



METROPOLITAN
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)
MINUTES

August 17, 2015

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on August 17, 2015, 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, Alex Buchanan, Pat Cummins, David Currey, Don Cusic, Jim Hoobler, Lynn Maddox, Mark Rogers*, Gerry Searcy, and Linda Wynn were present. Menié Bell and Dr. Bill McKee did not attend.

Staff Members Present: Tim Walker, Scarlett Miles, and Fred Zahn

Guests Present: Holly Conner

Chair Jim Forkum called the meeting to order.

RECOGNITION OF FORMER COMMISSIONER HOLLY CONNER – *Jim Forkum*

Jim Forkum thanked former MHC commissioner Holly Conner for her 8 years of faithful service, and presented her with a certificate of appreciation. Tim Walker also thanked her for being an active member and supporter of the commission and the MHC staff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *Jim Forkum*

Forkum asked if there were any amendments, corrections or questions of the minutes from the meeting. With no corrections, Bob Allen moved for approval. Lynn Maddox seconded and the Commission approved without objection.

MHC FOUNDATION EVENT – *Tim Walker*

Plans are moving forward for the MHC Foundation event, Toasting the Town, that will be held on Wednesday, September 16, on the front lawn at Sunnyside. The main purpose of the event is to publicly announce the release of the book *Nashville Architecture: A Guide to the City*. Speakers are lined up and will begin that portion of the program at 5:45. The event is posted on the calendar for the incoming mayor, whoever that may be. The Sheriff's office will be setting up a tent and all food and beverages have been donated. Copies of the book will be available for purchase with all proceeds at the event going to benefit the MHC Foundation.

ENCYCLOPEDIA PROGRESS REPORT – *Tim Walker*

Tim Walker presented a report written by Dr. Carole Bucy on the status of the Nashville Encyclopedia. *The written report is attached as an addendum to the minutes.*

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – *Tim Walker*

Mr. Walker began with a report on historic zoning, mentioning that the 14 proposed new Historic Landmark properties had been approved at the last council meeting. A new downtown district, to be named the

Downtown District, was set for final reading at the August 18 Council meeting, with full support from the council members. It will pick up six properties in the Printers Alley area. On the same Council agenda is approval for the Welch College Library, which will be another Landmark. Approval for a new commissioner, William Hardin, is also scheduled, as well as reappointments for commissioners Jim Forkum and Lynn Maddox. *Vice-chair Clay Bailey stated that William (Bill) Hardin comes to the commission with a degree in History from Vanderbilt, and also a law degree.*

Mr. Walker said that he and Robin had finalized their interviews for a new historic zoning staff member and had made a job offer to Melissa Sajid, who lives in Nashville and is currently an employee of the Planning Department. She has many years of historic zoning experience both in Middle Tennessee and in the state of Maryland.

Over the past several months, the department has been undergoing an audit of all grants accepted in the last 3 years. The preliminary final report from that audit has come back, with just two items noted. The first was a clerical error in recording the funds. The office is now using the correct accounting procedure and it is no longer an issue. The other item noted was related to a CLG Training Grant the office has received from the Tennessee Historical Commission. In recent years, the department has allowed staff to make the required 40% match out of pocket in order for them to be able to attend conferences out of state. This was the only way to be able to send staff to these conferences, because all funds for travel and training had been cut from the department's budget. It is now a policy that Metro departments are not allowed apply for any grant that cannot be matched from their own department budget, so MHC may not be able to apply for that training grant in the future.

Staff has been working on the survey of Music Row with the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP), other agencies, and the consultants hired on the project. Properties deemed National Register Eligible (NRE) or Worthy of Conservation (WOC) are being documented and loaded into the Planning Commission GIS system. That project should be completed soon; then MHC staff, the NTHP, and their consultant will meet with the Planning Commission staff to review the record before it is released to the public. Owners of NRE properties will be notified and educated about how this may affect their property. That process should be finished before the end of August.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Bob Allen mentioned that it would be necessary to re-assign the committee groups because there are two new commissioners and former commissioner Lula Brooks had passed away and Holly Conner had not been reappointed. This will be brought up as an agenda item in a future meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted September 15, 2015.

Yvonne Ogren

To: Chairman Forkum and MHC Commissioners:

From: Carole Bucy

Date: August 12, 2015

Re: Report on the Status of the Nashville Encyclopedia project

Since Monday, August 17, is the first day for me to report back to Volunteer State in preparation of the fall semester which begins the following week, I am sending you this written report so that all of you know what is going on with the Encyclopedia project.

I want to personally update all of you on the status of the Nashville Encyclopedia. The Encyclopedia's launch has been delayed, but work on it is still ongoing and will continue.

As I reported to you at your June 2015 meeting, the launch of the Encyclopedia will not take place before the end of 2015. I am committed to seeing it launch in 2016, but as you know, on the date that we launch, we want to have a project of which everyone involved can be proud. The magnitude of the project has prevented us from getting all the entries in that we needed to have in and edited before the launch. In June and July, I called or emailed many of our writers about the topics to which they had committed. I sincerely hope that all of them who accepted encyclopedia entry assignments but have not submitted them will make an effort to get them in as soon as possible. [encyclopedia@nashville.gov] You may recall that our goal was to have the 650 topics from John Egerton's *Nashville: The Faces of Two Centuries* book completed before the launch. We simply did not get all of those entries completed.

The size of this project has continued to grow throughout the time that we worked on it. Tim Walker and I met on July 24 with Kent Oliver, Andrea Blackman, and a representative of the Metro IT Dept. to discuss the status of the project. I reported to the group about the challenges of undertaking a project of this magnitude with such a large group of volunteers.

At this meeting, we agreed that this fall there will be a meeting to evaluate the project and determine exactly how much work is needed to be done before we can launch it. The Encyclopedia is going to be the responsibility of the Metro Public Library Special Collections with continuing support from the Metro Information Technology Dept. and the Metro Historical Commission. We will develop a strategy for identifying sufficient that a full-time staff of 3-4 people can be hired to manage the project. Most of all, the project is still alive and will be finished.

I greatly appreciate all of the efforts of all of you who have submitted your entries. We are working to make sure that when the Encyclopedia does launch, it will be a project of which all of you can be proud. I am still committed to seeing this project through to its completion no matter how much time it takes.

After the meeting, Tim asked me specifically what I felt that MHC's staff could do to help the project. I suggested that the most helpful thing would be for the staff members who have time to write, could write the entries for all the topics of the Metro Historic markers.

Feel free to call me personally (615-476-8551) or email me (carole.bucy@nashville.gov) if you have any questions or if you want to make any suggestions.

Thank you for your hard work as well as your support.