



METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)
MINUTES

March 16, 2015

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on March 16, 2015, 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; Jim Forkum, Vice-Chair; Bob Allen, Lula Brooks, Alex Buchanan, Don Cusic, Jim Hoobler, and Holly Conner. Clay Bailey, Menié Bell, David Currey, Lynn Maddox, Mark Rogers, Gerry Searcy and Linda Wynn were not present.

Staff Members Present: Tim Walker, Tara Mielnik, Yvonne Ogren, and Robin Zeigler

Dr. McKee called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm, after verifying that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A request was mentioned to include in the minutes a report in of an upcoming Fort Nashborough panel discussion at Cumberland River Compact. Alex Buchanan made a motion to approve the minutes from the January meeting with that correction. Jim Hoobler seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as corrected.

FY16 BUDGET UPDATE – Tim Walker

Mr. Walker reported that he and Yvonne have submitted their FY16 budget with requests for an additional HP1 staff position and increased funds for utilities, mileage and printing, as well as the 3% reduction scenario that all departments were given for FY16. For the MHC/MHZC this is equivalent to \$20,800. If the department had to take that reduction, one full-time Historic Preservationist 1 (HP1) position would be laid off after December. Dr. McKee mentioned that it is very important for as many commissioners as possible to attend both the Mayor's Hearing, which will be on April 1, and also the Council Budget Hearing on May 20. Mayor Dean has mentioned the Commission's support at the hearings in recent years.

OLD HOUSE FAIR REPORT – Robin Zeigler

Ms. Zeigler reported that the Old House Fair event was a big success, with over 400 people attending. There were several new vendors this year and the Sevier Park Community center turned out to be a very good venue for the event. She is hopeful that the event can be held there every year from now on.

CONFERENCE on AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE – Tara Mielnik

Ms. Mielnik gave a recap on the conference from February 13, reporting that there were over 175 persons in attendance. The presentations were excellent and very well received. The focus of the 2016 conference will be the Sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary of Fisk University.

[PRESERVATION AWARDS – Tara Mielnik](#)

Ms. Mielnik reported that over 55 nominations have been submitted as of this date, making this a record-breaking year. The special award recipients are to be Mike Curb, for his work to save Nashville's early music recording studios, Mayor Bill Coke of Forest Hills, for his advocacy work for the Kellytown archeological site, Grassmere Zoo for their work in having the slave cemetery exhumed, studied, and reinterred near the historic home. The judges for the awards this year are Melissa Wyllie from HNI, architect Patrick Gilbert, a preservation architect with Gresham Smith and Associates, and Howard Kittell, director of the Hermitage. The program will take place on May 19 at the Downtown Public Library, with the reception following in the L&C Tower penthouse. Jessica Reeves has been working very hard to pull it all together.

[ENCYCLOPEDIA UPDATE – Dr. Carole Bucy](#)

Dr. Bucy reported that two staff persons have been hired by the library to work on the Encyclopedia project. From now on, Lynne Bachleda will be editing all incoming work, and Laura von Opstal will be handling most of the administrative duties. Tara Mielnik will continue to work with ITS to have the completed articles uploaded to the Encyclopedia website. Bucy is still hopeful that enough articles will be completed for the site to be launched in September.

[DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Tim Walker](#)

- Walker, McKee, and Forkum will be meeting with Mayor Dean on Friday, March 20th to ask him to landmark a number of city-owned properties, including ten Metro Park properties the Warner Park expansion area, Lock One, Lock Two, Bells Bend Park, the Naval Building and Shelby Park, Kellytown Archaeological Park, Buchanan Station Cemetery, Stone Hall, Oman House, and Centennial Park. Currently only the Parthenon has landmark status. One Public Works property is Bank Street, the cobblestone street between First and Second avenues, south of the Courthouse. It is the last original cobblestone street left in the city. The final three properties on the list are the Ben West Library, the former Ben West Courthouse, which was originally the public market house, and the Municipal Auditorium. If approved, there would be fourteen new designated Landmarks in the city.
- Jim Hoobler nominated the Historical Commission for a TAM award, for the planning and execution of the Civil War Battle of Nashville Sesquicentennial commemoration. MHC did win the award and the presentation was taking place later that week.
- The office has hired Jaime Destifano to survey and document the Bluefields and Inglewood neighborhoods and write National Register nominations for them. This is being funded by a grant from the Tennessee Historical Commission with matches from MHC in staff time and from the MHC Foundation with cash.
- Tim will be meeting with development team to discuss their proposal for the Stockyard Restaurant site.
- MHC, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, HNI, Tennessee Preservation Trust, the Music Industry Coalition, and the Tennessee Historical Commission are working jointly on a project to document the history of Music Row. The project will entail surveying building and determining which are eligible to be listed in the National Historic Register. The estimated cost to hire a consultant to do the survey and documentation is \$40-50,000. The kick-off event for the project is scheduled for April 7 at the Quonset Hut. Commissioner Cusic was able to make the Quonset Hut available for the meeting.
- The panel discussion on the planned Fort Nashborough interpretive center that was originally scheduled on March 5 was rescheduled due to inclement weather. It will take place at noon on March 31 at the Cumberland River Compact, at the River Center in the Bridge Building, 2 Victory Ave.

OTHER BUSINESS

Tara Mielnik reported that the African-American History Conference in February was again a success, and the evaluation forms rated everything highly. She thanked the commissioners for their attendance and support.

Tara Mielnik stated that Tennessee History Day would be held on Saturday, April 11, and that the Tennessee Historical Society was again looking for judges and volunteers. She asked any commissioners interested in volunteering to let her know and she would put them in touch with Jennifer Core at the Historical Society.

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

Respectfully submitted April 15, 2015

Yvonne Ogren