

Walker County Historic Preservation Commission

Lafayette-Walker County Public Library

June 20, 2023

6 pm

Chairman John Culpepper called meeting to order at 6:11 pm.

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

Commissioners present, Chairman John Culpepper, Vice Chair Alan Slaven, Secretary Renee Griffin, Commissioners Frances Cobb, Theresa Dorsey, Randall Pittman, and Eddie Upshaw were present. A quorum was established.

There were no new visitors and no introductions. Olivia Griffin, daughter of Secretary Renee Griffin, was present to observe.

Commissioner Upshaw moved to accept the agenda as presented and Vice Chair Slaven seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary Griffin moved to accept the minutes of the May 15, 2023, meeting as amended, and Commissioner Dorsey seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Status reports on Commission proposed Wayside Markers:

Wrights' Mineral Springs: Commissioner Cobb found the folder located within the archive of the Lafayette-Walker County library which held information about the Wright's Mineral Spring Resort. There had been at one point a lake located on HWY 136. The road was built in 1937. As more information becomes available it will be shared with the commission.

Chairman Culpepper found a better graphic of McLemore's Cove. He also found a graphic for the Daugherty Gap Plantation. We looked at various illustrations and chose graphics that we thought could best represent the area on the wayside marker. A photograph for a Cherokee homestead was also chosen.

Beverly Foster continues to work on the Dewberry Rosenwald School wayside marker. We hope to fund her sign through the first round of funding (total of five signs) from the Walker County Board of Commissioners. If needed, Chairman Culpepper will request funding for the McLemore Cove sign from the Georgia Civil War Commission which meets on August 26, 2023.

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 the Georgia Historic Preservation Division requesting assistance in the stabilization, renovation, and possible relocation of the Oak Hill 1840's log cabin school. This letter was sent on May 17th, 2023. The Commission has received no response from Dr.

Crass. If no response is received by the July meeting, Chairman Culpepper and Commissioner Pittman will reach out to Representative Tarvin and Cameron seeking their input on the project.

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 illegible. We are waiting for their response.

The 160th anniversary of the Battle of Chickamauga will take place on September 21st through the 24th. We discussed various revenue streams for creating income for the Commission to fund our work and to advertise and promote the battle reenactment. Renee Griffin, Theresa Dorsey, and Frances Cobb will draft a solicitation letter for sponsorships. We will put together a map and brochure like a map used at the 150th reenactment. Eddie Upshaw will get pricing from the Print Shop for printing. We are also pricing printed bags, wooden nickels, or ribbons. The final decisions will be dictated by the amount of funding we can generate through advertisement sales.

New Business:

The public hearing was held on the City of Chickamauga – Chickamauga Battlefield Connector Trail. Chairman John Culpepper and Commissioner Pittman were in attendance. The City of Chickamauga has completed their part of the trail and the local response is positive. Matching grants from the Appalachian Regional Commission are being sought to raise the 425K needed to complete the trail. The trail's scheduled completion date will be December of 2024.

A ribbon cutting will be held at the Walker County African American Museum to unveil the finished mural June 29th, 2023, at 3:00 PM.

Chairman Culpepper, Secretary Griffin, Commissioners Dorsey, and Pittman attended the Women's Veteran Appreciation ceremony held at the local American Legion Post 339 on June 12, 2023. This event commemorates when women were made part of the regular U.S. military an upgrade from their previous auxiliary status during wartime only the Commission received a Certificate of Appreciation from the legion for its support of the Women's Veteran Appreciation events.

Lee and Gordon Mill was repainted, the Georgia Civil War Commission contributed 4,000 towards project. The mill looks very nice for the upcoming events.

The Commission intends to raise community awareness about the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Chickamauga. We will price a banner sign and have the Chamber of Commerce include it in their email newsletter.

The next meeting will be July 17th at 6pm at the Lafayette-Walker County Library.

Commissioner Upshaw moved to adjourn, and Commissioner Dorsey seconded. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:34pm.