

Calhoun Park Committee Minutes

October 8, 2019

Item 1. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by Mayor Pettit in the Council Chambers of the North Augusta Municipal Center.

Item 2. Members Present: Mayor Bob Pettit, Milledge Murray, Councilman David McGee, Trina Mackie, John Felak, Tony Carr, Mark Newell. Also attending Assistant City Administrator Rachelle Moody. Absent: Charles Allen, Councilwoman Pat Carpenter and ex-officio member Mandy Nelson.

Item 3. The minutes of September 10, 2019 were approved.

Item 4. The proposed RFP for artwork submission was discussed at length. Mr. Carr related his experience participating in the City of Augusta's request for a similar project. The point was made the planned recommendation would be for a Request for Proposals (RFP), not a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). The requirements in the RFQ eliminated many potential artists because of the licensing and contractor requirements. The RFP approach allows any individual to submit an overall design for Calhoun Park which could include a sculpture or artwork. Each submitted design would be evaluated using criteria established and provided as part of the RFP. Committee members were asked to review the RFP and suggest changes prior to the next meeting. A proposed budget for the artwork and installation was discussed without reaching a conclusion.

Item 5. The historical markers located at various locations within the City were discussed in the context of appropriateness for positioning them in Calhoun Park. Members were concerned that moving the Hamburg markers and headstone from Carrsville would detract from its historical importance. The consensus of the members was the story of the Hamburg Massacre needed to be in Calhoun Park, at the same location as the Meriwether Monument.

It was the consensus that the story of African American accomplishments would best be displayed at Carrsville, the location of prominent, and recently renovated, Society Building. The Society Building and the First Providence Baptist Church provide a nucleus for future development at that site.

Item 6. The portions of the letter from Mr. Perry Holcomb about having three Council members on the committee and the competence of the committee as a group was discussed. The committee consensus was Council members and the membership of the Calhoun Park Committee are appropriate and meet the needs established by City Council. Committee members acknowledged his suggested approaches without further discussion.

Item 7. Mr. Felak volunteered to write the first draft of the committee's recommendations to City Council and provide it to committee members for review and comment.

Guests attending were invited to speak. Mr. Dan Reese spoke about the perception caused by three council members being appointed by Council to the committee. He felt these Council members would have too much influence when Council considered the committee's recommendations.

Ms. Ellie Mackie stated she was excited about the committee's work and was looking forward to bringing family members to the park to learn of the entire story of the Hamburg Massacre.

The next meeting will be November 5, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Conference Room.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm

Respectfully submitted,

John Felak

Member - Meriwether Monument Committee