

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)  
MINUTES  
July 15, 2019

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on July 15, 2019, 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, Menié Bell, Christopher Cotton, Michelle Hall, Jim Hoobler, Lynn Maddox, Mark Rogers, Gerry Searcy, E. Thomas Wood, Linda Wynn **were present**. Davis Acker, Dr. Clay Bailey, Dr. Don Cusic, Dr. Bill McKee, and County Historian Dr. Carole Bucy **did not attend**.

**Guests Present:** Karen Hoff (MHZC Intern)

**Staff Members Present:** Tim Walker, Sean Alexander, Caroline Eller, Scarlett Miles, Jessica Reeves, Melissa Sajid, Fred Zahn and Robin Zeigler were present.

Chair Jim Forkum called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. after verifying that a quorum was present. Tim Walker opened with an introduction of Karen Hoff who is interning with the Historic Zoning Commission. Ms. Hoff said she is happy to be here and is learning a lot.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Jim Forkum**

Jim Forkum asked for approval of the June minutes. Menié Bell made a motion to approve, Linda Wynn provided a second, and the June minutes were unanimously approved.

**HISTORICAL MARKERS – Jessica Reeves and Caroline Eller**

Jessica Reeves stated that the guest from Burton Hills would not be attending. There are four quarterly markers and two privately funded markers up for review. We have three districts remaining in the Marker Project and those will be completed next month then we will be finished. The first marker is for Percy Priest Lake in District 29 and it combines several topics. The marker will be placed in Smith Springs Park on Smith Springs Road. Council member Delishia Porterfield received public feedback on her Facebook page in support of this marker. Mark Rogers asked if the word “destroyed” could be changed and Michelle Hall suggested it be changed to “demolished.” There was some discussion about other history related to Percy Priest. Jim Hoobler made a motion to approve with this change, Linda Wynn seconded, and the marker was unanimously approved. The next marker is for Alfred Z. Kelley and was selected by District 31 Council member Fabian Bedne. This marker will be placed at A.Z. Kelley Elementary School on Pettus Road. The school principal has been involved and wants to include the Kelley family in the dedication. Linda Wynn made a motion to approve, Lynn Maddox provided a second, and the marker was unanimously approved. The next marker is for Antioch High School in District 32 and was selected by Council member Jacobia Dowell. The marker will be placed at Antioch Middle School, the former high school on Blue Hole Road. Commissioner Forkum stated that he graduated from this school in 1966. Lynn Maddox made a motion to approve, Jim Hoobler provided a second, and the marker was unanimously approved. The next marker is for the Olive Branch Missionary Baptist Church in District 33. The marker topic was selected by Council member Antoinette Lee and the marker will be placed at St. Kyrillos Coptic Orthodox Church on Cane Ridge Road. The Olive Branch Cemetery is still located behind the current church. Jim Hoobler made a motion to approve, Lynn Maddox provided a second, and the marker was unanimously approved. There are two markers being privately funded by Capitol View Development. The first marker is for Nelson Merry and will be located at 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and Nelson Merry Street. The second marker is for Juno Frankie Pierce and will be located at 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and Lifeway Plaza. There will be a new park named for Frankie Pierce that is being done as part of a public-private partnership with Metro Parks and the developer. The Nelson Merry text was first drafted by Kelley Miller Smith, Jr. from First Baptist Church Capitol Hill. Tim Walker stated that the park is already under construction in between the railroad track split.

There was brief discussion about the wording “his widowed mistress” and if it was clear as written. Jim Hoobler made a motion to approve, Linda Wynn provided a second, and the marker was unanimously approved. The last marker is for Juno Frankie Pierce. There is a state historical marker for Frankie Pierce in North Nashville near the vocational school she was involved with. This marker talks more about her suffrage work. There was brief discussion about the wording of “most” women being given the right to vote. The funding party asked to omit the qualifier. There was brief discussion about which groups of women were not included in the right to vote. Commissioners Wynn and Hoobler stated that both Native American and Asian American women were not included in the right to vote and that the wording as stated is historically accurate. Lynn Maddox made a motion to accept the text as written, Christopher Cotton provided a second, and the marker was unanimously approved. There are four upcoming marker ceremonies this week and next week for Rev. Bill Barnes; Club Baron; Josephine Holloway/Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee, our 200<sup>th</sup> marker; and Belmont Church and Koinonia Café/Contemporary Christian Music. Mayor Briley is attending most of these ceremonies. Jim Forkum expressed his appreciation for the staff work on the markers.

