



METROPOLITAN
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)
MINUTES

April 17, 2017

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on April 17, 2017, 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; Clay Bailey, Alex Buchanan, Don Cusic, Jim Hoobler, Lynn Maddox, Mark Rogers, and Linda Wynn were present. Bob Allen, Menié Bell David Currey, Bill Hardin, Barrett Hobbs, Dr. Bill McKee, and Gerry Searcy did not attend.

Guests Present: Dan Covington

Staff Members Present: Tim Walker, Melissa Baldock, Scarlett Miles, Yvonne Ogren, Jessica Reeves, Melissa Sajid, Fred Zahn and Robin Zeigler.

Chair Jim Forkum called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. A quorum was not present at that time, and approval of the minutes was deferred until later in the meeting.

RAINS CEMETERY: *Dan Covington*

Mr. Covington addressed the commission with his concerns about the recent relocation of the Rains Cemetery (formerly on Nolensville Pike) to Mt. Olivet cemetery. In the haste to get the cemetery moved, one of the markers was badly damaged, and family members were not buried in the proper order. He is a longtime resident of the area and, after finding that the cemetery had been moved without certain descendants being notified, had investigated to determine if the removal proceedings were legal. He is hopeful that the circumstances surrounding this occurrence will lead to some legislation being passed to protect other historic, private cemeteries from being relocated in the same manner.

Tim Walker responded and thanked Mr. Covington for the presentation. He mentioned that he, Fletch Coke, Bob Tuke, and a representative from the Planning commission had met the previous week to discuss proposing new state legislation that would provide more protection for private cemeteries, but that it may be sometime in 2018 before it could pass. A local attorney with ties to the Rains family is also investigating the relocation and may file a suit against the adjacent property owner.

**Mark Rogers joined the meeting at 12:15.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Jim Forkum

Jim Forkum asked if there were any amendments or questions regarding the minutes from the March meeting. A typographical error was mentioned, noted, and Jim Hoobler made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Lynn Maddox seconded and the commission approved them unanimously.

FY18 BUDGET – *Tim Walker*

Walker mentioned that the Historical Commission's budget hearing with Metro Council has been scheduled and will take place on May 11 at 4:15 p.m. The hearings begin at 4 p.m., and since MHC is second on the agenda, it is likely to be running on or near the scheduled time. He said he hoped that all the commissioners would be able to attend and for them to arrive before 4 p.m. so they can be seated before the hearings begin. Mayor Barry will be giving the State of Metro address at Bridgestone Arena, on April 26, and MHC will be sent their proposed budget on the same afternoon. Walker said he is hopeful that some of the department's financial needs will be met in FY18.

HISTORIC MARKERS – *Jessica Reeves*

Ms. Reeves reported that all markers ordered from the 4% Marker Fund that were approved by the commission have been delivered and installed, with the exception of the Centenary Methodist marker, which is on order now.

PRESERVATION AWARDS –*Scarlett Miles, Lynn Maddox*

The program is scheduled for Wednesday, May 10 at 4:30 in the auditorium of the downtown public library. The reception will be held at the Waller Law office, in the Nashville City Center, less than a block from the library.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – *Tim Walker*

Tim Walker mentioned the proposed removal of the Polk graves and memorial from the state capitol grounds. He had corresponded with Patrick McIntyre, director of the Tennessee Historical Commission, and McIntyre had asked that the MHC take an official stand on the proposal. After brief discussion, a motion was made to write a letter stating that the MHC opposes the removal of President and Mrs. James K. Polk from the state capitol grounds. Don Cusic made the motion and it was seconded by Jim Hoobler, and approved unanimously by the commission.

Jessica Reeves' position will be upgraded from part-time to full-time as of April 24. She is replacing Tara Mielnik, who recently resigned. Melissa Sajid is now on maternity leave, and Jennifer Warren has been hired to assist with Ms. Sajid's duties on a part-time basis while Melissa is out. Warren has had experience working on historic zoning in the city of Miami, and also has worked with the National Trust.

Walker said he was concerned that the Historical Commission was not included in the review committee for the RFQ for the development of the Greer Stadium. Greer Stadium is a National Register-eligible site, and is also included in the Fort Negley Historic Landmark district. Anything that the review committee approves must ultimately be approved by the Historic Zoning commission. There is great concern because of the WPA stonework, and the archaeological resources known to be underground, as well.

**Lynn Maddox and Clay Bailey left the meeting at 12:55 p.m.*

Recent state legislation was proposed which would remove the historic zoning commission's authority to review automated teller machines (ATMs). This legislation will not be approved in the current session, but it may come up again in the future.

Council member Elrod is proposing an ordinance (Bill 2017-687) which would require the Historical Commission to create a process to review and make recommendations to Metro Council on the naming of any Metro-owned structure, room, bridge, or campus. It would require public notices and hearings. Tim said he would be meeting with the council member, and with the attorney Mike Jameson.

In conclusion, Walker mentioned that the dedication ceremony for the Witness Walls was coming up the following Friday, (April 21) at 2 p.m.

HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – Robin Zeigler

Ms. Zeigler reported that the Eastdale Neighborhood Conservation Zoning District will be heard at the April MHZC meeting. Also coming up soon is a possible Historic Landmark overlay on Bel Air and also Marathon Village.

STAFF REPORTS

Sean Alexander reminded the commission that the Memorial Day Dash will be held on May 29. This is the 18th year that the 5K race has been held. The race will begin in front of the Adventure Science Center, with the course looping around Fort Negley and through the City Cemetery. Race day registration begins at 6 a.m. Volunteers are needed for early set-up and also for tear-down after the event.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

Respectfully submitted May 11, 2017.

Yvonne Ogren