



METROPOLITAN  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)  
MINUTES

April 16, 2018

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on April 16, 2018, in the conference room of the Metro Historical Commission office at 3000 Granny White Pike, with Commission Chair Jim Forkum presiding.

**Commissioners Present:** Jim Forkum, Chair; Bob Allen, Dr. Clay Bailey, Menié Bell, Alex Buchanan, Dr. Don Cusic, Lynne Holliday, Lynn Maddox, Mark Rogers, Gerry Searcy, Linda Wynn were present. Richard Courtney (Resigned), Jim Hoobler, Dr. Bill Hardin and Dr. Bill McKee did not attend. Also attending was Dr. Carole Bucy, Davidson County Historian.

**Guests Present:** NA

**Staff Members Present:** Caroline Eller, Melissa Baldock, Scarlett Miles, Paula Person, Melissa Sajid, Tim Walker, Fred Zahn and Robin Zeigler were present.

Chair Jim Forkum called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. after verifying that a quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Jim Forkum**

Jim Forkum verified that a quorum was present and asked for approval of the February and March minutes. Clay Bailey gave a motion to approve with Bob Allen provided a second and the February and March minutes were unanimously approved.

**HISTORIC MARKERS– Jessica Reeves & Caroline Eller**

Caroline Eller presented the following updates; the contract for the marker project has been awarded to SEWAH Studios who is the current manufacturer. Contract negotiations will take place this week; we are hoping to start placing orders for markers by the end of this month. We are on track for the project to be completed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019. The HCA HealthCare marker will be placed in the first week of May during Nurse's Appreciation Week; the exact date will be emailed to everyone so that you can make plans to attend. We will be presenting to the advisory council for the Mayor's Office of New Americans in May. It will be a new partnership to get their input on ideas for Nashville's immigrant communities, which goes along with marker priority number 5, markers for underrepresented areas of history. We will have some MTSU graduate interns here doing a marker assessment survey in late May and early June. The assessments will give updated photographs and locations for all the markers and let us know if anything needs to be added to the priority list, missing or damaged markers. We have 4 current quarterly markers to review today, they are as follows:

**Revised- Heaton Station**

This marker has been knocked over several times and a neighbor brought us the damaged marker. We are hoping to get permission from the owners to place the marker in a grassy area for better visibility. We do have permission from Metro Parks to place it in Lock One Park as a backup plan.

Heaton Station (also called Old Heaton Station, Eaton Station, and Heatonburg) was founded by Amos Heaton after arriving here with James Robertson in December 1779. Others founded stations in the surrounding area: Fort Union, Freeland, Nashborough, Stones River, Mansker, Asher, and Bledsoe. By 1783, only two stations

remained, Heaton and Nashborough. The Heaton family moved west in 1786 to New Heaton Station, along the present-day Eaton Creek area of Whites Creek.

470 characters and spaces

Location: Lock Rd. and Baptist World Center Dr.

#### Revised- Site of First Store

Additional research shows that this store was located at the corner of 2nd and Banks St. Mr. Clark was suing customers for unpaid bills in 1783; the text on this marker needs to be corrected with the date. We further took the opportunity to expand the text to tell more about Mr. Clark and the goods he sold. It will be placed back in its original place alongside the building on the northeast corner of 2nd and Banks St.

Lardner Clark, “Merchant and Ordinary Keeper,” came from Philadelphia, Penn. in the early 1780s with ten horses packed with goods to sell. He established Nashville’s first dry goods store by 1783, on a site 30 yards east. Clark sold calicoes, unbleached muslin, thimbles, pins, liquors, and provender for horses. Many customers traded pelts and furs for his goods. The building—which served as a store, tavern, and dwelling—faced south and was known as “the house with the piazza.”

480 characters and spaces

Location: corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave N and Bank St. (on building)

#### Revised- Devon Farm

This two-story brick house was built by Giles Harding, who purchased the land in 1798. His son, David Morris Harding, inherited the house in 1810 and named it Oak Hill. In 1816, David married Fanny Davis, a daughter of early surveyor John Davis. The house passed to Fanny’s nephew—Edward Dickson Hicks II—in 1865. Hicks was a well-known breeder of Devon cattle, and he renamed the estate Devon Farm. The house was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

473 characters and spaces

Location: Ensworth campus, 7401 TN-100

#### District 11- Old Hickory Works

In Jan. 1918, the area known as Hadley Bend was purchased by the U.S. government to build a smokeless gunpowder factory to supply the Allied troops during World War I. The contract for the plant—called the Old Hickory Works—was awarded to DuPont Co. Over 7 miles of rail were laid to connect the plant to Hermitage Station, bringing in about 31,000 passengers daily. The almost 5,000 acre property started at the Cumberland River and reached to what is now the Hermitage Golf Course.

