



METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)
MINUTES

July 17, 2017

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on July 17, 2017, in the conference room of the Metro Historical Commission office at 3000 Granny White Pike, with Commission Vice-Chair Clay Bailey presiding.

Commissioners Present: Clay Bailey, Vice-Chair; Menié Bell, Alex Buchanan, David Currey, Lynn Maddox, Mark Rogers, Gerry Searcy and Linda Wynn were present. Bob Allen, Don Cusic, Jim Forkum, Bill Hardin, Jim Hoobler, and Dr. Bill McKee did not attend. Dr. Carole Bucy, county historian, also attended.

Guests Present: Kelsey Lamkin, Katherine Jackson

Staff Members Present: Tim Walker, Yvonne Ogren, Sean Alexander, Melissa Baldock, Jessica Reeves, Fred Zahn and Robin Zeigler.

Vice-Chair Clay Bailey called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Clay Bailey

Clay Bailey asked if there were any amendments or questions regarding the minutes from the June meeting. Lynn Maddox made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Linda Wynn seconded and the minutes were approved as written.

HISTORIC MARKERS – Jessica Reeves

Members of the Historic Marker committee met prior to the regular business meeting.

Ms. Reeves announced that MHC has been given money in our budget to complete our priority list of 40 markers, including replacing missing markers, correcting incorrect information on some markers, and getting new markers that the Commission identified last year as a priority list. We were also given money for 35 additional markers, one for each council district. This money is to be spent over the next 3 years and should be approved by the Metro Council at their meeting tomorrow.

Ms. Reeves presented the first of two markers for the Commission's consideration, Penny Campbell (1615 McEwen Avenue) sponsored by Dr. Pippa Holloway and Bonnie and Webb Campbell. After discussing the merits and significance of Ms. Campbell and her contributions to Nashville history, the marker was tabled until the August meeting, to provide time for further research. Next, Ms. Reeves presented Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church (6th Ave S), sponsored by the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. After discussion, the Commission asked Ms. Reeves to make a few grammatical changes to the text then voted unanimously to approve the Holy Trinity marker.

BUDGET – Tim Walker

Mr. Walker reported that the Metro Council allocated funds for 1.5 full time positions, in addition to allocating funds for Yvonne Ogren to stay on part-time after her official retirement in order to train her replacement. That administrative position will hopefully be filled within the next 4-6 weeks. Mr. Walker also stated that the procedure for allocating funds was done differently this year: council members were each given 100 points and allowed to vote for things they thought were important and historic preservation/the Historical Commission ranked very high in that process. He thanked the commissioners who contacted their council members to make them aware of the good work we do here. As for the new Historic Preservation 1 position that we've been given, Mr. Walker stated that position had been posted and would be up for three (3) weeks. The .5 position will be filled by Ms. Jenny Warren. Ms. Warren has already been working part-time with the MHZC staff covering Ms. Sajid's maternity leave. She was set to leave at the end of next week, but will now get to stay on in a part-time permanent capacity. Ms. Warren previously worked for the historic preservation office in Miami and worked with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Her start date is August 7. Additionally, Metro Council approved \$25,000 as a reoccurring yearly expense for maintenance and improvements at the Nashville City Cemetery.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT FUND – Tim Walker

Mr. Walker met with Audra Ladd in the Mayor's Office of Economic Development and Metro Legal to talk about the logistics of the grant fund and they are drafting the text for that program currently. The total amount was reduced from our original ask of \$500,000 to \$250,000 in the Mayor's proposed budget then reduced again by the Metro Council to \$150,000. The Mayor spoke with Mr. Walker and expressed her desire to grow that fund. The goal is to have applications available online by October 1.

NAMING ORDINANCE UPDATE – Tim Walker

Once Chairman Forkum has recovered from his surgery, he and Mr. Walker will meet once again with Councilman Elrod regarding the naming ordinance. Councilman Elrod will potentially drop the current iteration of the bill and draft a new one that asks for a staff recommendation on name changes—similar to the street name change recommendations that staff currently offers—instead of asking for an open hearing and vote by the Commission.

DIRECTORS REPORT – Tim Walker

The 4 percent budget will hopefully be approved by the Metro Council at their meeting tomorrow. The MHZC has one new appointed commissioner—Eric Brown—who will be confirmed next Tuesday. We are still waiting on LaDonna Boyd to fill out her paperwork before moving forward with her confirmation. Mr. Walker also reminded the Commission that Yvonne Ogren's last day at the office will be August 4 and they have all received an invitation to her retirement party on August 3. As for open commission spots for MHC, Barrett Hobbs resigned last month and has not yet been replaced. Four other MHC Commissioners are up for re-appointment this year also: Menié Bell, Dr. Bill McKee, Bob Allen, and David Currey. The Mayor should be making those appointment announcements in the next few weeks. Finally, Mr. Walker thanked Alex Buchanan, Menié Bell, Clay Bailey, Carole Bucy, and Lynn Maddox for attending the Fort Nashborough ribbon cutting earlier in July. Mr. Walker also addressed a question about the status of the project at Fort Negley. He said that nothing would be coming before the MHZC until after Parks and the Metro Council approved it and that had not happened yet. Also, Mr. Walker told the Commission that the CLG grant that MHC applied for with the Tennessee Historical Commission had been approved, giving MHC money for a cultural landscape plan, which Mr. Walker said is necessary to complete before MHZC will be able to approve any plans on the site. The CLG grant money will not be available until November 2017, so no work can begin on the site until it is completed in Fall 2018. Additionally, the Parks Department still plans on tearing down Greer Stadium and returning it to green space prior to the cultural landscape plan taking place. The commissioners discussed the upcoming plans for Fort Negley park.

HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – *Robin Zeigler*

Ms. Zeigler reported that the Bowling House District is up for review at the upcoming MHZC meeting this Wednesday. The district is two blocks of the Sylvan Park neighborhood, but it includes one of the most significant houses within that neighborhood—the Bowling House or Sylvan House, which is where the name for the neighborhood came from. The Whitland district expansion is also up for approval at the next MHZC meeting. Finally, Ms. Ziegler reported that the number of ongoing court cases for MHZC was at an unusually high number at six (6), but MHZC just won one of the cases, so there are now only five (5).

STAFF REPORTS

No other staff business to report.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

Respectfully submitted August 28, 2017