

**MINUTES OF THE
MACON-BIBB FRIENDS OF ROSA PARKS SQUARE BOARD MEETING
February 8, 2024 – 12:00 PM**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Andrea Cooke, Chairman
George Muhammad, Vice Chairman
Alex Morrison
Jim Beall
Erin Keller
Jeremy Grissom
Ivey Hall
Clarence Thomas
Bob Fickling

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Susannah Maddux
Jonathan Barton

OTHERS PRESENT

Sara Davis, Assistant County Attorney
Sheila Griggs, Deputy Clerk of
Commission
Liz Fabian, CCJ

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Chairman Andrea Cooke called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

A 01-11-2024 Meeting Minutes

On motion of Jeremy Grissom, seconded of Jim Beall and carried unanimously, the minutes of January 11, 2024 were approved.

3. Old Business

A Park design update

Alex Morrison is still working with HGOR to get a new design created without the water wall. Alex will try to have the new design at the next meeting, which will trigger the request for new bids. The Board feels that now that funds are available, it will be easier to receive bids. Charise Stephens-Merriweather, Director of Small Business Affairs, would like to conduct seminars to train minority businesses on how to participate in the bidding process.

The Board shared ideas on how to raise additional funds for any extra items wanted for the park. Clarence Thomas suggested having quarterly events at the park and offered to take the lead in creating ideas for events with the support of Andrea Cooke.

The Board discussed defining what funds would be used for when asking for donations. Board members felt that asking for donations, seeing as they have funding approved from the Commission, would raise questions from citizens.

The Board discussed the criteria when adding names to the wall in the park. George Muhammad reminded the Board that he had provided a list of people to add to the wall at a previous meeting. He will find the list of people and share it again with the Board. A criterion needs to be established.

4. New Business

A Meeting with Mayor debrief

Andrea Cooke informed the board of the approved Ordinance that will authorize the appropriation of up to \$2,450,00.00 from the general fund - fund balance for the purpose of making investments in public spaces. From that appropriation, Rosa Parks Square Park has been approved to receive up to \$1,500,000.00 for the purchase, installation and construction of suitable improvements to Rosa Parks Square Park, with due consideration given to any advice of the Friends of Rosa Parks Square Board. Mayor Miller attended the meeting and the Board was able to give him and the Commission a proper thank-you.

B Camera donation from the Bicentennial Committee

Andrea Cooke spoke with Wes Griffith, the Chair of the Bicentennial Board, and they are ready to donate the cameras that are already installed at Rosa Parks Square Park to the park. The Board discussed the programming and maintenance of the cameras and suggested that they invite a specialist to a meeting to educate the board on costs related to the upkeep of the cameras. The Board discussed the partnership with Mercer University and thought that the university might want to take over the maintenance and cost related to the cameras. Andrea Cooke stated that she will do research, and it will be discussed in future meetings. Assistant County Attorney Sara Davis reminded the Board that there will need to be some sort of agreement with Mercer to have the cameras in the park with Mercer in charge of the maintenance if they decide to go that route.

C Purchasing Board Members T-Shirts and Badges

With the approval of funding from the Commission, the Board discussed

ordering t-shirts for the Board members to wear at the ground-breaking ceremony. Sheila Griggs will gather quotes for the Board to review.

5. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila F. Griggs
Deputy Clerk of Commission