

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)
MINUTES

June 17, 2013

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on June 17, 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, Clay Bailey, George Cate, Jr.*, Don Cusic, Jim Hoobler, Lynn McDonald, Mark Rogers, and Linda Wynn. Lula Brooks, Holly Conner, David Currey and Gerry Searcy were not present. County Historian Carole Bucy* was also in attendance.

Guests Present: Carolyn Sullivan, Barbara Franklin

Staff Members Present: Tim Walker, Tara Mielnik, Scarlett Miles, Yvonne Ogren, Robin Zeigler, and MHC intern Denise Gallagher.

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

Approval of Minutes: *Commissioner Bob Allen moved to approve the minutes from the May meeting as written. Commissioner Linda Wynn seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

PRESENTATION ON DR. CLARA P. MCGAVOCK - Carolyn Sullivan, Barbara Franklin

Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Franklin have addressed the commission to talk about their recently published biography, Dr. Clara C. Plimpton McGavock, An Unlikely Mistress of Two Rivers. A synopsis:

Dr. C. P. McGavock (1840-1904), was one of Nashville's first female physicians. She married Frank McGavock, owner of Two Rivers Farm, in 1896. During a time of economic hardship, the farm was sold to a neighbor to repay debt, but Dr. McGavock later paid the debt and reclaimed the home and grounds for the McGavock family.

Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Franklin presented a copy of the publication to Tim Walker for the Historical Commission's reference library.

**Dr. Carole Bucy and Commissioner George Cate, Jr. joined the meeting at this time.*

FY14 BUDGET HEARING, MHC STATUS - Tim Walker

MHC's budget hearing at Metro Council took place on May 30th at 4:30 in the afternoon. Mr. Walker thanked the commissioners for their support in contacting the Mayor and their Council members, and especially those attended the Council meeting. He reported that the final budget approved for MHC by Metro Council includes funds for the ongoing Civil War Sesquicentennial commemoration, and a budget increase to hire an additional

HP1 staff position. That position is now awaiting approval from the Office of Management and Budget. A recommendation from the Civil Service Commission to reinstate incremental raises for Metro employees was also approved by Council. Funding for increments must come from each department's existing budget.

The MHC/MHZC office will remain in the Sunnyside mansion, however, when the One-Stop Shop for permits is completed in the Metro Office Building, Historic Zoning will be required to have one staff person in that location.

HISTORIC MARKERS- Tara Mielnik

Staff member Tara Mielnik presented text for three historic markers. The Marker Committee recommended approval of a replacement marker for McConnell Field and two new markers, one for Jack Clement Recording Studios, and the other for Cockrill School. [The commission voted unanimously for approval of the McConnell Field and Cockrill School markers.](#)

After much discussion, [Commissioner Cusic moved to defer the Jack Clement Recording Studios](#) marker to a later meeting to allow time for further research. This was seconded by Jim Hoobler. The motion to defer was approved by the Commission.

PRESERVATION AWARDS- Scarlett Miles

Staff member Scarlett Miles thanked everyone involved with the awards program process. Special thanks were mentioned for Historic Nashville, Inc. who co-sponsored the reception and to the Rymer Gallery. Highlights of the program were the award presentations to Commissioner and Vice-Mayor George Cate, Jr. and to Barry Walker and Marathon Village. Mrs. Miles commented that MHC intern Samantha Bruer had been a great help preparing the PowerPoint presentation and countless other behind-the-scenes tasks in preparing for the event.

Tim Walker introduced current MHC intern, Denise Gallagher, who is working on her Master's Degree in Historic Preservation at MTSU. Ms. Gallagher has been assisting the staff by updating the office library database, the community plan update, and may also be working on a National Register nomination during her tenure with MHC.

SESQUICENTENNIAL REPORT- Jim Hoobler

Commissioner Hoobler plans to set up a meeting soon with parties involved in preparing for the 2014 event commemorating the Battle of Nashville.

Mr. Hoobler also mentioned that the General Assembly has charged the Secretary of State to prepare a video of the history of the Tennessee State Capitol. The video will be screened on Thursday, June 27th, at 10:00 am at the Nashville Public Library. Coffee was to be served at 9:30. Anyone interested was invited.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT- Tim Walker

Mr. Walker reported that he has been working with several state legislators to save the Cordell Hull Building from demolition. Walker has contacted members of the Davidson County delegation, and several members were to meet him the next morning at the building for a tour. Support for saving the building is growing and the contract for the demolition is also being challenged which may further delay the demolition.

Reports that the building is suffering from severe water damage and foundation problems are exaggerated, as the vast majority of water problems are confined to the 3-story Central Services building which is attached to Cordell Hull, and which is not considered historic.

Much discussion followed, and several suggestions were given as to whom in state government would be likely supporters in this effort.

Mr. Walker reported that David Currey and his team with Encore Interpretive are working on the master plan for the re-construction and interpretive center at Fort Nashborough. The DAR would be consulted for their approval at every stage of the plan. The fort is likely to be reconstructed in the same site but will be more historically accurate. Questions were raised about artifacts that were once on display in the fort, and about excavation of the site for new construction. Commissioner (former Council member) Jim Forkum sponsored a resolution a few years earlier giving the Historical Commission responsibility for any archaeological artifacts that are discovered in property undergoing construction under a Metro contract.

Other Civil War events were mentioned that would be taking place in the following weeks:

- Clay Bailey mentioned that the Friends of Fort Negley group would be sponsoring a Juneteenth celebration event at Fort Negley, with speakers and live music.
- Dr. Carole Bucy mentioned the next lecture in the Civil War Stories series, which would be on June 18th at Clover Bottom. Dr. Bobby Lovett will be the guest speaker.

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

Respectfully submitted by

Yvonne Ogren

June 17, 2013