



STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF FORT BEND
CITY OF RICHMOND

The Monument Ad Hoc Committee of the City Commission for the City of Richmond, Texas met on October 16, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

Committee Vice Chairman Rob Quarles proceeded to call the meeting to order at 11:10 a.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

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 October 8, 2020. Committee Vice-Chair Rob Quarles requested changes or discussion regarding the minutes and there were no suggestions. Committee Member Terri Vela made the motion to approve the minutes for the October 8, 2020 meeting. Committee Member Keely Knipling seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Committee Chairman Alex BeMent joined the meeting via video conference at 11:11 and resumed the position of chairman.

Agenda item A3, Review and discuss Interlocal Agreement between the City of Richmond and Fort Bend County related to the relocation of the artifact. Committee Vice-Chair Quarles abstained from the discussion and a vote on this matter. Committee Member Vela stated Commissioners Court liaison Ken Cannata, Chief Litigation Division would be placing the item on the agenda for October 27, 2020. It was originally

slated for October 13th but was moved to the 27th. City Attorney Gary Smith received revised language to include the funding for the context out of the \$100,000. The County is willing to allocate funds of \$10,000 for the context but the maximum expenditure will be \$100,000. The County conveyed the courthouse land to the City, subject to an easement covering the portion of the land at a public auction in 1940. City Attorney Smith reviewed the agreement in detail with each party having no objections to the changes. Committee Member Knipling asked if the \$10,000 allocated for the context would be sufficient and she responded yes. Committee Member Vela stated that Clair Rodgers had provided the costs for County and State markers. It was agreed that something could be attained. Committee Chair BeMent requested if the County and/or City would be willing to provide the \$10,000 if the project was short. Committee Vice-Chair stated it would not be a deal breaker. Committee Chair BeMent stated he realized the statement was not binding but did provide a level of reassurance. With no additional comments, the agenda item was closed.

Agenda item A4, Review and discuss language providing historic context related to the artifact. Committee Chair BeMent stated that although he had reviewed the history regarding the artifact, he would defer to the Fort Bend Historical Society to provide the context. Committee Vice-Chair concurred with Chairman BeMent. Committee Member Knipling stated the Fort Bend Historical Commission and the Fort Bend Museum Association are different boards, they do overlap and although she could not speak for them, someone would be tasked with the actual work. Committee Member Vela inquired if the expanded museum (Fort Bend History Association) would provide the artifact story as well. Committee Member Knipling stated the whole story would be captured for the public at the museum. Both Committee Chair BeMent and Committee Vice-Chair applauded the idea. With no further discussion, the agenda item was closed.

Agenda item A5, Discuss and consider taking action on recommendations to the City Commission related to the artifact commonly known as the Jay Bird monument or the Frost, Gibson and Shamblin Monument. Committee Chair BeMent shared at the previous meeting, the committee had endorsed the interlocal agreements to be recommended to the City Commission for further action. There was a call for any further discussion. Committee Member Vela stated there was now a Bill of Sale included for review. City Attorney Smith stated the transfer document was requested by Kevin Clark with the Hodges Bend Cemetery Association. The Conveyance is on condition the Hodges Bend Cemetery will receive, accept, maintain and preserve the Jaybird Monument as the heritage of the community of Fort Bend County. It is understood the City Commission is not responsible for the artifact but the trustees of the public and should maintain it because it is on City property. Committee Chair BeMent made the motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement with the modifications and the addition of the Bill of Sale as presented. City Attorney Smith requested the items be approved separately. Committee Chair BeMent modified his motion to approve the

modified Interlocal Agreement as presented and recommend approval to the City Commission. Committee Member Knipling seconded the motion and the vote was as follows:

Alex BeMent, Committee Chair - **Aye**
Terri Vela, City Manager - **Aye**
Rob Quarles, Representative of Vincent Morales, County Commissioner Precinct 1 - **Abstain**
Keely Knipling, Vice President of the Fort Bend History Association – **Aye**

Committee Chair BeMent made the motion to approve the Bill of Sale Document as proposed to date with Committee Vice-Chair seconding the motion. The vote was as follows:

Alex BeMent, Committee Chair - **Aye**
Terri Vela, City Manager - **Aye**
Rob Quarles, Representative of Vincent Morales, County Commissioner Precinct 1 - **Aye**
Keely Knipling, Vice President of the Fort Bend History Association – **Aye**

Agenda item A6, Set Future Meeting date(s). Committee Chair BeMent inquired if there was a need for a future meeting following October 27th. It was discussed and decided the committee would have a final “wrap-up” meeting at an undetermined date. Authorization would be given to the Chairman to approve the final minutes without presenting them to the Committee. City Attorney Smith indicated he would step into a role of sharing information with the Committee and advise the date for the next meeting. Committee Member Vela stated the Committee would authorize City Attorney Smith to act as the point of contact with the County. The County stated the process would take approximately a month to request bids, publish and adhere to purchasing requirements. Committee Member Vela made the motion to authorize City Attorney Smith to inform the Committee of the progress of the relocation of the artifact. Committee Member Knipling seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to approve.

Agenda item A7. Discuss Future Agenda Items. It was felt this item was already discussed. No action.

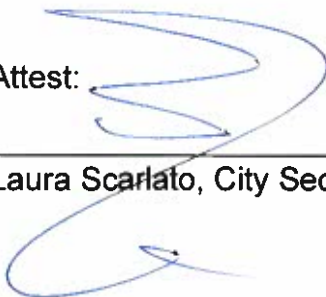
With no further business to discuss, Committee Vice-Chairman Quarles made the motion to adjourn with the motion be seconded by Committee Member Vela. Committee Chair BeMent declared the meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

APPROVED:



Alex BeMent, Committee Chairman

Attest:



Laura Scarlato, City Secretary