



METROPOLITAN  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)  
MINUTES

May 18, 2015

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on May 18, 2015, in the conference room of the Historical Commission office at 3000 Granny White Pike, with Commission Vice-Chair Jim Forkum presiding.

**Commissioners Present:** Jim Forkum, Vice-Chair; Bob Allen, Clay Bailey, Menié Bell, Alex Buchanan, David Currey, Don Cusic, Jim Hoobler, Mark Rogers, Gerry Searcy and Linda Wynn were all present. Dr. Bill McKee, Lula Brooks, Holly Conner, and Lynn Maddox did not attend.

**Staff Members Present:** Tim Walker, Sean Alexander, Tara Mielnik, Scarlett Miles, Yvonne Ogren, Jessica Reeves and Robin Zeigler

**MINUTES-**

Vice-Chair Jim Forkum called the meeting to order and said the first item on the agenda was to determine if there were any amendments, corrections or questions of the minutes from the last regular meeting held on April 20, 2015. With no corrections, nothing further was noted and Bob Allen moved for approval. Jim Hoobler seconded and the Commission approved without objection.

**FY16 BUDGET UPDATE – *Tim Walker***

Mr. Walker gave a report on the Mayor's proposed FY2016 Budget, which did not include funding for the additional position that was requested. He plans to meet with Council Member Bill Pridemore, who is Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, and encouraged the commissioners to talk to other Council members, as well. He reminded the commission of the Council Budget Hearing, set for May 20 at 6:15.

Council Member Anthony Davis from Inglewood wants to amend the Mayor's Budget to allow for the additional staff person. Mr. Walker cited the increased workload, particularly in the historic zoning area, as the rationale behind hiring an additional staff person. Since the current Mayor has been in office, the number of properties reviewed has increased by over 70%. Additionally, Anthony Davis is helping to add two more districts, and an additional 2 districts, including one in 12 South, may also be added.

The Metropolitan Historical Commission, at the beginning of this Mayor's term, had 9.5 employees (including one part-time employee), but currently is staffed by 9 employees. An additional staff person would bring the total to 10 full-time employees. Another architect is needed on staff – therefore, the funds requested are \$10,000 more than the base salary and Metro incentives (\$75,000).

**PRESERVATION AWARDS – *Jessica Reeves***

Ms. Reeves presented a Preservation Awards update. This year saw the largest pool of nominees (60), and the largest number of awards to be given. There will be 28 architectural awards and 3 special awards. Preservation Awards will be held on May 19 from 4:30-6:00pm and commissioners are encouraged to attend. Dr. McKee asked that the front row of the auditorium be reserved for the commission. A reception will be held immediately following the Preservation Awards at the L&C Tower.

*Tim mentioned that Scarlett Miles had returned from maternity leave, and commissioners welcomed her with a round of applause.*

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT – *Tim Walker*

- Downtown library has agreed to do the Music Row oral histories. They currently have set up 5 dates in June and July, but are open to expanding that if there is a need to do so.
- The Friends of Fort Negley group is hosting their annual Memorial Day Observance on May 23. Mr. Walker referred the subject to Commissioner Bailey, who mentioned that an added feature this year will be a Meet-and-Greet with the candidates running for office in the upcoming election. A questionnaire has been distributed to all the mayoral candidates, asking about their views on current preservation issues in Nashville.
- Commissioner Bailey talked about the Memorial Day Dash, which begins at 8am. If anyone is interested in volunteering or participating, speak to him.
- The Friends of Fort Negley did not participate in the Big Payback this year. Commissioners pledged to work together to ensure participation in next year's Big Payback.
- Dr. Mielnik, Ms. Zeigler, and Mr. Walker attended the TPT Conference in Chattanooga this year. Commissioner Currey said that there were approximately 100 people in attendance. People associated with the Highlander Project and New Highlander Facility were present. Another piece of property that was associated with the school in Monteagle has been purchased. The owners of two more properties that were also part of the original campus now want to sell. Next year, the conference will be in Nashville at Opryland in conjunction with TAM. Mr. Walker said that it will be great to focus on the country's more rural areas, as opposed to merely downtown. Commissioner Currey announced that they're planning *Highlander Homecoming* on Saturday, August 1.
- Mr. Walker confirmed that they have received \$250,000 for Fort Negley restoration. He spoke to Collier Engineering, who is working to put together a proposal. Some work should begin this summer.
- Mr. Walker said that they did receive a CLG Grant for \$30,000 to do a master plan of Two Rivers Mansion. He attended an event yesterday to acknowledge a man who has donated \$100,000 and an original 800 pound mirror – he also paid for the restoration of the garden and angel fountain, and is the cousin of the mansion's former owner. Mr. Walker has a meeting with the executive committee in 3 weeks; they will be working on the RFP and someone should be hired in late August.

#### HISTORIC ZONING REPORT- *Robin Zeigler*

Ms. Zeigler reported that there will be 16 properties receiving Historic Landmark status before the end of FY15. 14 of the 16 are owned by Metro, and the remaining 2 are privately owned. There are several areas where council members or neighborhood groups are actively seeking overlay district designation for the neighborhoods. One of these possibilities is an expansion of an existing overlay district.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Mielnik reported that through a grant received last year, they're working with a consultant to complete the National Register nominations of Inglewood and Bluefields, which is located in Donelson. Both of these potentially will become overlay districts and may already be included in Ms. Zeigler's count.

Dr. Mielnik also stated that they will be bringing the national register nomination for RCA Studio A to the State Review Board on Wednesday, May 20. Following the State Review Board meeting, there will also be a meeting about next year's TPT Conference.

Commissioner Allen expressed concern regarding the new Bellevue High School plan. There's a possibility that the Red Caboose Park and DeMoss Cabin may have to be relocated. The school board architects believe that this area should be the football field for the new high school.

Commissioner Cusic mentioned that the International Country Music Conference was this week.

Commissioner Bailey thanked Sean Alexander for being extremely helpful with obtaining permits and certificates necessary for the Memorial Day Dash.

Commissioner Currey said that they are awaiting the outcome of the primary wall at Fort Negley. Skanska already has a wall under construction nearby, and tying into it would be less costly.

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

Respectfully submitted June 10, 2015,

*Yvonne Ogren*