

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Historic Commission
City of Chattahoochee Hills
July 13, 2020
6:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Allison Duncan called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. Present were Brian Gross, Kim Taylor-Cloud, Sarah Love, Gene Griffith, Amber Lightsey and Allison Duncan. Staff present were City Clerk Dana Wicher and City Manager Robbie Rokovitz. Special guest Diana Wilson, Chair of the Parks Commission, was also present. The meeting was held via videoconference/teleconference.

Pledge of Allegiance

Allison Duncan led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Administer Oath of Office

Dana Wicher administered the Oath of Office for the Chattahoochee Hills Historic Commission to Gene Griffith and Amber Lightsey.

Approval of Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda:

1. A discussion of the Cochran Mill Parks App
2. A discussion of the Scout Hut, including a message from Council Member Laurie Searle

Motion: Gene Griffith made a motion to approve the agenda, as amended.

Second: Sarah Love

The agenda was unanimously approved.

Approval of the June 8, 2020 Regular Minutes

Motion: Brian Gross made a motion to approve the June 8, 2020 Regular Minutes as presented.

Second: Sarah Love

The minutes were unanimously approved.

Election of Officers

After discussion, Allison Duncan, Sarah Love, and Amber Lightsey agreed to serve as Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary, respectively.

Motion: Sarah Love made a motion to have Allison Duncan serve as Chair of the Chattahoochee Hills Historic Commission.

Second: Gene Griffith

The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: Gene Griffith made a motion to have Sarah Love serve as Vice Chair of the Chattahoochee Hills Historic Commission.

Second: Brian Gross

The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: Gene Griffith made a motion to have Amber Lightsey serve as Secretary of the Historic Commission.

Second: Kim Taylor-Cloud

The motion was unanimously approved.

Items for Discussion

1. Archiving Needs

Kim Taylor-Cloud presented alternatives for the archiving needs of the Commission. It was recommended that the Historic Commission should not be the entity that maintains physical items of historic value. That role is more suitable for a Historical Society. The Commission should build partnerships with entities that already house physical documents related to the history of Campbell County, Fulton County, and the City of Chattahoochee Hills, including the Old Campbell County Historical Society, the Douglas County History Museum, and the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library.

It would be beneficial to have a web page through the City's website to share information about the history of the area. City Manager Robbie Rokovitz had previously indicated that the city could accommodate this request. There was consensus among Commission members that we would focus on information that could be shared via the City's website, and build partnerships with various organizations in the event that a physical item of historic importance is presented to the Commission.

2. Scout Hut

At the request of Council Member Laurie Searle, Allison Duncan had shared an email with the Commission regarding her plans for the Scout Hut. Council Member Searle has volunteered to take a lead on issues related to the Scout Hut. Among other items outlined in the email, Council Member Searle had indicated that she would work with Judy Henderson to clear items from that Scout Hut that were stored there. She indicated that she did not think there was anything of value.

Amber Lightsey volunteered to work with Council Member Searle on assessing the items stored in the Scout Hut. Brian Gross mentioned he had been a member of that Scout Troop at one time, and he thought items related to the Boy Scouts may belong to someone else. Kim Taylor-Cloud indicated that she would be a resource to help with recommendations on archiving any important items in the Scout Hut.

Allison Duncan will relay this conversation to Council Member Searle and connect her with Amber Lightsey to take the lead on assisting with any clearing or cleaning the Council Member undertakes.

3. Development Review

Allison Duncan had requested the items from City Staff that were discussed at the June meeting. They had not been received in advance of the meeting. Allison Duncan will follow up with staff before the August meeting.

4. Historic Marker Program

Allison Duncan had previously shared two items related to wayfinding with the Commission – the recent Tourism Product Development Grant Report for Chattahoochee Hills and an older report funded with an Our Town Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. She indicated that the city's branding standard for gateway signs, such as the one at the entrance to the city on South Fulton Parkway, was largely based on the recommendations of the Our Town study.

She indicated that the city was contemplating issuing an RFP for wayfinding. She had expressed interest to the City Manager about the project. She asked that the Commission could make recommendations as to possible destinations for wayfinding, and have some influence over the graphic design of monuments and signage – possibly differentiating among different types of signage for different types of resources.

