



METROPOLITAN
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)
MINUTES

November 17, 2014

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on November 17, 2014, 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, Menié Bell, Lula Brooks, Alex Buchanan, Holly Conner, David Currey, Don Cusic, Jim Hoobler, Lynn Maddox, Mark Rogers, Gerry Searcy and Linda Wynn. Clay Bailey was not present.

Guests Present: Dr. Carole Bucy, Daniel Gillum

Staff Members Present: Tim Walker, Sean Alexander, Tara Mielnik, and Scarlett Miles.

Dr. McKee called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm, after verifying that a quorum was present.

Daniel Gilliam with Jim Cooper's office was introduced. Gilliam is Congressman Jim Cooper's liaison with Metro government commissions and boards.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Lynn Maddox made a motion to approve the minutes from the October meeting as written. Linda Wynn seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as written.

ENCYCLOPEDIA UPDATE- *Dr. Carole Bucy*

Dr. Bucy reported that the project is moving along, but very slowly. Bucy has told the Mayor's office of her concerns that the project will not be ready to go live in 2015 without paid assistance and has asked for funds for a contract position to take over the editing of submitted articles.

SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE REPORT – *Jim Hoobler*

Jim Hoobler reported that the plans are set for the Battle of Nashville commemorations taking place at historic sites in the Nashville area. Many of them, including Sevier Park, will have cannon fire at sunset. The Historical Commission is sponsoring the advertising, which will include notices in several Civil War-related publications, including a full-color wrap for the Tennessean on December 10th, the Wednesday before the commemoration weekend.

Crews from Metro Channel 3 will be filming at several of the sites that day and will make a one-hour video for the MHC to document the event and tell the history of the battle.

On Tuesday, December 16, there will be a synchronized tolling of church bells at locations from Nashville to Franklin, from 4:30 to 4:34.

The Tennessee State Museum will feature an exhibition that includes a color study made for a full scale cyclorama of the Battle of Nashville by Louis Kindt. The study was done about 20 years after the battle but was never commissioned as a finished work.

[FOLLOW-UP TO HR/PAY PLAN MOTION- Dr. Bill McKee](#)

Dr. McKee plans to deliver the commission's recommendation and request for staff and director pay increases to Ms. Jane Madden at HR. This will be followed up with a meeting between Madden, Veronica Frazier (HR) and McKee himself, to discuss the recommendation as well as the results from the workload audit that is nearing completion.

Tim Walker mentioned that he was working with the auditing team. When the first draft is completed, Walker will have the opportunity to return comments and the team will update the draft and return it to him for a second review. He is expecting that the audit will confirm that MHC/MHZC's workload exceeds the current staff level.

[DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Tim Walker](#)

- Walker reported that he had attended a ceremony at Shy's Hill for the dedication of a monument to Minnesota troops who fell in that Civil War skirmish. It was a very well-planned ceremony and well-attended.
- He mentioned several events that are coming up in December, to which all commissioners are invited:
 - The Nashville City Cemetery Association will hold its annual meeting at Two Rivers Mansion on Dec. 9 from 6-8 p.m.
 - The cemetery dedication at Grassmere is scheduled for Nov. 22 at 1 p.m.
 - Dr. Bucy is leading a tour of Omohundro Water Works for members of her most recent class on Nashville history.
- The interpretive signage for Buchanan Station Cemetery will be installed early in 2015. Ownership of the property is to be transferred to Metro Parks.
- The National Trust is naming Music Row as a National Treasure and will help fund a multiple property NR nomination for the properties. This will allow for federal tax credits for rehab to be offered for rehabilitation of historic properties in that district.

[HISTORIC ZONING -](#)

No report.

[OTHER BUSINESS](#)

Linda Wynn mentioned that the 34th annual African American History and Culture Conference is coming up on February 13, 2015. Registration will begin after the New Year through January 24 and the cost is \$20, which includes the day's activities, lunch and all conference materials.

In response to questions from the commission, David Currey mentioned that the Cordell Hull building status has not changed. The State Building Commission recommended that it be renovated for office use instead of being torn down; however, this is not a binding recommendation.

Currey also reported that Phase 1 of the Fort Nashborough interpretative center has been approved to begin. This will include demolition of all buildings and construction of all buildings included in the plan. Lynn Maddox

mentioned that the DAR was very interested in being present for the demolitions and involved in the reconstruction project afterward.

Jim Forkum announced that on Dec. 15, there would be a reenactment program of the US Colored Troops at the National Cemetery and a living history event at Fort Negley, also.

Bob Allen reported that the new Bellevue Library will open on January 29. The center includes an interactive living history wall of the Bellevue community. Beginning in February, on the first and third Saturday of each month, the Bellevue History and Genealogy group will show movies of local history.

Commissioner Allen also mentioned the plans for the current Hillwood High School to be sold and a new Bellevue High built on Colice Jeanne Road. If the plan moves forward as it is now, the new high school building would eliminate Red Caboose Park, which is where the DeMoss Cabin is located. This will be a real concern for this commission as the cabin is on the National Register of Historic Places, and it would be very costly to take down and move to another location.

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

Respectfully submitted Dec. 10, 2014.

Yvonne Ogren

