



Walker County Historic

Preservation Commission

Agenda, Walker County Historic Preservation Commission meeting
Monday January 17, 2022, beginning at 6:00pm, Walker County African
American History Museum and Cultural Center, Wardlaw Building (Old
Long Silvers Building) Lafayette, Ga.

John Culpepper, Chair

Alan Slaven, Vice-Chair

Renee Griffin, Secretary

Frances Cobb

Theresa Dorsey

Patrick Cook

Randall Pittman

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Public Notice of meeting emailed to Walker County Messenger (January 10, 2022), posted on Walker County Government Facebook Page, and posted at location of meeting.
3. Establishment of Quorum
4. Introduction of Commission Members
5. Introduction of Visitors
6. Approval of Agenda
7. Approval of November 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes
8. Beverly Foster, President of the Walker County African American Historical and Alumni Association

Old Business:

9. Walker County request for recertification as a " Georgia Certified Local Government."
10. Commission Name Badges, Name Plates and Recording Device
11. Commission Letterhead
12. Commission Facebook Page

New Business:

13. Proposed Cell Tower, Missionary Ridge, 2011 Clair Street, Rossville, Walker County.
14. Letter to Walker County Board of Commissioners, placement of Battle of Ships Gap Interpretative sign at Villanow Community Center. Sign funded by Georgia Civil War Commission.
15. Walker County projects approved and funded by the Georgia Civil War Commission. Interpretative sign, District Hill African Cemetery, Interpretative, sign William Little House, Financial assistance Gordon-Lee Mansion, purchase of widow coverings to protect interior furnishings.
16. Invitation for Commission members to be guests on Beverly's Historical Moments TV program, February 24, 2022, beginning at 7:00 pm on UCTV/265 Fort Oglethorpe.
17. Location and time of next meeting.
18. Completion of Agenda, public invited to address Commission
19. Adjourn

Walker County Historic Preservation Commission

Monday, January 17, 2022, 6:00pm.

Walker County African American History Museum and Cultural Center

309 North Main St. Lafayette, GA 30728

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Culpepper at 6:06 p.m.
2. As this was the observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a moment of silence was held to honor the life's work of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
3. Public Notice of Meeting emailed to Walker County Messenger(January 17,2022), posted on Walker County Facebook Page, and posted at meeting location
4. A quorum was established and introduction of commissioners to the guests. John Culpepper, Alan Slaven, Theresa Dorsey, Frances Cobb, and Renee Griffin were present. Randy Pittman and Patrick Cook were absent.
5. An introduction of guests was made. David Boyle, Beverly Foster, Connie Foster, Robert and Stephanie Wardlaw, Andy Arnold, Tyrone Davis were present.
6. Francis Cobb moved to approve the agenda, Theresa Dorsey seconded, and the motion carried.
7. John Culpepper moved to approve minutes of the November meeting as presented, Slaven seconded, and the motion carried. There was no commission meeting held in December.
8. Beverly Foster, President of the African American Historical and Alumni Association presented an overview of current and ongoing activities to the commission. The African American Memorial Park will be on Villanow St. next to Dairy Dip. Conversation is taking place with anonymous doner and Prince Hall lodge in Atlanta about District Hill Masonic Lodge preservation. A recent article in the Atlanta Journal constitution brought many doners from Atlanta. The first exhibit in the Walker County African American History Museum and Cultural Center is scheduled for May of 2022. February 24th the commission will be on the Beverly's Historical Moments to talk about why history and preservation is important and why this commission exists.
9. Old Business
 - a. Update on Walker County recertification as " Georgia Certified Local Government." Chairman Culpepper received notification from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs that Walker County was found to be out of compliance with the Georgia Certified Local Government Program. Walker County is considered a Category I CLG for grant purposes and is only eligible for survey grants until a new historic survey is completed, last historical survey was completed in June 2009. The County does qualify for a 60/40 grant to conduct new historical survey. Information was forwarded to John R. Logan Walker County Grants Coordinator.
 - b. Name tags and name plates have been provided by the Walker County Board of Commissioners and a recording devise provided to document oral histories as delivered by guests in commission meetings.
 - c. Letterhead for the commission is being designed by Lafayette High School.
 - d. Social media for the commission will be handled through the Walker County Government social media development personnel.

