



STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF FORT BEND
CITY OF RICHMOND

The Monument Ad Hoc Committee for the City of Richmond, Texas met on September 24, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

Committee Chairman Alex BeMent proceeded to call the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. via video conference pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.125, as amended, and as modified by the temporary suspension of various provisions thereof effective March 16, 2020, by the Governor of Texas in accordance with the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, all as related to the Governor's proclamation on March 13, 2020, certifying that the COVID-19 pandemic poses an imminent threat of disaster and declaring a state of disaster for all counties in Texas. All members of the public may participate in the meeting via video conference call.

A quorum was present, with the following members in attendance:

Alex BeMent, Committee Chair (City Commissioner, Position 4)
Terri Vela, City Manager
Rob Quarles, Representative of Vincent Morales, County Commissioner Precinct 1- Absent
Keely Knipling, Vice President of the Fort Bend History Association
Gary Smith, City Attorney
Roy Cordes, County Attorney - Absent

Agenda item A2, Approve the minutes of the meeting on September 17, 2020. Committee Member Vela stated the date of the meeting needed to be corrected from September 24, 2020 to September 17, 2020. Committee Chair BeMent made the motion to approve the minutes from September 17, 2020 meeting with the noted correction. Committee Member Knipling seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve, and the agenda item was closed.

Agenda item A3, Discuss and consider approval of notice to submit claim to artifact. Committee Member Vela suggested this agenda item should be discussed with Agenda item A5. Committee Chair BeMent made the motion to table agenda item A3. Committee Member Knipling seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to table the item.

Agenda item A4, Discuss and consider approval of notice of public comment. City Attorney Gary Smith stated if A5 were discussed before A4, A4 would make more sense. City Attorney confirmed the notice had been revised since the meeting packet was posted.

Agenda item A5, Discuss information needed to fulfil the charge for possible recommendations to the City Commission. Committee Chair BeMent stated that Fort Bend County has graciously offered to cover the costs of relocating the monument locally. One of the locations that has been discussed is the Hodges Bend Cemetery located at 17245 Old Richmond Road, Sugar Land, Texas. The cemetery is an historic cemetery that was started in 1831. The last burial took place in 1942. J. M. Shamblin's grave is located at the cemetery. Shamblin is one of the individuals listed on the monument. The County Commissioners Court has voted to authorize Ken Cannata, Chief Litigation Division and Roy Cordes, County Attorney to discuss with City staff the assistance the County would provide in relocating the monument. Committee Member Vela indicated an Interlocal Agreement would be needed with the relocation costs between the City and the County as well as an agreement with the third party that is contracted to be responsible for the relocation. Therefore, there would be two agreements. The public comments would be input concerning the City of Richmond and Fort Bend County working together, identifying the location and determining the costs. Committee Member Knipling inquired if the offer from the County was exclusive to relocating at Hodges Bend Cemetery. The offer is was not limited to Hodges Bend but must remain in Fort Bend County. The Morton Cemetery in Richmond was also discussed as an option. City Attorney Smith reviewed the two notices for publication. Committee Member Knipling stated it should be shared that the Committee is clear and has a consensus with the direction the committee is headed with the discussion. Additional language regarding the rules of public comments is not necessary for the publication. It was also stated if the budget would allow for modification and signage to tell the complete story. Committee Member Vela stated an application has been submitted to the state for a historical marker relating to the conflict, however it was declined.

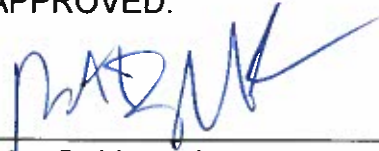
During the meeting, City Attorney Smith emailed out the revised notice to be published for the committee's review. Committee Member Vela made the motion to approve the notice and modify the motion to include 3:00 p.m. time and the changes to the purpose. Committee Chair BeMent seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Agenda item A6, Set Future Meeting date(s). October 8, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. was suggested and agreed upon.

Agenda item A7. Discuss Future Agenda Items. Committee Member Knipling acknowledged the Fort Bend History Association would review the language for a marker to potentially place next to City Hall. Committee Chair BeMent expressed that phase 2 did not need to extend beyond the scope of this committee.

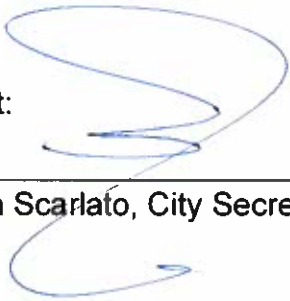
With no further business to discuss, Committee Chairman BeMent declared the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

APPROVED:



Alex BeMent, Committee Chairman

Attest:



Laura Scarlato, City Secretary