She presented the following list of places for consideration as a part of the wayfinding program. The historic value of these places has been documented in several publications, including the Comprehensive Plan, the Scenic Byways Study, the National Register of Historic Places and Property Record Cards for Fulton County maintained by the State Historic Preservation Office.

Cambellton & Rico

- John Beavers House
- Campbellton Baptist Church
- Campbellton United Methodist Church
- Campbellton Lodge No. 76
- Stone Mountain/ Campbell County Courthouse
- Barnes Store
- Reeves Store
- Providence Baptist Church
- Rico Lodge
- Old Rico School
- Rico School/ City Hall
- Rico Methodist Church

Friendship and Others

- Jones Yates House
- Redwine Plantation Home

- Philips House
- Varner House
- Cook Family Houses/ Store – Friendship/ Cackle Corner
- Cochran Mill
- Wilkerson Mill

There was consensus among the Commission that this list included good candidates for historic resources to be included in the wayfinding program. It was suggested that Friendship Baptist Church, Rivertown AME Church, and Smith's Store be added to the list. There was also consensus that better signage was needed to identify the routes of the South Fulton Scenic Byway and the Silk Sheets and Dirty Sheets bicycle trails. The byway and the bicycle trails are logical opportunities to guide visitors to historic sites in the community.

Allison Duncan will share these recommendations with the City Manager, and request that a member of the Historic Commission be included on the Steering Committee for the wayfinding program.

5. August Joint Meeting with the Parks Commission

Diana Wilson, Chair of the Parks Commission, was invited to the meeting. Allison Duncan and Diana Wilson had been discussing the opportunity for having a joint meeting of the Historic Commission and Parks Commission in lieu of their regular August Meetings. There was consensus that this was a good idea, and the joint meeting will take place on the regular date and time of the Parks Commission meeting. The following topics were discussed for inclusion on the agenda.

- a. **Signage** – there is an opportunity to locate signage about the protection of cultural resources in city parks in the kiosk at Cochran Mill Park. This will cite the section of the City Code that prohibits treasure hunting on public property. Sarah Love will take the lead in drafting information for review.
- b. **Beavers House** – Allison Duncan will review all documents that make recommendations on uses for the Beavers House. She will develop a summary list and present it to the Historic Commission and Parks Commission in advance of the August Meeting. She also asked Commission members to submit their own ideas for potential use if it is something not identified elsewhere. For example, she suggested that other communities preserve structures as artifacts in their historic setting, without trying to convert them to a modern space that is habitable. Examples include Drayton Hall in Charleston, South Carolina; the Lyons Farm House in DeKalb County, Georgia; the Chesser-Williams House in Gwinnett County, Georgia, and Hyde Farm in Cobb County, Georgia.
- c. **RTP Historic Context Requirements** – Diana Wilson had asked for assistance in developing an interpretive plan for Cochran Mill Park. This was a mitigation requirement as a part of the most recent Recreational

Trails Program Grant that allowed for the construction of the bridge. Allison Duncan will send around a copy of the requirements and follow up with folks who would have an interest in contributing.

- d. **Cochran Mill Parks App** – Diana Wilson had shared the text of the app for Cochran Mill Park. There was discussion about whether the app could be expanded for use identifying other landmarks in the city. Diana suggested that the same developers had created an app for the city of Porterdale and recommended that the Commission look at how that one works. The Parks Commission will likely move forward with upgrading the app for Cochran Mill Park. The Historic Commission would need to identify what they would like to have included. There would likely be a fee for the additional content, so we would need to check with the City Manager to see if this was something that could be covered.

Items for Consideration (No items)

Commission Member Comments / Suggestions

Sarah Love mentioned her interest in having a broader discussion around programming and public outreach. The Historic Commission had discussed opportunities to host public history events in city parks but had not done much to follow up in the last year. This could be a good item of discussion for the joint meeting with the Parks Commission.

Adjournment

Motion: Gene Griffith made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Sarah Love

The motion to adjourned was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Approved this 14th day of September, 2020.

Allison Duncan, Chair

Attest:

**Dana Wicher, City Clerk
(Seal)**