

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Historic Commission
City of Chattahoochee Hills
September 23, 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 and Allison Duncan. Not present was Sarah Love. A quorum was represented.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Agenda

Searle asked for the item on grant funding to be removed because Love was not present to lead the discussion.

Taylor-Cloud made a motion to approve the agenda with that change. Gross seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of August 24, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Gross made a motion to approve the August 24 Meeting Minutes. Taylor-Cloud seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Items for Discussion

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

Since this item was discussed in August, Taylor-Cloud had attended some informal feedback sessions the property owner was hosting for nearby residents. She indicated that the owner was amenable to setting aside any culturally significant areas within the required 60-70% open space of the project. She shared the parcel i.d. of the property so others could follow up on items identified in the August Minutes. She will also follow up with the University of Georgia regarding any publications that detail potential cultural sites on the property. Duncan will request a copy of the rezoning application from the city and she will share that with the Commission.

2. Beginning the Strategic Plan

Searle provided an update about requests from Mayor and Council. Council Member Stephens has requested an update on the activities of the Commission, and Mayor Reed has requested a joint meeting between the Parks Commission and the Historic Commission, specifically to discuss the Beavers House. She indicated that she thought the Council was particularly interested in having the Commission make recommendations on uses for the Beavers House, which may be one part of the overall Strategic Plan that the Commission had discussed at the August meeting.

Duncan indicated that she would be glad to pull together some more detail around the three priorities identified at the August meeting as a direction for the Strategic Plan. One of the priorities that was identified was planning for city-owned properties, which would include the Beavers House.

3. The Beavers House

Searle had shared a copy of the Master Plan for Campbellton Park, and particularly called attention to the ideas that were proposed for the Beavers House. Gross expressed concerns about the condition of the house as identified in the inspection report, and raised questions about how to best utilize and interpret the site, particularly given that it wasn't affiliated a significant historic person or event. Duncan suggested that there are many good models of historic sites owned by public entities. A good place to start thinking about future uses of the Beavers House could be to examine other publicly-owned historic sites to understand how they are used, interpreted and managed. Searle suggested that the city is particularly interested in recommendations on potential funding sources for ongoing maintenance. Duncan indicated that she could develop a list of properties that could be models for the Commission to evaluate and have that to Searle in time to present at an upcoming Commission work session. Commission members also discussed Chattahoochee Hills not being eligible to apply for certain federal or state preservation grants because it is not a Certified Local Government.

Searle asked Taylor-Cloud to keep an electronic copy of the Campbellton Park Master Plan in the digital archive that she was establishing to keep track of items pertinent to the work for the Commission.

Items for Consideration

There were no Items for Consideration.

Commission Member Comments/ Suggestions

Searle had acquired artifacts from the Campbellton UMC including a podium, alter railing, and church bell. She had followed up with the city and donated those items to the city as a private citizen, not in the name of the Historic Commission.

Searle indicated that the Parks Commission is starting their community events in the parks. Love was not present to give an update on developing a joint event around archaeology.

Searle received information on cemeteries from Fulton County. She was having trouble understanding the format of the data in the file. Duncan offered to take a look at it if Searle would forward to her. Gross inquired if there were any available plots at the cemetery the city acquired. This could be an opportunity to generate revenue. Searle indicated that cemetery hadn't been thoroughly surveyed and the extent of current burials was unknown. Without this information, adding new burials could be a problem.

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. Public comments are noted and heard by Council, but not quoted. This is an official record of the City of Chattahoochee Hills Historic Commission Meeting proceedings.

Adjournment

Taylor-Cloud made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Gross seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Approved this 21st day of October, 2019.

Allison Duncan, Vice Chair/Secretary

Attest:

Dana Wicher, City Clerk

(Seal)