Wayside Marker is still in progress. With the completion of the Dewberry School information, 4 of the 5 signs will be complete. McLemore Cove, Estelle Mines, Durham Mines, and Dewberry School. Chairman Culpepper advised the Georgia Civil War Commission will hold it's quarterly

meeting at Tunnel Hill, August 26, he will request the commission fund the McLemore Cove marker that will include the commissions' Logo.

A letter was sent to chairman Whitfield requesting authority for the WCHPC to develop its own website or Facebook page on May 22, 2023. Currently no response has been received.

A letter was sent to Dr. David Crass Division Director of Georgia Historic Preservation Division requesting assistance in the stabilization renovation and possible relocation of the Oak Hill 1840s log cabin school this letter was sent on May 17, 2023. The Commission has received no response from Dr. Crass currently. Commissioner Randall Pittman will speak with Representative Cameron and Chairman John Culpepper will speak with Representative Tarvin requesting their assistance in contacting DNR about immediate stabilization of the school and permission to move the school to Mountain Cove Farms.

Chairman Culpepper reached out to the Civil War Trust regarding the conditions of the wayside markers for the Battle of Davis Crossroads. the markers are currently in a state of disrepair and are eligible. We are waiting for their response.

Commissioners Randall Pittman, Renee Griffin, Theresa Dorsey, and Frances Cobb attended the ribbon cutting and dedication of the mural at the Walker County African American History and Cultural Center on June 29, 2023. The event was well attended with hymns, explanation and history of the men and women chosen to be represented in the mural and their contributions to Walker County and the nation, and discussion by the artist of his methods and inspiration.

160th Battle of Chickamauga update:

As of July 14th, 1450, reenactors from 22 states have registered to attend. All 40 artillery positions have been filled. Both the King's Inn and the Key West have been booked for that weekend. Robert Stultz reported that the Walker County Board of Commissioners will fund a memento and possibly the brochure map for the event. A special work session has been scheduled for Monday, August 7th at 6pm at the library for each commissioner to bring a suggestion for a possible souvenir for the event. Commissioner Upshaw will get additional quotes for a reprint of the campaign map to be available on the commission table. The original format had 10 spots for sponsorships. Secretary Griffin moved to sell the sponsorship spots for \$100 each. Commissioner Pittman seconded, and the motion carried. Commissioner Dorsey sent information about the reenactment to Walker County School Superintendent Damon Raines. She will also get the banner for the commission.

Commissioner Projects:

Vice Chair Slaven suggested banners at various locations throughout the county to increase exposure for the reenactment.

Commissioner Dorsey reported that the inside work for the Chattooga Academy is complete and that a tree is down at the Marsh House.

Commissioner Upshaw requested a copy of the Commission Logo for printing.

Commissioner Pittman requested Commission participation at the Rossville Halloween event again this year. Details will be forthcoming.

The next regular meeting will be August 21st, 2023, at 6pm at the Lafayette-Walker County Library.

Commissioner Upshaw moved to adjourn the meeting and Vice Chair Slaven seconded. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:24pm.