

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)
MINUTES

[February 24, 2014](#)

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on February 24, 2014, in the conference room of the Historical Commission office at 3000 Granny White Pike, with Commission Chair Bill McKee presiding.

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

Guests Present: Dr. Carole Bucy

Staff Members Present: Tim Walker, Sean Alexander, Melissa Baldock, Paul Hoffman, Scarlett Miles, Yvonne Ogren

Chair Bill McKee called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm, after verifying that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes: Bob Allen moved to approve the minutes from the January meeting as written. Menié Bell seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

CORDELL HULL BUILDING UPDATE – *Tim Walker, MHC director*

Mr. Walker reported that he, Dr. McKee, and David Currey (representing Tennessee Preservation Trust), met with State Representative Pody on February 10th, to make arrangements for delivery to the Governor's office, of the petition to save the building. Media will be informed and Walker is hopeful that 100-200 persons will attend the gathering in support. Several commissioners mentioned that they planned to attend.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE CONFERENCE Report – *Linda Wynn*

Commissioner Wynn reported that the 2014 conference was very successful and well-attended. Wynn commended Don Cusic for his presentation on James Weldon Johnson and thanked the commissioners who were able to attend.

PRESERVATION AWARDS, Achievement and Commissioners' Awards – *Holly Conner*

Commissioner Conner, representing the Nominations Committee, brought the following recommendations to the table for Commission approval:

[Achievement Award- Paul Clements](#)

[Commissioners' Award- Native History Association](#)

After brief discussion, Chair McKee called for a vote. The award recipients were approved unanimously.

Some discussion followed regarding the procedures for special award nominations, as well as property award recipients. Further discussion may be brought to a future meeting.

OPEN HOUSE – Lynn Maddox

The Open House is scheduled for February 27th. All arrangements have been covered and commissioners were urged to attend.

NASHVILLE ENCYCLOPEDIA – Dr. Carole Bucy

Dr. Bucy gave an update on the Encyclopedia, reporting that the Mayor's liaison, Ashley Daugherty, had been re-appointed to a position at the Health Department and that Robin Veenstra-VanderWeele would be the liaison for the encyclopedia from this point forward. Initially, after Ms. Daugherty's transfer was announced, full responsibility for correspondence and coordination of encyclopedia matters had been given over to the MHC staff, however, some responsibilities have been rearranged to alleviate the workload.

The first entries were due by January 31, 2014, and some had been submitted, though not as many as hoped. Meetings had taken place to clarify guidelines and expectations for editors and writers. The committee hopes to have 1,000 or more entries when the website goes live at the end of 2014, or early 2015. An ad requesting volunteer writers will be run in the March issue of *The Nashville Retrospect*.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Tim Walker

- We have completed our FY15 budget submission, with the 3% reduction scenario that all Metro departments have been asked to provide. For the MHC, this is over \$20,000 and, if implemented, would require that a staff member be laid off before the end of FY15. It would be a great burden on the staff, given the number of properties currently reviewed by the MHZC staff and the number of neighborhoods seeking overlay protection.
- MHC's Capital Improvement Budget request was submitted January 28th, with requests for funds to complete the Fort Nashborough project; critical repairs at Fort Negley to alleviate the structural problems found in the recent historic structures report; repairs at the City Cemetery, and funds to repair and rebuild Sunnyside.
- Forest Hills Mayor Bill Coke's initiative to raise funds for Kellytown has been well-received. To date, over \$450,000 has been raised.
- The Old House Fair is coming up on March 8th, and encouraged all commissioners to attend.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Hoobler mentioned he had been given word that Hillwood and Hillsboro High Schools may both be under consideration for demolition. One or both may be National Register eligible. Mr. Walker plans to contact the Planning Commission for more information before the March meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted by

Yvonne Ogren

March 11, 2014