

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)
MINUTES

[November 18, 2013](#)

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on November 18, 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, Menié Bell, Lula Brooks, George Cate, Jr., Holly Conner, Don Cusic, Jim Forkum, Jim Hoobler, Gerry Searcy and Linda Wynn. Commissioners David Currey, Mark Rogers, and Lynn Maddox were not present.

Staff Members Present: Tim Walker, Melissa Baldock, Paul Hoffman, Tara Mielnik, Scarlett Miles, Yvonne Ogren, and Robin Zeigler

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

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Bob Allen moved to approve the minutes from the October meeting as written. Commissioner Holly Conner seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

NASHVILLE ENCYCLOPEDIA – Dr. Bill McKee

Dr. McKee reported that the editing committee of the Encyclopedia of Nashville met on November 14 to discuss criteria and guidelines for entries and editors. The committee asked that the first entries be focused mainly on subjects related to the early settlement and settlers, *pre-Civil War*. The first group of entries is due by January 31, 2014. A list of potential topics was distributed to all commissioners, Dr. McKee encouraged the commission members to consider writing entry submissions on any subject of which they had particular interest or experience.

CREATED EQUAL – Dr. Tara Mielnik

Staff member Tara Mielnik reported that the MHC and Fort Negley have begun planning for the 2014 programming related to the “Created Equal” grant received from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Gilder Lehrman Institute. Programming will begin in June 2014, with the screening of the film “The Abolitionists” in conjunction with Fort Negley’s Juneteenth celebration, and will continue through October 2014.

HISTORIC MARKERS – Dr. Tara Mielnik

Dr. Mielnik presented the texts for two new historic markers, *Acuff Rose Publications*, and *Tree Publishing*, both with recommendations for approval from the Marker Committee. The commission voted unanimously to approve both.

FRIENDS OF FORT NEGLEY – Clay Bailey

Commissioner Bailey reported that the Friends of Fort Negley group expect to receive their 501c3 status approval from the IRS at any time. The group is planning to hold a fund-raising event in January 2014 at the home of Jim Kay. There was brief discussion about possible uses for Greer stadium if plans for a new ball park for the Sounds in Sulphur Dell are approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Tim Walker

- Plans for a Historical Commission Open House in December were put on hold at this time. Scheduling is difficult with the number of events that are held before the New Year, so it will be rescheduled after January 1st. After some discussion, commissioners came to a consensus that the best possible date would be January 16. More information will be given during the December MHC meeting.
- The Downtown Partnership is creating an interactive website of all the historic sites listed in MHC's *Footnotes* and *Capital City* brochures. Staff has been compiling text and photos for their use in the project.
- Peter Heinbach has been appointed State Architect for Tennessee. This may be detrimental to the initiative to save the Cordell Hull building, as he is considered to be an advocate for demolition. There are plans to renovate Legislative Plaza, and legislators and their staff could possibly be relocated to Cordell Hull. This would put plans for the demolition on hold for two years.
- The Historic Structures report of Fort Negley is nearly complete. Drafts of the report are being reviewed and must be approved by MHC and Parks before the report is considered complete.
- The Geist House, which is on the National Register of Historic Places and has been on HNI's *Nashville Nine* endangered properties list several times, has been purchased by a local developer for renovation as restaurant space.
- The Metro Nashville Airport Authority (MNAA) is considering a runway expansion which would include the property where the Colemere Club and New Orleans Manor were formerly located. The house is currently operating as a Monell's restaurant. The property may be National Register eligible (NRE).

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

Respectfully submitted by

Yvonne Ogren

December 10, 2013