

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)
MINUTES
October 21, 2019

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on October 21, 2019, in the conference room of the Metro Historical Commission office at 3000 Granny White Pike, with Commission Chair Clay Bailey presiding.

Commissioners Present: Dr. Clay Bailey, Chair; Davis Acker, Bob Allen, Menié Bell, John Bridges, Dr. Don Cusic, Michelle Hall, Jim Hoobler, Dr. Bill McKee, Chakita Patterson, E. Thomas Wood and Linda Wynn, **were present**. Christopher Cotton, Lynn Maddox, Gerry Searcy and County Historian Dr. Carole Bucy **did not attend**.

Staff Members Present: Melissa Baldock, Caroline Eller, Paul Hoffman, Susie Pallas, and Jessica Reeves were present.

Chair Dr. Clay Bailey called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. after verifying that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Dr. Clay Bailey

Chair Bailey welcomed everyone and explained that Tim Walker and Scarlett Miles were absent because they were giving a tour to city and county managers who are in Nashville for the annual conference of the International City/County Management Association. Menié Bell made a motion to approve the September minutes, Jim Hoobler provided a second, and the September minutes were unanimously approved.

HISTORICAL MARKERS – Jessica Reeves

Jessica presented a historical marker for review for Lock Two Park, which is from the priority list. She has been talking with Council Member Jeff Syracuse who is asking for money from Metro Council for a master plan for this park. The Army Corps of Engineers was very helpful in providing information and photos for research for the marker. Construction of 26 locks was planned, but only 15 were completed by the time the project ended in 1924. Lock Two Park, which was finished in 1907, still contains a house, several outbuildings, a lock wall and a river gauge on the concrete steps. In addition, there is now a playground and a beautiful view of the Cumberland River. E. Thomas Wood asked if these locks were for flood control, and Jessica informed us that they were constructed to maintain a constant river levels for boats. They helped extend the life of steamboat travel and commerce. The Army Corps of Engineers completed an extensive report about the locks in 2001 and has provided part of the report online. Bob Allen said he would be interested in reading a summary of the report. Bob Allen made a motion to approve this marker, Jim Hoobler seconded, and it was unanimously approved. Jessica also thanked all who attended the marker ceremony for the Nashville School of Law. Approximately 40 people, including alumni and current students, were present and thrilled to receive the marker. Dr. McKee stated that he received an email about moving the First Baptist Church marker from the Broadway side of the building to 7th Ave. Jessica asked him to forward the email to her and she would present the request at the next marker committee meeting to begin the marker movement process.

MHC BUDGET UPDATE –Susie Pallas

Susie reported that we are on track with our spending. Clay discussed the Nashville City Cemetery Estimated Budget Repair report that had been requested by Commissioner Maddox and distributed to everyone at the meeting. Chair Bailey pointed out that the costs of several of the items have the potential of being covered by Metro Parks. This report sparked discussion on the flexibility of the \$55,200 in the MHC operating budget as it relates to the City Cemetery needs. Due to Tim's absence, the members agreed to bring questions to the November MHC meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT –Clay Bailey

Chair Bailey proceeded through Tim's printed Director's Report. Nashville Sites will be launching on November 14th with an event hosted by the MHC Foundation at Clementine from 5:30-8:00 pm. Tour testing, writing and recording continue as we prepare for the launch. Thanks to a 4% appropriation of \$14,000, the completion of the Fort Negley archaeology project will be fully funded at \$67,000 and able to move forward in November. Clay noted E. Thomas Wood's contributions to this effort. Clay, Menié and Tim will be meeting with the mayor's representative, Mary Falls, on October 23rd to discuss repairs to Sunnyside and the needs of MHC. Michelle Hall asked about the status of starting the Friends of Sunnyside or the merge with Friends of Sevier Park. Dr. McKee thought the discussion with the mayor's representative should focus on the importance of following our own rules. (i.e. Would we allow a private person to have this type of decay with a structure?) Menié pointed out the responsibility of Metro Parks to maintain and repair the property. Council Member Syracuse has filed a bill to create a property tax abatement program for buildings that are locally designated through the MHZC. MHZC will oversee the program and is working with him to develop the specifics. E. Thomas Wood expressed concern if anything can be done to stop the state from killing the bill. Staff and commissioners were asked to complete the surveys about the Economic Impact Study by Friday, as the second phase of the study continues. MHC, with assistance from MHCF and archaeologist, Dan Allen, help to maintain six cemeteries. They are Gower, Morris-Shane, General Thomas Overton, Philipis-Sylvan Hall, White-Ogden, and Thompson-Collinsworth. Fred Zahn is the point person for all cemetery questions. Discussions continue with Metro Planning on the owner's desire to add multiple extra floors to the Nashville branch of the Federal Reserve of Atlanta building. Planning is supportive of our concerns. Discussions also continue with the DAR and other interested parties in creating a nonprofit friends' group for Fort Nashborough. E. Thomas Wood commented on more nonprofits cutting into support for other causes. Clay stated that friends' groups provide staff support and volunteers, in addition to fundraising. Dr. McKee talked about the vocal and active nature of the DAR in Davidson County. Geddes Fire Hall, a National Register-listed fire hall, has been purchased by a preservation-friendly developer and is slated to be designated as a local Historic Landmark through the MHZC next spring. Jessica updated the Commission about the Battle of Nashville marker in Burton Hills, which Paula Erickson expressed concerns about at the August MHC meeting. A traffic engineer from Public Works deemed the marker's location to be safe when it was placed, but the marker has been taken down. It will be put back up in another location.

HISTORIC ZONING REPORT –Melissa Baldock

Melissa stated that the Design Guideline Consolidation Project is continuing. They have held several community meetings and will continue to receive feedback on the project through those meetings. The MHZC will discuss it at their November 20th meeting. Menié said the MHZC is overwhelmed with the details they have to review because the feedback from the community meetings is requesting that the consolidation project must be just a clarification, not a complication, of the guidelines. The outbuilding guidelines seem to be especially concerning to the citizens in those conservation overlay districts. Melissa also mentioned that they are working with Council Member Freddie O'Connell about potentially making Marathon Village a landmark overlay. There is a meeting about this on Nov. 4th at 6:00 pm.

STAFF REPORTS

Caroline announced that the AZ Kelley historical marker dedication ceremony will be on Nov. 5th at 9:30 am. Fabian Bedne will speak, students will perform a song, and members of the Kelley family and a representative from the Mayor's office will be in attendance. Clay reiterated the importance of commissioners attending the marker ceremonies.

OTHER BUSINESS

Bob Allen announced two upcoming speakers for the Bellevue History & Genealogy Group—Ann Toplovich on 10/25 and Don Cusic on 12/13.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted, October 21, 2019.

Susie Pallas