



METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)  
MINUTES

July 18, 2016

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on July 18, 2016, in the conference room of the Historical Commission office at 3000 Granny White Pike, with Commission Chair Jim Forkum presiding.

**Commissioners Present:** Jim Forkum, Chair; Clay Bailey, Vice-Chair, Bob Allen, Menié Bell, Alex Buchanan, David Currey, Don Cusic, Lynn Maddox, Dr. Bill McKee, Mark Rogers, Gerry Searcy, and Linda Wynn were present. Dr. Carole Bucy also attended. Pat Cummins, Bill Hardin, and Jim Hoobler did not attend.

**Staff Members Present:** Tim Walker, Sean Alexander, Scarlett Miles, Yvonne Ogren, Melissa Sajid, Fred Zahn and Robin Zeigler. Intern Ryan Jarles

Chair Jim Forkum called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m., after verifying that a quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Jim Forkum**

Jim Forkum asked if there were any amendments or questions regarding the minutes from the June 2016 meeting. Bob Allen made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Bill McKee seconded and the commission voted to approve them unanimously.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Tim Walker**

Walker mentioned that on Tuesday, July 19, the Historical Commission office would be receiving the Giers-Hicks glass plate negatives and two sets of prints that had been made from them. They will be stored here until Metro Archives is able to take and document and store them permanently. In 1976, Metro appropriated funds to restore and catalog them, and the property owner who owned the negatives had signed a contract with Metro that upon her passing, the negatives would be gifted to Metro. The family of Sarah Hicks will get to keep one set of the prints as part of the transfer agreement.

Metro Parks has put out an RFQ to hire a stonemason to make repairs on stone walls at Fort Negley and other Metro parks that have sections of historic walls standing. They would like to have a 5-year contract with a professional skilled in this type work to repair and maintain them in parks and greenways. The first priority will be the repair of the entry to the fort and its interpretive signage area. They expect to have someone hired in the next 2-3 months.

At Tim Walker's request, David Currey reported that the first draft of the Master Plan for Two Rivers Mansion will be complete sometime around the first of August (2016). It is a very involved process, as a greenway is incorporated in the plan, and 14 acres of land encompassing the house and grounds. The plan will include recommendations for renovations, and possibly plans for construction of new facilities and adaptive reuse of

the property. The Friends of Two Rivers is covering the match for the grant which made the Master Plan study possible. The group has been well supported and many of the recommendations from the plan could be implemented in a short time after approval.

David Currey also reported that the first phase of work has begun at Fort Nashborough to rebuild the buildings and the interpretive plan outside. The first phase only includes construction of the buildings, and Phase Two will be the build-out of the interiors. Construction of the first buildings may be completed as early as September.

Walker reported that he had met with Council Member VanReece and State Representatives Gilmore, Jones and Beck and a group of members of the state General Services and state architect's office and the State Building Commission regarding the Masonic Home for the Aged and the Masonic Boys' Home adjacent to it. It ended very positively. Council member VanReece has set up a meeting with the administration to discuss ways that the city could partner with them to preserve the buildings or for a land swap. Metro Parks would like to have the site and buildings to create another park in an underserved area.

The MHC Foundation is actively seeking new members. Walker asked the commissioners to suggest anyone they thought would like to serve. The group has done a lot of good work and has been a channel for a number of grants and donations to assist the MHC office in preservation projects.

The Arts Commission has contacted the MHC office for our assistance with public art projects, such as monuments and memorials that are history-related. Tara has been working with some of their staff members to develop policies that would apply on these projects when the two commissions are working together. This may involve establishing a separate committee of the MHC to review these projects for historic accuracy, similar to the way markers are currently reviewed.

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

Ms. Zeigler mentioned there have been three interns working primarily with historic zoning staff this summer. Ava DiNella, Jenna Stout and Ryan Jarles have been a great help in several capacities. Everyone is very appreciative of their hard work.

Staff is working with Germantown constituents on some simple updates to the guidelines that apply to the Germantown historic preservation district. They would be administrative changes and have nothing to do with the specific historic zoning requirements.

MHZA commissioner Richard Fletcher was not re-appointed to the Historic Zoning commission this month, and Elizabeth Mayhall will be taking his place.

Tim Walker called attention to a report the commissioners had been given. This was the annual report of the number of historic zoning permits issued. A new Metro-wide permitting system which changes the way permits are counted has just been implemented, so the report does not reflect an actual comparison to the previous year.

#### **STAFF REPORTS**

Scarlett Miles mentioned that Historic Nashville, Inc. and Tennessee Preservation Trust are both accepting nominations for their respective endangered properties lists, Nashville Nine and Ten in Tennessee. She encouraged commissioners to think of historic properties in the areas where they live and work and consider nominating properties that in danger of demolition or deterioration by neglect.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mark Rogers suggested that written materials or information on the historic places in Nashville could be provided to local Uber and Lift drivers. This could also be shared with owners of Air B & Bs. After some

discussion, Tim Walker said he would follow up on that suggestion and report back at the next meeting. Dr. Carole Bucy also said she would help with putting some information together.

David Currey reported that the firm of Hodgson-Douglas, LLC has been working on a Master Plan for the Kellytown site and the first draft of that plan should be prepared in about six weeks. A public presentation of the plan is likely to be given after the report is complete.

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

Respectfully submitted August 10, 2016.

*Yvonne Ogren*