



METROPOLITAN
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)
MINUTES

March 18, 2019

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on March 18, 2019, 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, Menié Bell, Christopher Cotton, Michelle Hall, Gerry Searcy, E. Thomas Wood, Linda Wynn **were present.** Dr. Clay Bailey, Dr. Don Cusic, Jim Hoobler, Lynn Maddox, Dr. Bill McKee, Mark Rogers and Dr. Carole Bucy county historian **did not attend.**

Guests Present: Brittney Haas, Victoria Hensley

Staff Members Present: Tim Walker, Sean Alexander, Caroline Eller, Scarlett Miles, Paula Person, Jessica Reeves, Melissa Sajid, Robin Zeigler were present.

Chair Jim Forkum called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. after verifying that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Jim Forkum

Jim Forkum asked for approval of the February minutes. Bob Allen made a motion to approve, Linda Wynn provided a second and the February minutes were unanimously approved.

HISTORICAL MARKERS – Jessica Reeves /Caroline Eller

Jessica Reeves announced that the YMCA marker ceremony will be this Wednesday on March 20th, at 11:00 am at the downtown YMCA. This marker was re-done as part of the Marker Project. Dodson School marker ceremony will be held next Monday, March 25th at 10:00 am, and an email reminder will be sent out to everyone. Caroline Eller presented the District 16 –Turner School marker explaining the history and presenting pictures of the property. An open house will be held in May for alumni and employees, information will be provided for those interested in seeing the property. A motion was given by Jim Forkum with a second from Chris Cotton, and the marker was unanimously approved. Jessica Reeves presented the privately funded, double sided marker for Belmont Church and Koinonia Coffeehouse / Contemporary Christian Music, brought forth by a group including Council Member Nancy VanReece. A motion was made by E. Tom Wood with a second from Jim Hoobler, and the marker was unanimously approved.

PRESERVATION AWARDS – Scarlett Miles

Scarlett Miles announced the nomination period closed on March 8th, and that the judges this year include Jane -Coleman Cottone, Lea Williams, and Leigh Fitts. The event is scheduled for Thursday, May 9th at the Public Library downtown; the reception site should be confirmed within the next few days. The Events / Special Programs Committee and the Nominations Committee met last week to discuss nominations for the Achievement Award, Commissioners' Award, and Fletch Coke Award. They selected two nominations for the Achievement Award: Ann Toplovich, who is the Executive Director at the Tennessee Historical Society and will be retiring in June 2019, and prominent Nashville philanthropists Steve and Judy Turner. They selected the nomination for the Commissioners' Award to go to Nashville Public Television - *Tennessee Crossroads*. In depth group discussion was held regarding the history and background of the show, including founders and hosts Al Voecks and Joe Elmore and how to honor those included with the show. A motion was made by Bob Allen with a second from Chris Cotton and the nomination was unanimously approved. Regarding the nomination for

Steve and Judy Turner, a motion was made by E. Tom Wood with a second from Menié Bell and the nomination was unanimously approved. A motion was made by Menié Bell with a second from Linda Wynn and the nomination was unanimously approved for Ann Toplovich to receive the Achievement Award.

MHC BUDGET UPDATE – *Tim Walker*

The Mayor's budget hearing will be Thursday, March 28th at 10:30 am, we have been asked to be there at 10:15 am on the main floor of the courthouse. The budget hearing with the Metro Council has not yet been scheduled. We are on track with our required cuts, and our Finance Officer checks in with us once a month to make sure we are on track. To ensure we meet our savings goal, we have not used any monies for training and travel this year.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – *Tim Walker*

Lynne Holliday has resigned from the commission, and the Mayor will be nominating her replacement soon. The office received the Fort Negley Cultural Landscape Report final draft earlier today, and we have distributed it to the Parks department, the Fort Negley Technical Advisory Committee and the Friends of Fort Negley. We will provide a copy for commissioners who would like to review it. Thank you for allowing Dr. Pethel to come and speak at the meeting last month, Nashville Sites is moving along on schedule as planned. Fundraising will begin for the second phase of the project which will expand to include driving tours. The Economic Impact Study for Historic Preservation is nearing completion, and we expect the final draft in the next couple of weeks. I will be attending a meeting with the Planning Director this afternoon to discuss the Downtown Code's building height policy, as its recent interpretation could adversely affect historic structures.

HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – *Robin Zeigler*

Robin thanked everyone for their participation in the Old House Fair. It was well attended, and we earned a profit. We are exploring alternatives to the event that will reach a broader audience and won't be as time consuming as the fair. Intern Victoria Hensley is currently assisting with that. Marathon Village will be on next month's MHZC agenda and is likely to be approved.

STAFF REPORTS

Caroline Eller mentioned that Nashville 101 lectures will be held in Bellevue on Thursdays next month beginning April 4th. The lecture will be from 11:00 am -12:15 pm. There are spots still available, and an email will be sent out to the Commissioners. Nashville 102 lectures will be held Mondays in September from 11:00 am – 12:15 pm at Lentz Public Health Center.

Jessica Reeves announced that the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) and We Remember Nashville will have a community meeting tomorrow night at 6:00 pm at the First Baptist Church South Inglewood. The discussion will include the markers proposed, which will be paid for by EJI. There are seven markers that have been researched and proposed, and the discussion will cover the locations. If any Commissioners are interested Jessica will email out this information. Also, on Wednesday at 5:30 pm, Tara Mielnik will be presenting on the history of Old Hickory at Fort Negley.

Sean Alexander mentioned that the Fort Negley Cultural Landscape Report final draft was received. Metro has issued a demolition permit for Greer Stadium. May 27th is the Memorial Day Dash, a 5K race that the Commission hosts along with the Nashville City Cemetery Association. Funds raised from the event are used for the restoration work at the Nashville City Cemetery. Information will be sent out as we get closer to the date.

OTHER BUSINESS

Menié Bell asked if [notices about the dedication events for] the markers that are a part of the Marker Project went to Council members. Jessica Reeves answered that all Council Members are properly informed.

E. Thomas Wood informed the group that the marker for the Vine Street Jewish Temple on Commerce Street has gone back up and may be facing the wrong direction. Jessica Reeves will look into the matter.

Chris Cotton informed everyone that the annual members meeting for the Friends of Fort Negley will be held on March 28th. The reception starts at 4:30 pm, and the Mayor will arrive at 5:00 pm, where he will thank the group for their advocacy in saving the property. Chris will forward everyone the invite, so that Commissioners can attend.

Bob Allen stated that Dr. McKee sent out a new professor, Dr. Shawn Voight, to speak to the Bellevue group about the persecution of Jews, and it was a very informative presentation.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted April 2, 2019.

Paula R. Person