



METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)  
MINUTES

February 22, 2016

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on February 22, 2016, in the conference room of the Historical Commission office at 3000 Granny White Pike, with Commission Chair Jim Forkum presiding.

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

**Staff Members Present:** Tim Walker, Sean Alexander, Melissa Baldock, Tara Mielnik, Scarlett Miles, Yvonne Ogren, Melissa Sajid, Fred Zahn and Robin Zeigler

**Guests Present:** Mary Barber

Chair Jim Forkum called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Jim Forkum**

Mr. Forkum asked if there were any amendments, or questions regarding the minutes from the November 2015 meeting. There had been no regular meeting held since that date. With no corrections brought up, Pat Cummins moved for approval. David Currey seconded and the minutes were approved as written.

**BUDGET UPDATE – Tim Walker**

Mr. Walker said he was happy to announce that there were no reductions requested in the FY17 budget submissions. He and Yvonne Ogren have been working on requests and had just complete their budget submissions for FY17. Capital expense requests were submitted for funds to rebuild Fort Nashborough, the restoration of Sunnyside, and stabilization of Fort Negley walls.

MHC budget modification requests include a part-time staff person who would primarily work with Historical Commission staff to update publications; funds to hire a consultant to study the effect of historic overlays on property values across the county, additional funds for staff and commission members to attend conferences or other training opportunities; and increases in several accounts to cover rising costs in normal department operations.

*Mr. Walker introduced Mary Barber, a Belmont student who is interning with the staff during the spring semester. Miss Barber has been assisting Tara and Scarlett with the African-American History Conference, Preservation Awards, and updating the Sunnyside brochure.*

#### **HISTORIC MARKERS – Tara Mielnik**

Tara Mielnik proposed two draft markers, sponsored by the neighborhood association in East Nashville. The group would like to have the markers approved in concept in order to begin fund-raising efforts. Both markers will deal with the Surrender of Nashville in the Civil War. One marker is to be placed at a TBD site on the East Bank; the other marker will be placed in East Park, at the site of the Charles Fuller home, where the surrender was negotiated. Tara will work with the committee and the neighborhood group to finalize the marker text.

#### **PRESERVATION AWARDS – Scarlett Miles**

Mrs. Miles reported that plans are going well for the Preservation Awards program. The deadline for nominations is March 11. Judging day is scheduled for April 12 and this year's judges are Carolyn Brackett, Julie Robisson and Kaitlin Dastugue. The program itself will be held on May 4, in the Downtown Library auditorium, with the reception to follow at the Frost Building.

The MHC Nominations Committee recommends the following to receive the special awards:

Dr. Carroll Van West is to receive the Achievement Award, the Friends of Two Rivers will receive the Commissioner's Award; and a new award, the Fletch Coke History Honor Award, will be presented to Debbie Cox, a local historian and former staff member at Metro Archives.

Following brief discussion, the commission affirmed the recommendation by unanimous vote.

#### **OUTREACH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT – Don Cusic**

Don Cusic reported that plans are in the works for a panel discussion of the History of Music Row, to be held at Belmont University. It will be held sometime in April, but the date has not been confirmed. More information will be given at the March commission meeting.

#### **AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE CONFERENCE- Tara Mielnik**

Tara Mielnik reported that the conference on February 12 went very well and was well attended. The theme for this year was the 150th Anniversary of Fisk University. Attendees had very positive comments about the speakers and especially enjoyed a performance by the Fisk Jubilee Singers.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Tim Walker**

Tim Walker reported that he has met with over half of the newly-elected council members, and talked with them about the mission of the MHC/MHZA, the various events and sites they partner with, and issues that have arisen with the budget cuts in recent years.

Locations have been determined for the interpretive signs to be placed at the Buchanan Station Cemetery. They will be installed in the next few weeks. The MHC Foundation will be paying for that installation. The cemetery itself has undergone extensive renovations in the last couple of years. There likely will be a ceremony to dedicate that site soon after the installation.

Over the last few years, Tim has met several times with the owner of the Union Station baggage building, to talk about its renovation. A firm has been hired to design the update, using over 200 original architectural drawings that are on file here in the MHC office. The original architectural details will be rebuilt as well.

Encore Interpretive won the contract for the Two Rivers Master Plan, its outbuildings and grounds. This project is partially funded by a grant from the Tennessee Historical Commission, and matched by Metro Parks and the Friends of Two Rivers.

Tim reported on the status of the planned hotel encompassing the Utopia and Embers/Climax hotels on 4th Ave North. He has met with the developer numerous times over the last few weeks and continues to work with them, HNI members, MDHA, and the Mayor's office to ensure that all interested parties have a correct understanding of how the project will proceed.

#### HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – *Tim Walker*

Inglewood Place has been officially designated as a new Neighborhood Conservation Overlay district. Newly-elected Council members are more aware now of the process and benefits of preservation overlays, and this awareness has prompted the two council members from Whites Creek to contact Robin to meet and discuss a possible overlay in that area, a portion of which is already listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It would be the first district to be designated in a rural area.

#### STAFF REPORTS

Tara Mielnik mentioned that district History Day competitions had taken place in Clarksville on February 16th and in Murfreesboro on the 19th, and that the statewide competition, Tennessee History Day, was coming up on April 9. Volunteers are always needed to judge the entries.

Melissa Baldock mentioned that The Old House Fair is coming up on March 5, 2016 and will again be held at the Sevier Park Community Center. Travellers Rest will be hosting a variety of children's activities. The radio station Lightning 100 will be a major sponsor and promoter of the event. A contractor who builds tiny houses will have one set up for attendees to see and explore.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

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

Respectfully submitted March 21, 2016.

*Yvonne Ogren*

