

Walker County Historic Preservation Commission

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

LaFayette Walker County Library

305 South Duke Street, LaFayette, Georgia, 30728

Chairman Culpepper called meeting to order at 6:08 pm.

Public notice of meeting emailed to Walker County Messenger and Walker County Facebook Page (1/10/23), posted at meeting location.

Commissioners present, Chair John Culpepper, Vice Chair Alan Slaven, Secretary Renee Griffin, Commissioners, Theresa Dorsey, Randal Pittman, and Eddie Upshaw. Commissioner Cobb was absent due to surgery.

New commissioner Eddie Upshaw has been appointed to fulfill the unexpired term of Patrick Cook. Alan Slaven, John Culpepper, and Renee Griffin received an appointment renewal for term starting January 1, 2023- December 31, 2025.

A quorum was established, as there were no guests present, the commission dispensed with introductions.

Commissioner Pittman made motion to approve November 21, 2022, meeting minutes, Vice Chair Slaven seconded, motion carried.

Commissioner Dorsey made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Upshaw, motion carried.

Old business:

The commission decided to amend the Walker County Board of Commissioner activity report to run through December 31, 2022. This will allow a more current scope of activities and accomplishments. A work session will be scheduled and presentation to the Walker County Board of Commissioners is tentatively slated for the fourth Thursday in February, at 7pm. We will present during the public forum as opposed to requesting space on the agenda.

Chairman Culpepper advised the use of the Walker County Industrial Park for the 160th anniversary Battle of Chickamauga was approved by the Walker County Development Authority. The event will take place September 22-24, battles to begin at 2:00 pm Saturday and Sunday, school day is scheduled for September 22, battles will last approximately one hour. Discussion on developing a Commission brochure to be available at the event. The Commission will have a booth to educate the public on Walker County History.. Other civic clubs are encouraged to attend.

On December 4, 2022, Chairman Culpepper wrote a letter to Chairman Whitfield on behalf of the commission requesting permission for the commission pursue a grant for an Updated Walker County Historic Sites Survey. The survey is the first step in getting Walker County certified as a Georgia Local Certified Government thru the Georgia Department of Historic Preservation. With this certification

Walker County would qualify for historic grants. As of this date no response to this letter has been received.

Secretary Griffin had advised at an earlier meeting a group was seeking funding to produce a documentary on the Durham Mining Community. Chairman Culpepper had spoken to Senator Mullis about possible state funding for the project, with a projected cost of 192,000.00, Senator Mullis advised he knew no state funds for the project.

Roofing John Ross House, known as the McFarland house during the Civil War, during the Campaign for Chattanooga the house was used by both Federal and Confederate Forces. Chairman Culpepper advised the project should qualify for Georgia Civil War Commission funding.

Commissioner Pittman reported the Walker County Board of Commissioners received a four-million-dollar quote to dry in the courthouse, quote does not include repair to damages to the building. The Board will seek quotes from local contractors to try to lower the cost.

New Business:

Chairman Culpepper received quote from Pannier Graphics for the Durham Mining Community Wayside Marker in the amount of 1,580.00, the marker meets National Park standards and guidelines. Secretary Griffin made a motion to approve quote and request funding from the Board of Commissioners for marker. Vice Chair Slaven seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Culpepper advised the dedication for the African American Napier Chapel and Cemetery Wayside Marker is scheduled for Saturday February 25, 2023, 1pm.

Vice Chair Slaven encouraged each commissioner to create an agenda of goals for 2023. Commissioner Dorsey will be teaching 4th graders about the Trail of Tears and has invited John Culpepper to assist. North LaFayette Elementary wants a history station event at the library. Commissioner Dorsey and Beverly Foster are sponsoring a county wide contest for a mural on the Walker County African American History Museum and Cultural Center. Secretary Griffin shared the Whiskers for Wellspring event February 25th, at LaFayette Parks and Recreation Center. Chairman Culpepper shared pictures of the Durham Mines, they will be used for the proposed wayside marker, Commissioner Pittman will scan and email them to John.

Next meeting will be held at the Lafayette-Walker County Library on February 20, 2023, at 6pm.

Commissioner Pittman moved to adjourn, and Eddie Upshaw seconded. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 7:14pm.