

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)

January 24, 2011
MEETING MINUTES

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on January 24, 2011 in the conference room at 3000 Granny White Pike at 12:00 pm.

Commissioners in attendance: Dr. Bill McKee, Chair; Joan Armour, Vice-Chair; Bob Allen, Lula Brooks, George Cate, David Currey, Gary Everton, Jim Hoobler, Annette Ratkin, Holly Sharp, and Linda Wynn. Commissioners not present: Menie' Bell, Doug Berry, Don Cusic, and Jan Cain.

Guest: Kathy Evans, Metro Legal Department.

Staff in attendance: Tim Walker, Executive Director; Robin Zeigler, Yvonne Ogren, Tara Mielnik, Scarlett Miles, Melissa Baldock.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair McKee called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m., after verifying that a quorum was in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Hoobler moved to approve the minutes from the November 15 meeting, Commissioner Cate seconded the motion. The motion passed without discussion.

AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

As coordinating member of the By-Laws committee, Commissioner Everton made a motion to approve the amended by-laws with the corrections recommended by Metro Legal representative Kathy Evans. Decision on this item was deferred for comment from Attorney Evans.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE CONFERENCE

Commissioner Linda Wynn reported on the upcoming conference to be held on February 9. The 2011 conference will focus primarily on how the Civil War and the Freedom Rides of 1961 affected the African American struggle for freedom, but the program includes presenters on a variety of topics. She mentioned that the conference will be held on Fridays, beginning in 2012. Wynn and Dr. Tara Mielnik stressed the importance of having commissioners at the event, representing the Historical Commission. Chair McKee pointed out that MHC and TSU had been sponsors of this event from the beginning and made a plea for commissioners to support it with their attendance.

AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

Attorney Evans explained that changes to the proposed amendment corrected department titles and context. After brief discussion, the commission unanimously voted to approve the new by-laws. The commission is to operate under the new by-laws from this meeting forward. A copy is attached.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sesquicentennial- Commissioner Jim Hoobler gave the report for the Sesquicentennial Committee. He reported that the CVB did not approve funds for the MHC. The committee cannot move forward with other plans unless another resource is found. Hoobler has asked that funds will be donated to the NCCA rather than by appropriation directly to the Historical Commission.

Proposals have been received for a logo for the Nashville commemoration. Approved design will be used on a website for the Sesquicentennial which is being developed by Metro ITS. Renderings of the proposed artwork were passed among the commissioners. The majority supported an image which had an illustration of a cannon within the text. G. Everton made a motion to accept this image; it was seconded by L. Wynn. Discussion followed regarding the abbreviation *MHC* for "Metro Historical Commission", and the word *Sesquicentennial*. Commissioner Hoobler is to bring an updated proposal to the February meeting for final approval.

There are two events currently scheduled, to be led by volunteer speakers. During the 2011 summer, John Allyn will lead a tour at the City Cemetery, entitled *What Were They Thinking?*, regarding Civil War burials. Fred Prouty, with the Tennessee Wars and Tennessee Historical Commissions, has provided funds for a presentation of the play, *A Path Divided*, to be presented in the fall. The Metro Arts Commission has provided a \$2500 grant to offset the cost of a performance by the Fisk Jubilee Singers, but this must be returned if matching funds are not provided.

EVENTS

Vice-Chair Joan Armour reported that the Ryman Auditorium was no longer an option for the Preservation Awards in May. Commissioners discussed other locations including the library, Hume Fogg H.S., Downtown Presbyterian Church or a combination of the above. Commissioners and staff agreed after discussion for the ceremony to be held at the Public Library, with the reception following at Downtown Presbyterian Church. The date is to be confirmed at the next meeting. Sponsoring donations should be made to the Ann Roberts fund and directed to the Historical Commission. Carter Todd has promised a donation toward the cost of the reception; Ann Roos has pledged a donation toward plaques.

MARKERS

The marker committee met previously on January 19th to discuss how to spend the \$25,000 provided in the Metro FY11 Capital Improvements budget for the marker program. Commissioner Armour made a motion on behalf of the committee to replace the following markers that are either missing or damaged: *Western Harmony* (#75), *First Steam Locomotive* (#41), *Blackwood Field* (#32), *Captain John Rains* (#2), *Samuel Watkins* (#11), and *Thomas Overton* (#65). Markers with inaccuracies will be ordered later as funds allow. The motion was approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT- Tim Walker, Executive Director

*Tim Walker introduced new staff member, Melissa Baldock, who will be working with the Historic Zoning division. Melissa talked for a moment about her education and past experience in preservation work. She will be a great asset to the Historical Commission staff.

