

**Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Historic Commission
City of Chattahoochee Hills
October 12, 2020
6:30 p.m.**

Call to Order

Allison Duncan called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Present were Allison Duncan, Gene Griffith, Brian Gross, Amber Lightsey, Kim Taylor-Cloud. A quorum was represented.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Brian Gross

Second: Kim Taylor-Cloud

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the September 14, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion: Gene Griffith

Second: Brian Gross

The motion passed unanimously.

Items for Discussion

1. Update on the Beavers House and Tourism Product Development Grant

Allison Duncan provided an update on the Beavers house and TPD grant, stating that since the TPD Report is completed, state grant resources are now available; however, since these grants require recipients to show an increase in visitation to the site within one year, these resources will not be an option for the Beavers House as of now. (Grant resources may be used on wayfinding signage, interpretative tour material, etc. Perhaps a Campbellton Park kiosk providing historic information about the site could be an appropriate use of such grant funds in the future.) Allison is continuing to develop a historic context for the period of significance for the Beavers House, with a focus on the Ruben Beavers timeline. More information on that will be forthcoming in months ahead.

Also, under consideration is a historic landscape report of the Beavers House. If we are to evaluate how the landscape changes over time, seasonal observation is required. In an effort to protect significant landscape material/flora, Gene Griffith recommended visits to the site several times per season to identify locations and species of what comes up seasonally. Varner House and possibly even the Scout Hut will be under consideration for landscape reports as well; a follow-up discussion on this will happen in the months to come. Additionally, Brian Gross discussed interest in exploring the Beavers House property to study possible terracing and its significance down to the river.

2. Feedback on the Development Review Process

Kim Taylor-Cloud announced that the Shell property will be divided into multiple lots with preserved open space. Ruins from the Shell home site will be within the

property owner's lot, and the owner intends to preserve them. Kim indicated that there may be an opportunity to document/inventory the property and its possible historic/cultural elements; however, who would be tasked to do this, if it is done at all?

Kim suggested Foxfire, a folk culture/history museum, as a model to follow for preserving structures that might otherwise be destroyed as old home sites and properties get developed.

The Historic Commission is charged with documenting, taking inventory, building the record—it does not have to be historic; it can be what contributes to the character. Brian Gross observed that if things get ignored, there's no record of them ever existing. Documenting what once existed, in this instance the Shell property, is a way of memorializing it without making it a historical site. Acquiring property owners' permission for this type of documentation is a potential obstacle. Kim suggests such documentation could become a requirement for rezoning property with identified historic/cultural aspects to it.

Allison Duncan discussed feedback on the development review process, thanking Kim Taylor-Cloud for volunteering to be the point person who receives copies of all Planning Commission packets. Allison emphasized the Historic Commission's responsibility, found in the bylaws, to share information with staff, to look at everything and weigh in on matters rather than make recommendations. A Historic Commission member could be present at council meetings if discussion is set to involve a project the Commission is actively working on. Allison will follow up with Mike to see about documenting the Shell property. Brian Gross added that an aerial view of the property could be an additional perspective of documentation. Allison recommended historicaerials.com to see such perspectives, historic to present.

3. Finalize Recommendations for Cochran Mill Interpretive Signage Report

Allison Duncan observed that an archeological investigation has never been done on the Cochran Mill site, making it a good starting point for interpretation. Second, the preservation plan for the extant resources, in an effort to preserve what remains there, needs to be developed. Third, the smart phone app needs to be maintained, as well as the functional signage throughout the park. Using and improving the smart phone app, and putting its contents on the City's website, which will be necessary for those who do not use smart phones—all of this will be an important part of integrating and implementing interpretive signage. As well, perhaps a Ranger Program could be developed at some point, to interact with and engage visitors to the park.

Brian Gross offered the idea of interpretative panels at sites within the park to provide a historical perspective/representation of the actual structures in their original state. Allison mentioned the concern about possible vandalism, recommending interpretive panels be located at the park's entrance.

Looking at documented extant mills in the area could be helpful as interpretive signage develops for Cochran Mill.

Allison Duncan and Sarah Love will be discussing the possibility of a public history/public archaeology day at Cochran Mill Park in the spring.

Amber Lightsey inquired about decision making pertaining to signage in the park: who ultimately decides what the signage looks like? City Council votes on such decisions with recommendations from the Parks Commission, though going forward Historic Commission may weigh in as well. Wayfinding Signage Program has not produced recommendations for signage and fonts as of yet.

Allison intends to have a draft of everything formatted, including citations and photos, for review with the ultimate goal of getting it to the State by the end of the year.

4. Report from Historic Commission at November 5 City Council Work Session

Allison Duncan announced that she may potentially present at the City Council work session November 5th per Laurie Searle's request based on joint interest in the Scout Hut. Allison's goal is to highlight the accomplishments of the Historic Commission and provide information about the Commission's purpose, which is in part to document and record what is historically important in Chattahoochee Hills. Brian Gross asked what funds are available to put toward the Scout Hut, a structure that has cultural significance to the City. Allison suggested that a possibility would be to treat the City's historic properties collectively, in an effort to appeal to foundations that fund this type of work. Allison emphasized the need to work together when making decisions about the City's historic structures. If the Historic Commission gets added to the November 5th City Council work session, Allison stated she would inform everyone and provide a summary.

Commission Member Comments/Suggestions

Allison Duncan suggested Nov 14th from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. to visit city-owned properties, though consideration was given to change the date to the 7th or 8th. This tour will take the place of the Commission's normally scheduled meeting for November and is open to the public.

Ken Langley recommended the ARC study for sound wayfinding information.

Allison requested the Historic Commission participate on November 9th in the Campbellton Public Open House.

Adjournment

Motion: Gene Griffith

Second: Brian Gross

The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59.

These minutes are provided as a convenience and service to the public, media, and staff. It is not the intent to transcribe proceedings verbatim. Any reproduction of this summary must include this notice. This is an official record of the City of Chattahoochee Hills Historic Commission Meeting proceedings.

Approved this 14th day of December, 2020.

Allison Duncan, Chair

Attest:

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