

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Historic Commission
City of Chattahoochee Hills
June 11, 2019
8:00 a.m.

Call to Order – Determination of Quorum

City Clerk Dana Wicher called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. Present were Brian Gross, Sarah Love, Kim Taylor-Cloud, and Laurie Searle. Allison Duncan arrived at 8:07 a.m. Absent were Carole Harper and Lila Rhyne. A quorum was represented.

Pledge of Allegiance

City Clerk Dana Wicher led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Administer Oath of Office

City Clerk Dana Wicher administered the Oath of Office to Sarah Love.

Duncan arrived at 8:07 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of May 28, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Searle made a motion to approved the May 28, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes. Duncan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers

1. Chair

Gross nominated Searle as Chair. Duncan seconded. There were no other nominations. The vote to elect Searle was unanimous.

2. Vice Chair

Searle nominated Duncan as Vice Chair. Taylor-Cloud seconded. There were no other nominations. The vote to elect Duncan as Vice Chair was unanimous.

3. Secretary

Duncan nominated herself as Secretary. Gross seconded. There were no other nominations. The vote to elect Duncan as Secretary was unanimous.

Items for Discussion

1. Liberty Hill Church Cemetery – Laurie Searle

Searle said that in 2009, the Chattahoochee Hills Historical Society initiated a project to document the cemeteries within the city. Thirty-nine cemeteries were identified and recorded. One of the cemeteries is Liberty Hill Church Cemetery on Rivertown

Road. Searle was contacted by Randy Boyd. He is researching the burial of relatives who are buried there and would like to gain access to the property. Searle proposed making motion that the Historic Commission work with the city's attorney to develop a Waiver of Liability letter for accessing cemeteries on private property. Commission members discussed the city's responsibilities, legal ownership of cemeteries, and Douglas County's cemetery preservation program. After discussion, Searle tabled her proposed motion. Before moving forward, the Commission should work on the following items:

1. Determine the city's responsibility for abandoned cemeteries
2. Invite Douglas County to give a presentation on their cemetery preservation program
3. Look at case law regarding access to abandon cemeteries. Love will pull together legal definitions for "abandonment" and any applicable case law.

2. Georgia Municipal Cemetery Association Conference – Laurie Searle

Searle gave an overview of the Georgia Municipal Association and announced that she will be attending their conference being held in Savannah October 16-18, 2019. She encouraged others to attend if they had an interest.

Items for Consideration

1. June 2019 – March 2020 Meeting Schedule

After discussion, Duncan made a motion to hold Historic Commission meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at 8:00 a.m., with no meeting being held in July, November, and December. Gross seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. By-laws

Searle presented the draft of the By-laws. Commission members requested they be amended as follows:

1. Reformat Article II, Section 1 so the purpose is presented as a list
2. Under Article II, Section 1 add an item that states "educate the public about the economic viability of the historic resources located within the city".
3. Under Article VII, Section 2, add the following language "or at a location to be determined".

Duncan left the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

Gross made a motion to adopt the by-laws as amended. Love seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Commission Member Comments / Suggestions

Taylor-Cloud asked if the Chattahoochee Hills Historical Society was still active. Searle said the historical society was a division of the Chattahoochee Hills Civic Association and the association dissolved. There is still an informal group and Searle maintains the website.

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 Parks Commission Meeting proceedings.

Adjournment

Love made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 a.m. Gross seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approved this 24th day of August, 2019.

Laurie Searle, Chair

Attest:

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

The City of Chattahoochee Hills Mayor and City Council encourage citizen participation in the government process. Should you by reason of a disability need a special accommodation or need accessibility information, please contact the City Clerk's office at 770-463-8881.