

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)
MINUTES

December 16, 2013

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on December 16, 2013, in the conference room of the Historical Commission office at 3000 Granny White Pike, with Commission Chair Bill McKee presiding.

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

Guests Present: Ashley Daugherty, Diane Lance

Staff Members Present: Tim Walker, Melissa Baldock, Paul Hoffman, Tara Mielnik, Scarlett Miles, Yvonne Ogren, Fred Zahn

Chair Bill McKee called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm, after verifying that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner George Cate moved to approve the minutes from the November meeting as written. Commissioner Holly Conner seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

NASHVILLE ENCYCLOPEDIA – Ashley Daugherty (Mayor's office)

Ashley Daugherty gave details of the committee members' vision for the online Encyclopedia of Nashville. It is to be a substantive source for Nashville and Davidson County history, and will be a model for other cities to follow in the future. The first entries are to be primarily focused on the early settlement and settlers, *pre-Civil War*, and are due by January 31, 2014, when the editing teams will begin their review process. Commissioners were asked to contact her if they have suggestions or know of individuals who have expertise on a certain topic. Entries related to the Civil War will be accepted on an ongoing basis, as the subject covers such a broad range of the area's history. The next time period to be covered will be 1865 (post-war) to 1900; those entries will be accepted after January 31st. The website could go live as early as late 2014, or early 2015.

NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION – Dr. Tara Mielnik

MHC staff member Tara Mielnik presented a National Register nomination for the Tennessee State Supreme Court Building. The nomination is based on the criteria of Law & Government and Architecture. This nomination was prepared by Christine Mathieson at the Tennessee Historical Commission and the commission's vote is to recommend that the site meets the criteria for listing in those categories.

Motion: Commissioner Jim Hoobler moved for approval and Commissioner Linda Wynn seconded the nomination. The commission voted unanimously to approve the nomination

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE CONFERENCE – *Linda Wynn*

Commissioner Wynn spoke briefly about the program schedule for the conference, which will take place on Friday, February 14, 2014, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Brochures are to be mailed out early in January, and registration forms will be accepted until January 24th.

PRESERVATION AWARDS – *Scarlett Miles*

Scarlett Miles mentioned that MHC has opened up the call for nominations for the 2014 Preservation Awards. This is the first year MHC is accepting applications throughout the year, and the hope is that projects will be nominated as they are completed and less likely to be overlooked. The deadline for submitting nominations is Friday, March 14, 2014. The location and date for the 2014 program are not determined at this time.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE – *Lynn Maddox*

Plans are underway for a Historical Commission Open House in January. ***NOTE:** *Due to scheduling conflicts, the Open House has been rescheduled for February 27th. More information will be given during the January meeting.*

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – *Tim Walker*

- Reporter Gail Kerr has an article on the Cordell Hull Building, which is available to read in the online *Tennessean*. In the article, she has included a link to an online petition to stop demolition of the building. Commissioners were encouraged to go to the website Moveon.org and add their signatures to the petition. Mr. Walker said that he, several board members of both Historic Nashville, Inc. and Tennessee Preservation Trust, and Connie Pearson, who started the petition, will be delivering the petition to the Governor personally, sometime in January.
- MHC applied for and was awarded a grant from the Tennessee Wars Commission to pay for interpretive signage at the Buchanan Station Cemetery. The grant will be administered through the MHC Foundation.
- MHC has a copy of the master plan prepared by Encore Interpretive, for Fort Nashborough. David Currey gave a presentation on the plan before the MHC earlier in 2013. Any commissioners who missed that presentation can see a copy of the printed version at the MHC office.
- A copy is also available of the draft of the Fort Negley Historic Structures report. Milner & Associates' final report is expected in late January.
- Metro has contracted with the firm of Deloitte and Touche, LLP, to do an across-the-board salary comparison study. All Metro departments have been asked to submit documentation of job descriptions and issues they may have had with hiring or retaining staff based on current salaries.
- MHC has been working with Metro schools to have the Interurban Rail Shelter near Overton High School repaired. It is one of only two remaining shelters from the rail line on Franklin Rd.

STAFF REPORTS

Tara Mielnik mentioned that she has been asked by the Southeastern Society of Architectural Historians (SESAH) to co-edit the Tennessee volume of their Archipedia on states' architecture. Robbie Jones with NewSouth Associates, and Gavin Townsend, a well-known architectural historian, are also co-editors on the project.

Tim Walker mentioned that seven different neighborhoods are seeking new or expanded historic zoning overlay designation. The number of properties continues to grow and MHZC staff is continually busy, in spite of the addition of Paul Hoffman to the staff.

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

Respectfully submitted by

Yvonne Ogren

January 22, 2014