#### **MHC BUDGET UPDATE – Tim Walker**

Tim Walker stated that there was some good news related to the budget. He thanked the commissioners that have reached out regarding the budget deficit. We ended the year \$18,000 shy of meeting the \$28,900 requested budget savings goal. We were within our budget approved by Council but did not meet that savings target. The Assistant Finance Director spoke to our financial advisor Alicia Viramouth and they decided to change our savings goal to \$10,000 therefore we met it. The report going to Council will show that we met that savings goal. Tim expressed appreciation for the assistance from Chris Harmon, the Assistant Finance Director. The mayor’s budget was approved so our budget does not change. Expenses like increased internet cost and software renewals that have never been funded are still not funded which put us at a deficit. The same \$28,900 savings goal is also required for this year. Tim will be meeting with Finance this week to discuss how we will meet that goal and what expenses we are cutting. There will be some salary savings that will be put toward that and our travel budget and the remainder will come from the \$25,000 operating budget that we have for repairs to the City Cemetery.

Chair Forkum put before the board that he will be completing the evaluation form for Tim Walker and asked the board for an approval of his recommendation for a 2% raise. E. Thomas Wood stated that the commission should do a greater increase when that is possible in the future and Chair Forkum agreed. Tim Walker stated that staff is getting a 2% raise and he would not want to take more than that. Christopher Cotton asked if the overall budget includes staff salary and Tim’s salary and Tim Walker responded that it does. Tim Walker said that the money given for these increases can only be used for that purpose and cannot go towards the savings goal. Chair Forkum said he will include a recommendation for a further increase on Tim Walker’s evaluation form. There was brief additional discussion about how salary increases are funded within Metro.

Menié Bell asked how we are going to meet the shortage on internet. Tim Walker responded that in addition to the \$28,900 we are also cutting another \$10,000 to cover software renewals and increased internet. We are given money for travel and training that has not been utilized for a few years in order to cover those other expenses. There will be some additional money from the position being vacant and unfortunately beyond the \$25,000 for repairs at City Cemetery there is nothing else to cut. There are some fluctuating costs like the NES bill. Menié Bell asked if there is any assistance from the Metro Historical Commission Foundation, Tim Walker said there may be and he will bring it up with them on Thursday night, when they will be looking at their next budget cycle. Menié Bell asked if it is possible that donors could go to the MHCF and tag their donations for a specific expense like internet. Tim said this is an expense that should be covered by Metro not private donors. Menié Bell commented about the deteriorating condition of Sunnyside. There was a discussion about donations and how or if those could be accepted by Metro government.

Chair Forkum asked for a motion to approve the increase for Tim Walker. E. Thomas Wood made a motion to approve, Jim Hoobler provided a second, and the commission unanimously approved.

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

Tim Walker said that we are continuing to make great progress with Nashville Sites. Jessica Reeves and the interns have worked hard to meet the deadlines. Thank you to Linda and Jim. Jessica Reeves said that we are launching in November of this year with 22 or 23 tours; we had 10 at the start of summer and will have about 20 completed by the end of August. Linda Wynn and Jim Hoobler helped with writing, editing and recording the

