

Walker County Historic Preservation Commission

Lafayette-Walker County Public Library

March 20, 2023

6 pm

Chairman John Culpepper called meeting to order at 6:12 pm.

Public notice of meeting emailed to Walker County Messenger and Walker County Facebook Page (3/15/2023, posted at meeting location.

Commissioners present: Chair John Culpepper, Vice Chair Alan Slaven, Secretary Renee Griffin, Commissioners, Frances Cobb, Theresa Dorsey, Randall Pittman, Commissioner Upshaw absent due to illness. Note: Commissioners Dorsey and Pittman attended the Walker County School Board Meeting to promote School Day for 160th Anniversary Battle of Chickamauga Reenactment scheduled for September 23,2023, arrived later in the meeting.

Quorum was established.

There were no new visitors and no introductions. Guests included Mr. Leon East, and Walker County Commissioner Robert Stultz.

Secretary Griffin made a motion to approve agenda as presented , Vice Chair Slaven seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Cobb a made motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2023 , Vice Chair Slaven seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Walker County Commissioner Mark Askew informed the Commission that the Oak Grove School property survey has been completed. From this information, the Commission can make accurate and appropriate recommendations on how to develop this property as a Walker County Educational Wayside.

At the Walker County Board of Commissioners meeting February 23, 2023, the Board adopted Resolution R-011-23 authorizing the Walker County Historic Preservation Commission (WCHPC) to file a grant application with the Georgia Department Community Affairs, Historic Preservation Division to fund an Updated Historic Resources Survey for Walker County. The county will provide the 40% match for the grant through in kind services. Chairman Culpepper contacted Julianne Meadows, Community Planner, Northwest Regional Commission, about the Updated Historic Resources Survey Grant, she stated the deadline for grant applications for the 2023's funding cycle was February 28. Ms. Meadows will assist with the grant application for 2024, she advised we needed to start the application in December this year.

Also at the meeting, activities report for the WCHPC spanning August of 2021 through December 2022 was presented to the Board of Commissioners, John Culpepper, Renee Griffin, Theresa Dorsey Frances Cobb, and Randall Pittman were in attendance. The Board of Commissioners thanked the WCHPC for its work and pledged support going forward in the future. work Board Chairman Whitfield addressed the funding request for the Durham Mining Community Wayside Marker (1,58.00), he would like to order a group of markers and not one at a time, in hopes of obtaining a better price per marker. Chairman Culpepper then presented a list of additional markers the WCHPC will be working on, Estelle Iron Ore Mines and Cemetery, Wright's Mineral Springs Summer Resort, Walker County African American Rosenwald Schools, Oak Hill Log Cabin School, McLemore's Cove History(Native American History ,Daugherty Plantation, and Civil War Activities in the cove), and Oak Grove One Room School.

The commission would like to complete the Durham Mining Community Wayside Marker as soon as possible, Commissioner Stultz volunteered to address the funding for the marker at the next Board of Commissioners Meeting.

No updates to report on the repairs of the Walker County Courthouse.

Dedication of the African American Napier AME Chapel and Cemetery Wayside Marker was held on Saturday February 25, 2023, at 1:00 pm. Commissioners that attended the event, Theresa Dorsey, Randall Pittman, and John Culpepper

Secretary Griffin will be gathering additional information about Fort Cumming and its use in Cherokee Removal that began the Trail of Tears. She will present a report at the April meeting with the intention of creating a Wayside Marker for the site.

Chairman Whitfield requested the county be provided an inventory and high-resolution photos of current wayside markers in the entire county so this information can be made available on the county Walker Rocks website under the history tab. Chairman Culpepper will work on this.

New Business:

Develop text and graphics for new wayside markers proposed to the Walker County Board of Commissioners

Research assignments are as follows:

- Estelle Iron Ore Mines and Cemetery- John Culpepper
- Wright's Mineral Springs Summer Resort-Theresa Dorsey and Frances Cobb
- Walker County Rosenwald Schools-Theresa Dorsey
- Oak Hill log cabin school- Randall Pittman
- McLemore Cove, Daugherty Plantation, Civil War History, Native American History- John Culpepper
- Oak Grove School-Randall Pittman and John Culpepper

Chairman Culpepper had requested Pannier Graphics provide estimated pricing for wayside markers in groups of four and six.

- Single Interpretive Sign— \$300 design+\$675 base, +\$410 sign face=1,385.00 plus freight
- 4 Interpretive Signs- \$1000 (total design costs for all 4 signs) + \$320 per sign face +\$590 per base=1,600 each. This is a savings of \$225 per sign, per 4 signs = 1,000 .
- 6 Interpretive Signs- \$1500 (total design costs for all 6 signs) + \$285 per sign face + \$575 per base= 1,110 each. This is a savings of \$275 per sign, per 6 signs 1,650. The company provides a formatting program for use and a savings of \$1500 could be had in addition to other savings if someone could be found to format the signs.

The Georgia Civil War Commission(GCWG) funded Ship's Gap Interpretive sign was installed at the Armuchee Community Center. All four Walker County GCWC funded Interpretive signs have been installed.

Doug Carson will attend the April meeting to present a presentation on Andrew's Raid during the Civil War.

Commissioner Dorsey gave an update on the Chattooga Academy. The City of Lafayette is replastering and will repair the damaged window. The Academy should reopen soon.

Commissioner Pittman reported that Oak Hill log cabin school research confirms it is on state land on the Pigeon Mountain Wildlife Management Area and in District 4 in county. It is hoped it can be moved and reassembled at Mountain Cove Farm. He will contact Representative Mike Cameron to work with DNR to get it stabilized and possibly moved.

Next meeting will be April 17th, at the Lafayette-Walker County Library at 6pm.

Secretary Griffin moved to adjourn, and Commissioner Pittman seconded. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:07pm.