

Walker County Historic Preservation Commission
Lafayette-Walker County Public Library
January 20, 2025

6 pm

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

Public Notice of the meeting was emailed (1/13/25) to the Walker County Facebook page, the Walker County Messenger, and posted at Lafayette-Walker County Library.

Commissioners present: Chairman John Culpepper, Vice Chairman Alan Slaven, Secretary Renee Griffin, Commissioners Frances Cobb, Randall Pittman, Theresa Dorsey and Eddie Upshaw. A quorum was established, and introductions were made to the guests.

Guests present, were City of Lafayette police officer Robbie Tate (interested in local happenings), and Jennie Chandler of the American Legion Auxiliary. She thanked everyone for our help with Tennessee/ Georgia Cemetery Wreaths Across America project this year. It was a very solemn and healing event for our community.

Vice-Chairman Slaven moved to accept the agenda and Commissioner Pittman seconded. The motion carried, and the agenda was accepted.

Commissioner Upshaw moved to accept the minutes of November 19, 2024, meeting and, Commissioner Dorsey seconded. The motion carried, and the minutes were approved as presented.

Chairman Culpepper presented the financial report:

Balance as of 11/19/2024 3134.74

Ending Balance 1/21/2025 3134.74

Note: 237.00 of funds are for the Oakhill School Project

Old Business:

Commission Wayside Markers Installation: The three remaining markers will be placed when the ground has thawed in the spring. Chairman Culpepper will send a letter to Josh Aldridge with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources concerning the placement of the Estelle Community Marker on the Pigeon Mountain Wildlife Management Area. Mr. Aldridge has not responded to Chairman Culpepper's text messages and telephone calls on the subject.

Coulter School/Oakhill Academy Stabilization Project: Chairman Culpepper will seek cost estimates on the recommendations contained in the site visit report for the project dated July 15, 2024 provided by the Department of Natural Resources.

Updated Walker County Updated Historic Resources Survey Grant: Bid for project was awarded to Ardurra CRM, who submitted the low bid in the amount of 29,800.00 at the September 9,

2025 Walker County Board of Commissioners meeting. Kickoff meeting for the project is scheduled for January 22, 2025.

Cherokee Chief John McLemore War of 1812 Monument Relocation Project: Commission is still seeking written permission from William Marsh Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution to move it to McLemore Cove.

Native American Chieftain Trail: Four Native American sites in Walker County are proposed to be in the new Chieftains Trail project, Fort Cummings, Lafayette, Crawfish Springs (Chickamauga), John Ross House, Rossville, Rock Springs, revised cost for the four sites is 1,000.00 at \$250.00 per site, not 250.00 for all four sites. The Walker County Tourism Committee and the City of Chickamauga has committed 250.00 each to the project. Rossville and Lafayette will be contacted about the project. Walker County has been weak on promoting its Native American History, that being the case, Secretary Griffin moved to allot \$250 00 from the WCHPC funds for a Chieftains Trail project only if needed. Commissioner Pittman seconded and the motion carried.

Gordon-Lee Mansion Slave Quarters Renovation Project: The renovation and restoration has begun. This will be a Walker County Enslaved Africans Interpretive History Center.

Operation Outreach, display of Replica of Vietnam War Monument, Rossville: Built at Walker State Prison and it will be at the Rossville Recreation Dept. Gym Friday February 21, 2 pm to 7 pm and Saturday February 22, 10am-3pm. The Commission will set up and take up donations for the Oak Hill School Stabilization Project.

New Business:

Commission Facebook Page: Chairman Culpepper will write a letter to Chairwoman Angie Teems of the Walker County Board of Commissioners requesting permission to develop a Facebook page for WCHPC.

Documentary Film on Walker County and Chattooga County, "Let Us Tell Our Story "The first event in celebration of 60 years of racial integration in Walker County. Walker County Civic Center, January 25 at 3:00 pm. All encouraged to attend.

Grant Application Phase II, Walker County Updated Historic Resources Survey: The Walker County Board of Commissioners will hold a special called meeting on Thursday January 23 at 3 pm to authorize the WCHPC to apply for a 25,000.00 grant from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for a Phase II Walker County Updated Historic Resources Survey and will commit 40% grant matching funds in the amount of 15,000.00. Application must be submitted by February 1, 2025.

Missing Civil War Wayside Marker located at Davis Crossroads, at the intersection of state route 193 and 341. Chairman Culpepper wrote a letter dated December 2, 2024 to the Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails advising them the wayside marker is missing. Have received no response.

22. Opportunity for Commissioners to bring any business before Commissioners:

Chairman Culpepper reenactment update: The National Civil War Reenactment event this year is in Bentonville, NC in May. Earl Zechman and John Nash with the Atlanta Campaign Inc will attend the National Event Committee Meeting and request there be two National Events this year, with second one being at the Walker County Industrial Park, site of the 160th Chickamauga 2023. If it does not workout, they may have a smaller event at the site this year, but plan to have a National Event at the site in 2026. Commissioner Dorsey attended the basket weaving at the Chickamauga library sponsored in partnership with the Chickamauga Woman's Club and the African American History and Cultural Center. Commissioner Pittman is working with Elite Helicopters on a historic flight tour fundraiser. This would be a late summer or early fall event.

23. The February meeting will be 2/17/25 at the Lafayette-Walker County library at 6pm.

24. Commissioner Pittman moved to adjourn, and Vice-Chairman Slaven seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:51pm.