



METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)  
MINUTES

March 20, 2017

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on March 20, 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; Bob Allen, Clay Bailey, Menié Bell, Alex Buchanan, David Currey, Don Cusic, Bill Hardin, Lynn Maddox, Mark Rogers, Gerry Searcy and Linda Wynn were present. Barrett Hobbs, Jim Hoobler, and Dr. Bill McKee did not attend.

**Guests Present:** Jenny Andrews, Dr. Carroll Van West

**Staff Members Present:** Tim Walker, Melissa Baldock, Tara Mitchell Mielnik, 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., after verifying that a quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *Jim Forkum***

Jim Forkum asked if there were any amendments or questions regarding the minutes from the February meeting. Having none, Bob Allen made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Lynn Maddox seconded and the commission approved them unanimously.

**PRESENTATION ON SOUTHEAST PARK (Moore Farm) – *Dr. Carroll Van West, Jenny Andrews***

Dr. Carroll Van West, Director of the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation (CHP) and the Tennessee State Historian, told the commission that in the fall of 2015, Metro Parks asked him to do an assessment of the 160-acre Moore Farm, which had recently been identified by Parks as a future park site. West introduced Jenny Andrews, who was leader of the team who conducted the research. Ms. Andrews talked about the team's findings in their research, including the land's natural and cultural resources, the history of the Moore family, and the diverse society that grew from the original farm, including its enslaved families and their descendants. Two of the Moore family homes still exist on the property, at least three cemeteries, and there are numerous ruins of homesteads, roadways, fields and fences dating to its early beginnings as a family farm. Dr. West and the team at CHP are hopeful that all the structures and resources of the site will be preserved as the land is developed for use as a park.

**FY18 BUDGET – *Tim Walker***

Walker mentioned that the Historical Commission's budget hearing with Mayor Barry went exceptionally well, and he appreciated the support of the Commission members that were present. He noted that Mayor Barry mentioned the need for Sunnyside to be repaired and that it would be addressed in the next capital budget. Walker thanked all the commissioners who were able to attend. The mayor will release her budget proposal

sometime in April and hearings with Metro Council are typically held in May. This information will be provided to all commissioners as soon as it is available.

#### [PRESERVATION AWARDS –Scarlett Miles, Lynn Maddox](#)

Ms. Miles reported that nominations have closed and a total of 46 nominations were submitted. Judges will be Commissioner Menié Bell, former MHC staff member Blythe Semmer, and architect Nick Dryden. Judging day is set on April 6. The program is scheduled for May 10 at 4:30 in the auditorium of the downtown public library. After mentioning that the reception site was yet to be determined, Commissioner Alex Buchanan mentioned that the reception area at the Waller-Lansden office may be available and the office is only one block away from the library.

Ms. Miles related that the Events and Nominations committees held a brief meeting to discuss the program's special awards, after the February MHC meeting. The committees' selections are as follows:

- Fletch Coke Award - Mike Slate and Kathy Lauder for their work with the Buchanan Station Cemetery, the Nashville Historical Newsletter, and various other historic research work that they do.
- Achievement Award - Jim Fyke, the former director of Metro Parks–
- Commissioners' Award - Belmont Mansion Association and Albert Wardin, who founded the organization

As this was a committee recommendation, it did not require a second and the commission voted unanimously to approve all three recommendations.

#### [OLD HOUSE FAIR REPORT – Robin Zeigler](#)

Ms. Zeigler reported that the Old House Fair went well, but that participation was down, both in vendors and guests. They may discuss holding it every other year in the future, or having a different type of event each year.

Zeigler went on to give a brief report on Historic Zoning, mentioning that the Eastdale neighborhood, which is part of the Jackson Park National Register-listed neighborhood, and Kenner Manor are possible candidates for future neighborhood conservation overlay districts. On March 31, a meeting will be held for all neighborhood association presidents, to give them an opportunity to voice their concerns or thoughts on the processes for review of applications in their neighborhoods.

#### [RECAP ON MHC OPEN HOUSE – Lynn Maddox](#)

Lynn Maddox reported that the Open House was a success. Tim estimated that at least 75 people attended. The food was great and she and Menie are grateful for all the donations, volunteers, and assistance from everyone involved. Commissioners signed letters of appreciation that will be sent to all businesses and individuals who contributed goods and services to the event.

#### [DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Tim Walker](#)

Tim Walker said that the Metro Parks Board has approved the funds for the Fort Negley Cultural Landscape Plan (CLP) grant match. Staff recently walked the Greer Stadium site with THC staff to confirm its National Register eligibility. Walker is hopeful that the grant will be approved as the CLP is a necessary step before any development takes place on the site, as the plan includes an archeological study which would provide guidance to the MHZC on the appropriateness for potential new construction.

Walker and Commissioner Clay Bailey plan to attend the re-dedication of Frederick Douglass Park on March 17. Mayor Megan Barry will take part in the ceremony.

Walker mentioned that local news media may be releasing a story about the Rains Cemetery, which was located on Nolensville Pike adjacent to a used car lot. Dan Allen had recently completed a full renovation of the

cemetery. The office was notified that just in the last few weeks, all the graves had been removed and relocated to Mt. Olivet. It is uncertain at this time whether this was legal.

Walker will be meeting with Kent Oliver to discuss the Public Library's plans to expand or replace some of the existing library facilities. Some of those branch libraries may be National Register eligible, so he wants to make sure those locations will not be negatively impacted. Bob Allen mentioned that there are also concerns about what will be done with the vertical files that are held at Metro Archives.

#### STAFF REPORTS

Jessica Reeves reported that the marker has been replaced and installed on the TSU campus in November.

Tim Walker mentioned that Jessica is working with Dr. Mary Ellen Pethel from Belmont University. Dr. Pethel is in a post graduate program that requires her to create a web-based app using 15 of the historic markers in the downtown area. That project will be interesting to follow and the app may be one that can be built on to add more information or sites in the future. Dr. Pethel is a member of the MHC Foundation board.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

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

Respectfully submitted April 14, 2017.

*Yvonne Ogren*