483 characters and spaces

Location: Old Hickory Blvd. near Montchanin Dr. (across from Hermitage Golf Course, in front of the new branch of the Old Hickory Credit Union)

Discussion was held over the verbiage on the marker for Heaton Station (others founded stations) the conclusion was to change the wording to (stations founded by others includes) Jim Forkum gave a motion to approve markers with the correction, Don Cusic provided a second, all were in favor. Tim Walker added that we

will be negotiating the contract with Sewah, their pricing was lower than what we currently paid which would provide an additional 8 to 10 markers.

#### **Preservation Awards – Scarlett Miles**

We did not have a quorum last month, everybody voted by email for the committee nominations for Jean Roseman to receive the Fletch Coke award, Lorenzo Washington to receive the Achievement Award and the Friends of Fort Negley to receive the Commissioners Award. We are confirmed with the Mayor, Metro Nashville Network for video, Metro Photographer and our reception site for Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 pm. Invitations will be going out shortly and we had 35 nominations for the Preservation Awards this year. Jim Forkum inquired if Mr. Washington had responded, to which Scarlett informed that Mr. Washington had been contacted and is very excited. Judging is this Thursday; the white van will be out and about. Discussion was held that we might want to include a second media release emphasizing the Mayor will be in attendance. Tim Walker added that the Noelle will be donating their space on the main floor to us; it is more expensive since we are using a caterer but they are giving us a break on the reception as well.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Tim Walker**

Richard Courtney has regretfully resigned his position; the Mayor is appointing E. Thomas Wood as his a replacement. Don Cusic was re-appointed for another term and we are excited about his re-appointment. The MHC Foundation fundraising event which is being called Back to Cuba, will take place at Grassmere on June 7<sup>th</sup>. It takes place from 5:30 pm until 7:30 pm; cost is \$125.00 per ticket. Ann Eaden wrote a letter to commission members regarding the particulars of the event, which you should be receiving by mail soon. Jim Forkum, Menié Bell and I spoke with the Mayor about the Historic Preservation Grant Fund and expressed our desire that it being funded. We also discussed the Ft. Negley Park Cultural Landscape Report, MHZC's proposed changes to the guidelines for the three local districts located downtown, and the Music Row development threat. The meeting went very well and was positive with the Mayor being receptive and engaged in the discussion. The Memorial Day Dash, the annual NCCA fundraising event, will be held May 28<sup>th</sup>. Planning has scheduled another Music Row stakeholder meeting at Starstruck on Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of March at 10:00 am. We are continuing to make progress with the proposed rehab of Sunnyside, and are continuing to meet with DAAD Architecture and the Parks department. Caroline spoke with one of the Granville/Sevier descendants (Ian Byington living in British Columbia) who provided historical photos which date back to 1929. He was been very willing to talk and work with Caroline by providing family journals, scrapbooks and additional historical records that will assist in dating items for the rehab and for updating the National Register Nomination. Sean Alexander will be assisting a lot with the Ft Negley Park Cultural Landscape Report; it was awarded to Encore Interpretive for \$175,000. We are approximately \$60,000 short of the bid and are in talks with the Mayor about funding the deficit. The contract will be completed in phases; Clay Bailey has been speaking with Kix Brooks who will be coming in to meet with me tomorrow; he also plans to meet with the Parks Director Monique Odom. Mr. Brooks would like to assist in raising the funds for repairing Fort Negley.

#### **MHC 2018 – 19 Budget and Hearings – Tim Walker**

The budget hearing with Metro Council will be held Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> - please be there at 4:00 pm. We will reimburse you for parking as it can be rather costly; ex-council members do not have to pay for parking.

#### **HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – Robin Zeigler**

New landmark districts are as follows: Ivy hall on Shelton in Inglewood is moving forward this month and next month we expect one for the Frost Building. There is also interest in a possible district in the College Hill neighborhood which is next to TSU; it is in the very early stages. This would be our only mid-century architecture and hopefully it will go through.

#### **STAFF REPORTS**

Staff members had nothing to report.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Jim Forkum spoke with David Smith who complemented Melissa Baldock and Fred Zahn on the great work they have done for him. Today in history marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the East Nashville tornado. Lynn Maddox recognized Fred Zahn and his son on their hard work with the Ft. Negley event /Predators Kids Club; they brought their fossil collection which was a huge success. The Living History Tour is scheduled for Saturday before Halloween; we are looking at adding a night time tour while keeping the 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm tour. Events are placed in the newsletter, Metro 3 and on Facebook. May 12<sup>th</sup>, a women's walking tour fundraiser will take place starting at the Supreme Court and coming back around, it is \$25.00 per person. On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Carole Bucy will be presenting at Fort Negley on Woman's' Suffrage. Winston Churchill Society of Tennessee had their symposium and concert, with Randolph Churchill (great grandson of Winston Churchill) reading an excerpt from one of his speeches. If you know anyone who would like to be a sponsor or donate to the Memorial Day Dash being held on May 28th please let Clay or Lynn know. This year's Memorial Day Dash will honor the President of the Nashville Striders, Peter Pressman, who recently passed away. Dr. Mary Ellen Patel's book *Athens of The New South* is out, please support her by making a purchase the book is available at Barnes and Noble.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:58 pm.  
Respectfully submitted June 6, 2018.

*Paula R. Person*