tours. Thank you to the commission for your support. We will have a soft launch ahead of the November launch and we will let the commission know when its live. Christopher Cotton asked how this project is funded, Tim Walker said it is funded through the MHC Foundation. Steve and Judy Turner, the Convention and Visitors Corporation, The District, and grants from Humanities Tennessee and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area all provided funding. PlaceEconomics and their team are here through tomorrow for the economic impact study project. Tomorrow afternoon they will present to two Council committees, Planning, Zoning and Historical and Convention, Tourism and Public Entertainment Facilities. It will be taped and aired on Metro 3 and we will share that with the commission and public. Thank you to Council member Fabian Bedne for setting up this presentation to the committees. We have begun work on the second phase of the project that will provide recommendations for policies and tools. We have put together several stakeholder groups that have met for this phase and have had good participation. Regarding the administrative assistant position, we have put out a call for applications. We will have 10 or 11 phone interviews this week and Scarlett is assisting with these and reviewing applications. That list will be narrowed down to no more than 5 applicants for in-person interviews. There was a strong candidate pool and of 249 applicants, 99 people made the highest cut. We hope to find someone who can not only manage the office and its finances but who can also engage in the historic work our office does. Thank you, Scarlett, for your help with this. Robin Zeigler and Tim Walker have been working mainly with CM Syracuse on legislation that will be filed later this month or in August. One piece takes the current 90-day delay for NR-listed, NRE and pre-1865 properties and expands the delay to 120 days. We usually do not hold up demolitions for the 90 days unless the Council member requests it. It would be helpful to expand this; other cities have longer 180-day delays so we want to follow suit. The other piece of legislation would define that when something is demolished when more documentation and salvage would be required and what that documentation is. Regarding the 1812 Broadway project, we have been working with the Mayor's Office and Barry Walker. We will likely have a follow-up meeting next week. In talking with the Mayor's Office, Nashville Electric Service is trying to provide more assistance in moving it at a lower cost and there are fewer obstructions than when we looked at it a few years ago, so we are hopeful that project may happen. The House of Manuel building at 1922 Broadway is unfortunately going to come down. It is a more difficult project than the 1812 building and is not as architecturally significant. Vanderbilt's campus architect Keith Loiseau is working to put in a program with Vanderbilt students for salvage of that building. Last week we received a letter that the administration got from 12 business owners on Broadway. The letter is long and very critical of several departments including Public Works, Metro Police, and this department. They are mainly the players who have done work without permits that we have taken to court. We will have a stakeholder meeting in the Mayor's Office on Friday, details will be sent to the Commission. There was brief discussion about the signatories on the letter. Mark Rogers asked if the Commission can receive copies of that letter, we will send those. Jim Forkum mentioned that there are two budget amendments on referendum and asked what we will have to do regarding efficiency reporting. Tim Walker said he will look at it and email Chair Forkum so we can decide how to respond.

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

We continue to work on the Design Guideline Consolidation Project. Smith Gee and Nashville Civic Design Center have been hired to do the outbuilding portion and are creating a plans book; they hosted a meeting Thursday night that used an interactive system. We are having a community meeting tonight at Midtown Precinct and another on August 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at Lentz Public Health Center; there may be another meeting in August. We hope to take the final document plans book to the commission in September. The Marathon overlay is delayed; we are working on another community meeting with the Council member.

#### **STAFF REPORTS**

Sean Alexander said that Encore, the consulting group hired to write the Cultural Landscape Plan for Fort Negley Park, is finishing that up today so hopefully that will be the final version we can accept and publish. We are reviewing scope of work to receive proposals for phase II archaeology. Jessica Reeves reminded the commission about the upcoming marker ceremonies.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Wood mentioned that some commission appointments end August 1<sup>st</sup> and asked what happens with those. Tim Walker said the Metro Code allows you to serve 60 days past the time your term ends. He has talked with the five commissioners whose terms are ending and expects everyone for the next meeting but possibly not for the September meeting, unless they are reappointed. Menié Bell asked about the start date for the roles of the new Chair and Vice Chair, Tim Walker said it is September by the current bylaws. Lynn Maddox

mentioned that Vanderbilt is destroying one of the four towers that was designed by a famous architect. Bob Allen said the Bellevue History and Genealogy Group is starting up their 14<sup>th</sup> year and needs speakers in August and in July will show the NPT "Chasing the Moon" DVDs. Lynn Maddox mentioned that the Taste of Wedgewood-Houston, a fundraiser for Fort Negley, will be held Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at Jackalope Brewing Company.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted, July 18, 2019.

*Caroline Eller*