

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)
MINUTES

April 15, 2013

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on April 15, 2013, in the conference room of the Historical Commission office at 3000 Granny White Pike, with Chair Bill McKee presiding.

Commissioners Present: Dr. Bill McKee, Chair; Jim Forkum, Vice Chair; Bob Allen, Menié Bell, Lula Brooks, Clay Bailey, George Cate, Jr., Holly Conner, David Currey, Don Cusic, Lynn McDonald, and Linda Wynn. Jim Hoobler, Mark Rogers & Gerry Searcy were not present.

Staff Members Present: Tim Walker, Melissa Baldock, Scarlett Miles, Yvonne Ogren,

Commission Chair Bill McKee called the meeting to order after verifying that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes: *Commissioner George Cate, Jr. moved to approve the minutes from the March meeting as written. Commissioner Clay Bailey seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

HISTORIC MARKERS- Tara Mielnik

Tara Mielnik presented the text for a Richland Park marker. The marker Committee recommended approval of this marker, which is to be funded by the Richland Neighbors. After brief discussion the marker was unanimously approved.

Replacement markers are to be ordered for Nashville Academy of Medicine and McConnell Field. The marker for Nashville Academy of Medicine is to be fully paid for with Capital Expense funds appropriated for this purpose. Half the expense of the McConnell Field marker is to be paid by the same West Nashville organization as the new markers approved earlier. The other half will also be paid from the MHC Capital Expense funds. *Commissioner Bob Allen made a motion to approve this purchase and Clay Bailey seconded. Motion was approved.*

Chair McKee asked Tim Walker and Commissioner David Currey to discuss the efforts to preserve the Cordell Hull Building, which is National Register eligible, from possible demolition. Mr. Walker said that he, Mr. Curry, and representatives from the Tennessee Historical Commission, Tennessee Preservation Trust, Historic Nashville, Inc., and Christine Kreyling, who had recently written an article on the building for the Nashville Scene, had been given a tour of the building by State Representative Mark Pody and members of the building staff and State General Services. The building is architecturally unique, has extensive use of Tennessee marble throughout, and four groupings of integrated exterior sculpture by renowned artist Puryear Mims. The found the building to be structurally sound and in fair to good condition, making it an excellent candidate for renovation. All those present at the meeting intended to contact their local and state representatives and civic leaders, to ask for their support in looking for options to save the building.

PRESERVATION AWARDS- *Scarlett Miles*

Scarlett Miles gave a recap on plans for the 2013 Preservation Awards program.

- Judging was scheduled for the following day, April 16. Judges are Patrick McIntyre (Tennessee Historical Commission) Anne-Leslie Owens, (MTSU's Center for Historic Preservation), and Joni Priest (Metro Planning Commission).
- The program will be held May 29th, at 4:30 p.m. at the Nashville Public Library, with reception to follow at the Rymer Gallery on 5th Avenue North.
- Special Awards (recap):
Leadership Award in History – (former) Vice-Mayor George H. Cate, Jr.
Achievement Award – Ann Tidwell
Commissioners' Award – Barry Walker and Marathon Village

METRO 50TH COMMEMORATION REPORT- *Geo. Cate, Jr.*

Metro Government's 50th Birthday Party, which was held on April 6 on the Historic Courthouse lawn, was a huge success. Several former Metro Council members were present to talk with persons interested in city government history. The various displays, live music and food, combined with the great weather brought out a large, enthusiastic crowd. *Several commissioners commented on the event, the music, the history tent, and particularly on the panels of Nashville's timeline.*

Mr. Walker mentioned that he truly appreciated the commissioners and staff who were in attendance.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT- *Tim Walker*

Mr. Walker began his report by mentioning that the proposed new Neighborhood Conservation Overlay district in Salemtown was up for its third and final reading at Metro Council that same evening (April 15). Its approval will add several hundred additional properties to the Historic Zoning program. Walker and his staff are working the Planning Commission to designate the cathedral on West End, the stone house on Oman Street, and several homes on the 1800 block of Hayes Street as Historic Landmark Districts.

Milner & Associates had been hired and would begin working soon on the historic structures report on Fort Negley. The project is funded by a grant from the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area (TCWNHA). Commissioner Bailey mentioned that a charter has been submitted for the non-profit Fort Negley Friends' Group and prospective board members had already begun meeting.

Commissioner Currey and his team have been hired as consultants on the Fort Negley restoration project. They are beginning to work on plans and Walker said he had attended two meetings on the project.

Mr. Walker continued his report by thanking commissioners who attended MHC's budget hearing with Mayor Dean. Thirteen commissioners from both MHC and MHZC were there and he was sure the mayor and his staff had taken notice of their support. The follow-up hearing with Metro Council would take place on May 30th at 4:30 in the afternoon and he hoped as many or more would plan to attend.

The TCWNHA has also funded a project to write a brochure on Civil War sites and noted people of that time. A kick-off event is planned on May 17 at Travellers Rest Plantation to promote the brochure. Attendance is by invitation only, but all commissioners would be invited and were encouraged to attend. A related series of

lectures is scheduled at six historic sites in Nashville, beginning May 21. Dan Pomeroy will present "The Unionists" at Glen Leven Farm, 4000 Franklin Road. The series will continue on the third Tuesday of each month, May through October, 2013; from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. the lectures are free and open to the public.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Currey mentioned that this year's Tennessee Preservation Trust conference was to be held in Cookeville and was coming up in May. The theme of this year's event is *Expanding Visions in Preservation*.

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

Submitted by

Yvonne Ogren

April 9, 2013