

**Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Historic Commission
City of Chattahoochee Hills
December 14, 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, and Camille Lowe. A quorum was represented.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Sarah Love

Second: Brian Gross

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the October 12, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion: Gene Griffith

Second: Kim Taylor-Cloud

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the November 14, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion: Brian Gross

Second: Sarah Love

The motion passed unanimously.

Items for Discussion

1. Feedback on November Historic Commission Meeting: Tour of Historic Sites

Allison Duncan asked if there are any ideas pertaining to the historic sites visited that the Historic Commission (HC) wants to pursue in 2021? Brian Gross offered appreciation for Gene Griffith and his wife's tour of Wilkerson Mill. Sarah Love coordinated with Joe Smith, a GSU Preservation Architect; he will be visiting City-owned sites on January 8, 2021 to see what kind of resources could be provided through the Preservation Program at GSU. Amber Lightsey asked if landscape overgrowth around the Varner House will be cut back and cleared. Allison Duncan said the site had not been worked into the maintenance rotation yet. A request has been made to cutback gently so the landscape elements may be evaluated properly. Brian Gross suggested tagging landscape elements that should not be cut down. Allison Duncan said she hopes the tour of historic sites provided a visual frame of reference for everyone as the Historic Commission moves forward on these projects in 2021.

2. 2020 Highlights

Sarah Love highlighted the Historic Commission's efforts to come up with viable uses for city-owned properties, along with leveraging the resources available to

get historic structure reports for conditions assessments. Sarah Love said she appreciates the reception to the signage design for Cochran Mill.

3. 2021 Priorities

Along with documenting the historic landscape of city-owned property, which Gene Griffith and Amber Lightsey have volunteered to be a part of, an individual has contacted the city and has requested to metal detect around city parks; however, since there is not a formal permitting process, both the Parks and Historic Commissions have been contacted to consider the request. (Allison Duncan thanked Sarah Love for her efforts to raise awareness about not disturbing or digging up or removing items from the park.) As well, Allison Duncan has asked for more information (training/credentials) from the individual wanting to metal detect; she will provide this information around the January meeting.

Allison Duncan said she looks forward to further engagement with other city commissions in the development/review processes in the city, per Kim Taylor-Cloud's initial efforts. Kim Taylor-Cloud confirmed that Community Development Director Mike Morton has included her in meetings that have been held. He has also provided photos and information pertaining to the Shell property.

Public History/Public Archaeology Day, led by Sarah Love, will take place in May. Sarah Love suggested we consider whether or not to curate what is found. Curation can be expensive. Often artifacts are identified and documented and returned to places found, with locations mapped for future researchers and excavations. However, if the Commission decides to proceed, long-term care of artifacts will need to be a consideration. Sarah Love will look into the expense around long-term curation. Allison Duncan suggests partnering with a university on site investigations, which could aid in the archeological study of the city's historic sites.

Allison Duncan said the draft of Campbellton Master Plan (CMP) should be coming in January—to review and provide feedback on some specific recommendations around a National Register District for the Campbellton area and the Beavers House. Is there interest in helping to implement the recommendations of the CMP?

Amber Lightsey asked if there will be efforts this year to secure grants/funds to work on the city's historic structures and properties. Allison Duncan stated that partnering with a university would provide access to an array of resources that will help the Historic Commission ascertain what exactly needs to be asked for with regards to securing funding. Sarah Love suggested that since many grants hinge on eligibility, university students may be able to work up a Conditions Assessment or Historic Structure Report – or anything needed for that preliminary eligibility application for anything not already listed on a Historic Register. As well, assessing which properties are listed, along with eligibility

requirements, will need to be done.

Items for Consideration

1. Review of Barn Quilt Design for Beavers House

Are there formal recommendations to be made to Mayor and Council? Is there a more systematic methodology that the Historic Commission could help inform going forward? Councilmember Laurie Searle said it was decided at a City Council work session that going forward any future quilt square designs for city-owned properties should come before the City Council only. Kim Taylor-Cloud asked who paid for the Beavers' quilt square. Councilmember Laurie Searle said the city paid for it, and she was the artist. Brian Gross inquired about the long-term placement of the quilt square, if something happens to the Beavers garage structure. Laurie Searle said the quilt square can be moved as needed. Kim Taylor-Cloud asked what the overall concept is for the quilt square project. Councilmember Laurie Searle said it is a city-financed, rural art project to promote tourism and community pride and a driving tour to points of interest. The quilt square was placed at the Beavers because it is a point of interest. Amber Lightsey expressed concern about the impact the quilt squares have on historic structures, along with their potential to compete with and dominate/change the character of the landscape and ultimately set a precedent for other such projects. Allison Duncan asserted that it is within the purview of the Historic Commission to weigh in on the preservation of the general character of the city. She added that a public arts ordinance would provide more of a systematic approach to dealing with the impact of city art projects. The community should weigh in as well. That the Mayor and Council do not want any of the city commissions to provide input is concerning. If the City Council is going to be the sole decision makers on this, they should allow for public input on this. Kim Taylor-Cloud recommended a Public Art Commission for handling such projects—and that it should involve the community. Allison Duncan said that some of the best place making is done where it is authentic. There should be a more formal process where the public can weigh in. Gene Griffith agreed there should be a Public Art Commission along with input from the public. Brian Gross would like to see more collaboration pertaining to the color, size, and placement of the quilt squares, especially on city-owned properties. Allison Duncan stated there is a need for more of a community input process on this as well as a need to refine the process going forward.

The Historic Commission decided to draft a letter for review in January that summarizes key points of the meeting discussion to Mayor and Council, in an effort to address concerns, thoughts, and recommendations pertaining to public art and historic sites.

Councilmember Laurie Searle added that at the start of the barn quilt project she recommended the Mayor and Council form an Arts Commission.

No action was taken.

2. Review of the Cochran Mill Park Interpretive Plan/Transmit to the Parks Commission for Review

Allison Duncan asked the Commission for approval for a motion to send the master plan over to the Parks Commission and city staff. No additional discussion needed.

Motion: Gene Griffith

Second: Sarah Love

The motion to send the Interpretive Plan to the Parks Commission was unanimously approved.

3. Review of Wayfinding Signage

Amber Lightsey asked if the Historic Commission will be allowed to weigh in and offer a recommendation when it's time for the city to choose wayfinding signage. Though some members liked the signage mock-ups presented, the signage examples will be refined due to a general lack of enthusiasm for them. New mock-ups should be ready for reconsideration in January. Allison Duncan and Brian Gross requested a concept that could translate for a historic site marker as well, especially since consistency in signage is preferred. Allison Duncan will seek clarification on this from City Manager Robbie Rokovitz for the January meeting.

4. 2021 Meeting Schedule

The Historic Commission will meet on the second Monday of the month in 2021. There will be no meetings in July and December.

Motion: Brian Gross

Second: Kim Taylor-Cloud

The motion to approve the 2021 Historic Commission schedule was unanimously approved.

Commission Member Comments / Suggestions

Brian Gross would like to continue having the option to meet via Zoom.

Kim Taylor-Cloud suggests for future meetings a framework that involves the categories of "Proactive" and "Advisory," in an effort to keep in mind when to actively engage and when to advise.

Allison Duncan suggests a gathering of all the city commissions at some point this year.

Adjournment

Motion: Kim Taylor-Cloud

Second: Brian Gross

The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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 11th day of January, 2021.

Allison Duncan, Chair

Attest:

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