10. A letter from the Commission was sent to David Brown, Walker County Codes and Planning Director, regarding the proposed cellular tower to be located adjacent to Clair St in Rossville Ga. The letter outlined the details of the meeting between Commission Chairman John Culpepper, Commissioner Randy Pittman, and James Ogden, Historian with the Chickamauga-Chattanooga Military Park. The Claire Street right of way lies within the corridor of the Federal/Old Federal/Rossville-Ringgold Road. The construction of the road began in 1805 , following an old Cherokee trail called the Middle Cherokee Path. The road ran from Nashville Tn. to Augusta, Ga thru Cherokee territory. The road was used by Cherokees, frontiersmen, speculators, gold miners, farmers, herders, missionaries and Civil War Soldiers during the Chattanooga and Atlanta Campaigns. Confederate troops used the road as their retreat route from Missionary Ridge, November 25,1863 Concern was also raised if the tower was going to be lighted as the tower will be in the flight path of the Chattanooga Airport.
During Chairman Culpepper and Commissioner Pittman's site visit, the owner of the property stated he did not think he was going to follow thru with the cell tower project.
11. A letter was written to the Walker County Board of Commissioners from the Georgia Civil War Commission (GCWC) requesting permission establish a Civil War Wayside at the Villanow Community Center describing the Battle of Ship's Gap. Funding will be provided by the Georgia Civil War Commission. At the August 23, 2021 Historic Commission meeting, the commission voted to support the GCWC request.
12. A summary of projects in Walker County approved and funded through the Georgia Civil War Commission was listed.
 - a. An Interpretive sign for District Hill African American Cemetery highlighting the African American and Civil War significance of the site
 - b. An Interpretive Sign at William Little House, explaining its Civil War significance.
 - c. Purchase of new roller window shades for the Gordon Lee Mansion to block damaging UV light to protect interior furnishings. GCWC to provide 4,000.00 towards purchase and installation.
13. Dr. David Boyle, Chairman of the Marsh House board of trustees, wants to build a new wheelchair accessible sidewalk to Henry White historic marker to Duke St. He will send a letter to the Georgia Civil War Commission to request funding.
14. Beverly Foster gave an official invitation to her show. Topics of discussion will include the roll of the commission, vision of individual commissioners, the importance of documentation, funding, tourism, community pride, and how to engage young people into the 21st century.
15. An amendment was made to the agenda to discuss the following:
 - a. Theresa Dorsey discussed that the owner of Roy's Restaurant in Rossville would like to have the restaurant placed on National Register of Historic Places and what we could do to aid that endeavor.
 - b. There was also discussion of how to help Rossville develop its historic preservation visions and what the commission can do to aid and support their goals.
16. The prospective meeting location for February will be Roy's Grill in Rossville GA.
17. The agenda was completed and the floor open to guest.
 - a. Robert Wardlaw requested our formal support for the African American museum and park on behalf of Walker County and City of Lafayette.

- b. Mrs. Foster requested our official support and expressed her thanks to the Walker County and the City of Lafayette.
 - c. Dr. David Boyle spoke about the eco box at the John Ross House.
 - d. Lafayette needs Wayfinding signs to direct visitors to Marsh House and Lafayette at every major intersection.
 - e. Chairman Culpepper stated that the City of Chickamauga had joined the Chattanooga Convention and Visitors Bureau several years ago. That would be a good way to expose Walker County and Lafayette to visitors coming to the Chattanooga area.
 - f. Connie Forester offered a photograph of the William Little house if one was not available.
18. Theresa Dorsey moved to adjourn, and Alan Slaven seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:55.