*A card was passed among the commissioners for Jan Cain, who has been recovering from surgery.

*An assessment report from Grau Contracting on Fort Nashboro is expected soon.

*Councilman Jim Gotto is sponsoring an archeology ordinance (2011-834) which will be presented to Metro Council on February 1. If passed, contractors performing any excavation on Metro-owned properties will be required to turn any historic artifacts found over to Metro Government. MHC will be the designated contact department.

*Mike Jameson has scheduled a meeting regarding the proposed Downtown Preservation District.

*MHC has completed a slideshow of the history of the State Fairgrounds which was requested by Councilmember Sandra Moore. The full presentation is currently being broadcast on Metro Channel 3.

HISTORIC ZONING REPORT - Robin Zeigler, Zoning Administrator

MAYOR'S DAY

Mayor Dean will be hosting a Mayor's Day event in April to honor the fifteen past Nashville mayors who are buried at the City Cemetery. There is currently no headstone for Mayor Thomas Coleman, who served as mayor from 1842-1843. A new headstone is to be made and dedicated at the event. Jim Hoobler made a motion for the MHC to sponsor the event; the second came from Holly Sharp. Commission voted to approve. The proposed dates for the event are April 16, 23, or 30.

MHC 501c (3)

Director Walker has been researching the establishment of a Friends group for the Historical Commission. This would provide an avenue for donations to be made to the MHC to be used for implementing programs such as, but not limited to, the Preservation Awards. The group would not have to have an active membership. Legal representative Kathy Evans explained other benefits of having a 501c(3), and emphasized that the group must be initiated by an outside individual remain a separate entity from the MHC. It could not be established, chartered or guided by any MHC staff member or commissioner. After a group was established, contact could be made from the group to the MHC to offer assistance. Director Walker suggested that former MHC/MHZC commissioner Anne Eaden could be contacted.

GREEN HILLS HISTORY PROJECT

Vice-Chair Joan Armour reported that the Green Hills history committee has met three times, and their project is underway. The group has been compiling photos and history of the area, which is loosely bounded by Woodmont Blvd., Harding Place, Granny White Pike, and Estes Rd. Commissioners were asked to contribute any pertinent materials they might have. The public has been asked to have memorabilia scanned at the Public Library.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by
Yvonne Ogren
January 25, 2011

Metropolitan Historical Commission

BYLAWS (Amendment)

Adopted January 24, 2011

Section A. Meetings

1. Regular meetings will normally be held at noon the third Monday of each month; however these meetings may be changed at the request of a majority of the Commission or to avoid a conflict with a holiday.
2. Special meetings may be called as the Chair decides or on written request of a majority of Commission members. A majority of members holding office shall constitute a quorum.
3. Questions of procedure shall be decided by Robert's Rules of Order.
4. Members unable to attend are expected to notify the Chair or the Executive Director. The minutes of a meeting shall record the names of those present, those absent who offered explanation, and those absent without explanation.
5. Those absent three consecutive times or 25% of the meetings in one year without good reason shall be asked by the Chair whether they wish to continue to serve; if absences continue, the Commission Chair shall request that the Mayor appoint someone to replace the member.

Section B. Officers and Staff

1. The officers of the Commission shall be the Chair, the Vice-Chair and the Secretary. Each shall be elected by the Commission for a term of two years and may serve two consecutive terms. These officers will comprise the Executive Committee. If any need arises between normal Commission meetings, the Executive Director will consult this Executive Committee.
2. These officers shall be elected in May of an election year and shall begin serving a new term in September or when duly qualified.
3. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Commission, appoint all committees, exercise general supervision over the work of the Commission, and perform other duties appropriate to the office.
4. The Vice-Chair shall preside in the absence of the Chair and perform other duties as may be assigned by the Chair or requested by the Commission.
5. The selection of the Executive Director pursuant to M.C.L. 2.128.050 shall be by majority vote of the Commission. The Chair shall appoint a search committee made up of active and/or past Commissioners which shall work in conjunction with the Metro Department of Human Resources to bring a qualified recommendation to the full Commission for their consideration. The Executive Director shall be hired in accordance with the laws and rules

applicable to employees in the unclassified Metropolitan Government Service. Other staff positions may be created by the Commission and Metropolitan Government and shall be subordinate to the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall supervise all staff of the Commission.

6. The County Historian, if not already appointed to the Commission, shall be invited to attend the monthly meetings as a non-voting Ex-Officio member of the Commission.

Section C. Amendments

1. These bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Commission by a majority vote of all members present, provided that written notice of any proposed amendment is given to each member at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which such amendment is to be considered.
2. A copy of any amendment shall be filed with the Metropolitan Clerk's Office by the Executive Director.