



METROPOLITAN
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)
MINUTES

July 16, 2018

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on July 16, 2018, 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, Dr. Clay Bailey, Alex Buchanan, Lynne Holliday, Lynn Maddox, Mark Rogers, E. Thomas Wood, Linda Wynn were present., Menié Bell, Dr. Don Cusic, Dr. Bill Hardin, Jim Hoobler, Dr. Bill McKee, Gerry Searcy, Dr. Carole Bucy, Davidson County Historian, did not attend.

Guests Present: Sarah Williams, Brianna Bartelt

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

Chair Jim Forkum called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. after verifying that a quorum was present. Mr. Wood was reintroduced to those who did not meet him in the last meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *Jim Forkum*

Jim Forkum verified that a quorum was present and asked for approval of the June minutes. Dr. Clay Bailey gave a motion to approve with Alex Buchanan providing a second, June minutes were unanimously approved.

HISTORIC MARKERS– *Jessica Reeves & Caroline Eller*

Jessica Reeves did not have any markers to present for this meeting. Next month, there will be a few markers from the marker project for presentation including one that will be privately funded. The very first marker, which was funded through the marker project (GranDale) was placed on July 8th; July 8th was the anniversary of when the Dale family purchased the land in 1946. The Mayor came out and spoke, Councilwoman Karen Johnson put the program together and there were several other council members and a host of others in attendance. The 100th anniversary of Dutchman's Curve was this past Saturday and was attended by Scarlett Miles. There was a whole weekend of events planned around the commemoration of the anniversary.

DIRECTOR'S EVALUATION – *Jim Forkum*

Jim Forkum noted that the administration had given Metro Departments monies for Open Range Employees to have a 2.5% increase. He noted that Director Walker was in the process of evaluating Open Range staff and giving them a 2.5% increase. He suggested giving the same 2.5% increase to Director Walker. Voting occurred to provide Tim Walker with a 2.5% increase. Mark Rogers gave a motion while Dr. Clay Bailey provided a second and the increase was unanimously approved.

BUILDING RESTORATION OVERVIEW – *DAAD Architecture*

Tim Walker introduced Jamie Sinz and Josh Mendez from DAAD Architecture; they were hired by the Parks Department for the redesign and repair of Sunnyside and its outbuildings. They went over the design plans and

answered questions regarding the plans. Jamie discussed in detail the plans for the main building, its ell, the carriage house and other outbuildings. Modifications will be made to the parking area, parking will be shifted east on Kirkwood so that it is further away from 12th Avenue South, allowing better access to the site. The front of Sunnyside will remain unchanged, and there will be an addition of a new two story, modern connector between the mansion and its ell. The second story balconies will be removed from the south and east faces of the ell, but the north balcony will remain. They are not original to the home and the outdoor porches pose a security and maintenance issue. Tom Wood questioned what would be done with the root cellar. Ms. Sinz noted the root cellar will remain as it is a highly functional space due it has exterior access, although the roof over it will be modified for the additional of a handicapped ramp. Alex Buchanan questioned if the glass connector was proposed due to budget constraints or to make it more functional or neither. Ms. Sinz stated the glass connector is a contrast to the existing form and materials, and the glass provides visibility. The goal is to save as much of the architectural integrity of the house as possible. A food service component will be infused into the makeup of the park, and they are planning to issue an RFP for an outside vendor; this is a first for Metro Parks, but it happens in larger cities across the country. Security would be a part of the rehabilitation along with new door locks throughout the building; no LEED certification will be included. To conclude, everyone is looking forward to the renovations that will take place to restore the building and make it more appealing.

[DIRECTOR'S REPORT & MHC 2018 – 19 Budget and Hearings – Tim Walker](#)

Tim Walker informed everyone that the budget was approved, and there were no changes from last year's budget. Due to the shortfall in the last budget cycle, the Finance Department has asked us to find a savings of \$28,900. We will be meeting with finance to see where we can take that money from without having to go into the City Cemetery repair fund. We are already operating on a tight budget; hopefully after speaking with the finance department we will not have to meet that goal. Bob Allen raised the question if the department can take donations and Tim responded that donations are appreciated and accepted. Paula Person will get back with Bob Allen regarding the departmental printing budget; once those numbers are received he will submit a request to the Bellevue Genealogy group for monetary assistance.

The Ft. Negley Cultural Landscape Report is underway, and Sean Alexander spoke about the ongoing project. The archaeologists are wrapping up the first phase of GPS mapping and above ground testing, but no digging has transpired as of yet. They are also inventorying the flora and fauna of the site, while looking at the data and pulling together the comprehensive report. The research has begun on the north side of the hill between the fort and Science Center and has not yet ventured to the stadium. Per Tim, we are still short (\$60,000) to do all of the archaeology work and we are waiting to hear back from the Finance Director on the possibility of finding additional monies to cover this shortfall. Sean interjected that grant money is being used for portions of the Cultural Landscape Report, but we have been advised not to use the grant money for any Phase 2 archaeology work.

The MHC Foundation's Back to Cuba fundraiser was very successful and raised approximately \$8,000, and some of it may be appropriated for the Ft. Negley Cultural Landscape Report. Discussion was held over Felix Grundy being reinterred, per Tim this is in process. Bob Allen informed the group that next Thursday Dr. J. Roderick Heller will be discussing Felix Grundy at the Belle Meade Carriage House. Linda Wynn informed the group that a vote was entered by the Tennessee Historical Commission for Polk to be disinterred and reinterred in Colombia. The Tennessee Historical Commission and Capital Commission have not heard or voted on this issue.

[HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – Robin Zeigler](#)

Menié Bell was voted in as Chairman and will serve two years in the role. The Eastwood expansion is moving forward and has passed all public hearings, and Edgehill was deferred. Robin will keep everyone posted on the deferment, it might move forward as is or the proposed boundaries of the district may be altered to remove some properties.

STAFF REPORTS

Sean Alexander informed everyone that Paul Hoffman is on paternity leave for the next few weeks. Jessica Reeves updated the group on the Nashville Sites project; it is moving along, and there are three interns working on this project. A Belmont student will be starting in the fall with Dr. Mary Ellen Pethel as part of her course work. The first five tours should be completed and ready to go by the end of this summer. There also will be a whole new Nashville Sites website, if you go to the current website you will not find anything current or new. Tim Walker noted the passing of Michael Emrick from a heart attack, which occurred while Mr. Emrick was vacationing. Mr. Emrick was a noted preservation architect and the local historian for Germantown. He worked to get that overlay in place. Michael Emrick was also on the MHC Foundation board; his body will be cremated and brought back to Nashville.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jim Forkum congratulated Bob Allen on providing the Bellview weekly history for the 13th year. E. Thomas Wood gave an update on Cornelia Fort Airpark; a request was made to the Mayor that the Airport Authority Board approve the commemoration and events on or around February 5th, including a yearlong exhibit with artifacts and texts and a permanent memorial in a public space of the airport. Bob Allen informed the group that Dr. Pethel would be speaking at the Bellevue Genealogy August 3rd program, talking about her new book and Nashville Sites. Please visit the website for information on programs and openings. Dr. Clay Bailey reminded everyone about the picking party that will take place at the Cornelia Fort Park; this is another way to support the legacy of Cornelia Fort. Dr. Bailey thanked Sean Alexander again for his assistance with the Memorial Day Dash; it was a big success and there were about 280 runners. The run was dedicated to Peter Pressman, President of the Nashville Striders, who had unexpectedly passed away earlier this year.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:57 pm.
Respectfully submitted July 19, 2018.

Paula R. Person