

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Historic Commission
City of Chattahoochee Hills
October 21, 2019
6:30 p.m.

Call to Order – Determination of Quorum

Chair Laurie Searle called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Laurie Searle, Brian Gross, Lila Rhyne, Kim Taylor-Cloud, Sarah Love and Allison Duncan. A quorum was represented.

City Planner Mike Morton briefly joined the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Laurie Searle led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Duncan made a motion to approve the agenda. Taylor-Cloud seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of September 23, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Gross identified that the spelling of Councilmember Stephens name needed to be corrected and asked that Item #3 reflect the discussion of the Commission regarding certain State grants that are unavailable due to the way the enabling legislation for the Commission was established. Searle suggested the language similar to her handout to the Council be used. "Chattahoochee Hills is not eligible to apply for certain federal / state preservation grants because it is not a Certified Local Government."

Gross made a motion to approve the September 23 Meeting Minutes with the two corrections. Rhyne seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Items for Discussion

1. Checking for a possible burial site/ artifacts on a proposed development site

Taylor-Cloud reported that the Environmental Committee at Serenbe has a packet of materials from Alfie Vick at the University of Georgia that includes a rough survey that may show the presence of historic sites. She is working on obtaining a copy of that information. She also indicated Chattahoochee Hills government had a booth at Ray Day that had presentation boards showing concept plans for this site and others. City Planner Mike Morton was present for part of the meeting and was able to share those boards with the Commission. He can provide copies of the information to the Commission. They suggest that proposed development would be located away from the potential archaeological sites and most of the wooded areas.

Love confirmed that she had checked the GNAHRGIS database and there is no record of a formal archaeological survey on the site.

2. The Beavers House

Searle provided copies of the handout she distributed to the City Council. This identified other city-owned historic sites that could be good case studies for the Beavers House for various reasons, including restoration, funding, and ongoing operations. Among them were Hyde Farm in Cobb County, the Mercantile Building in the City of Woolsey/ Fayette County, and three houses that constitute the “Southern Trilogy” in Roswell/ Fulton County. Duncan also mentioned that the historic train depot in downtown Stone Mountain has recently been restored and opened to the public as a visitors center and meeting space, and could be another case study for consideration.

Searle asked if anyone would like to make a field trip as a group to any of the sites. Commission members indicated that they would make the effort on their own to explore different sites.

3. Preparation for the Join Meeting with the Parks Commission

Searle asked for ideas for discussion at the joint meeting with the Parks Commission scheduled for November 12. General discussion included Campbellton Park, archaeological concerns in city parks, and development of bike trails that may impact historic and archaeological resources in city parks. Three priorities were identified:

- *An allocation of financial resources in the city budget to create historic context studies for the city owned parks that; these could identify broad historic themes, known historic and cultural resources, and areas of potential historic and cultural resources, including sub-surface resources.*
- *A process for formal archaeological review by a credentialed cultural resource management firm of potential trail placements before installation of the trail is undertaken.*
- *Interpretive planning for all city owned parks, along with recommendations on signage and other forms of interpretation, including reconstruction or other representations of historic sites, such as the mills*

Love and Duncan agreed to address or clarify any specific considerations of these items as needed.

4. Archival Storage, procedures and policies

Taylor-Cloud asked about the possibility of using space in the library in the Chattahoochee Hills City Hall for physical artifacts and on city servers for digital artifacts. Taylor-Cloud will follow up with the City Manager to learn more about these possibilities. Searle will follow up with the City manager on digital storage options. These will be an Item for Consideration at the January meeting.

Items for Consideration

There were no Items for Consideration.

Commission Member Comments/ Suggestions

Searle shared that the legal transfer of the Scout Hut to the City would soon be completed. There was a brief discussion about past uses and potential future uses. The possibility of having the Historic Commission be allowed access to the Scout Hut to tour the inside of the property was discussed. Permission for the Historic Commission to access the Scout Hut for a tour and assessment of potential uses will be an Item for Consideration at the January meeting.

Searle shared information with the Commission on a landlocked cemetery on Cedar Grove Road. She had been contacted by an individual who desired to access it, and she sought advice from the Commission on how to handle this request. Specifically, she thought the Commission could access public records and help the individual identify the property owners to gain access.

Duncan indicated that she did not think it was appropriate for the Commission to intervene in private property issues. As the cemetery is landlocked with no direct access to the public right-of-way, the person wishing to visit would need to work with the adjoining property owners to gain access. Duncan indicated that she had no objection to activities Searle decided to undertake as a private citizen. But she reiterated that she has expressed concerns previously that the Commission did not have a role in inserting itself on private property issues where they had no lawful authority.

Gross indicated that he would like an opinion of the City Attorney on the issue. He expressed concerns about the Commission putting itself in a position to pull public records for every individual who asked for them. Taylor-Cloud also would like the opinion of the City Attorney on the issue. This will be an Item for Consideration at the January meeting.

Adjournment

Taylor-Cloud made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. Gross seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Approved this 13th day of January, 2020.

Allison Duncan, Vice Chair/Secretary

Attest:

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