



METROPOLITAN  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)  
MINUTES

April 20, 2016

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on April 20, 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, Bob Allen, Menié Bell, Alex Buchanan, Pat Cummins, David Currey, Don Cusic, Bill Hardin, Jim Hoobler, Dr. Bill McKee, Mark Rogers, Gerry Searcy, and Linda Wynn were present. Lynn Maddox 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, intern.

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 March 2016 meeting. Bob Allen mentioned that he was marked as present but he had not attended. Jim Hoobler made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Bob Allen seconded and the commission voted to approve them unanimously.

**NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATIONS – Scarlett Miles**

Scarlett Miles gave a slide presentation of three nominations for properties to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places:

The *Jackson Park Historic District* is a district of approximately 350 residential properties on Brush Hill Court, Brush Hill Road, Earlene Drive, Eastdale Avenue, Kenwood Drive, Plymouth Avenue, Riverwood Drive, and Winding Way, having a period of significance of 1923 through 1966. It includes diverse architectural types, including Colonial Revival, English Cottage, Tudor Revival, Bungalows, Minimal Traditional, and Ranch houses, as well as the Jere Baxter Masonic Lodge (Egyptian Revival architecture). The district qualifies for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A (History, Community Planning and Development) and C (Architecture), and demonstrates the expansion of Nashville's suburban neighborhoods from the streetcar suburbs to those more influenced by the automobile.

The nomination was prepared by Jaime Destefano and staff at History, Inc., funded through a grant from the THC and the MHC Foundation, supplemented with work and review by MHC Staff (Scarlett Miles & Tara Mielnik). *Jim Hoobler made a motion to approve the nomination and Mark Rogers seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

The *Fire Hall for Engine Company No. 18* is nominated under Criteria A (History, Community Planning and Development) and C (Architecture) Constructed in 1930 for the Greenwood/Eastwood/South Inglewood area, architect C.K. Colley. It is an example of the use of early 20th C Tudor Revival style and residential scale to the design of a municipal building. It was damaged by fire in 2011, and is currently undergoing restoration. The nomination was prepared by Scarlett Miles, Following this portion of the presentation, *Menié Bell moved for approval of the nomination and Jim Hoobler seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

The *Historic Music Industry Resources Multiple Property Documentation Form* (MPDF) is a 200+page documentation of Nashville's music industry resources. It provides the context for future nominations of these resources to the National Register of Historic Places. It is primarily concerned with the resources of Music Row, but also provides context for other music-related resources throughout the county. Properties contained in the MPDF are significant at the National, State, and Local levels. The period of significance for Historic Resources on Music Row is 1895-1989, with two distinct periods of development: Neighborhood Landmarks (1895-1989) and Music Industry Resources (1954-1989). Properties are eligible under Criterion A (Performing Arts, Commerce, Communications, Community Planning and Development, Social History), Criterion C (Architecture), and Criteria Consideration G (Properties that have Achieved Significance within the past 50 years). The MPDF identifies 9 different property types: Music Recording Studios, Radio Broadcast Studios, Music Industry Housing, Music Publishing Houses, Music Multi-Purpose Facilities, Neighborhood Landmarks, Music Professional and Media Services, Music Union Halls and Professional Associations, Music Performance Venues and Gathering Places.

The *House of David Recording Studio Complex* is nominated under Criterion A (history, performing arts) and Criterion C (architecture). It is included in the Historic Music Industry Resources MPDF. The property contains two buildings, which were constructed c1910 as residences and converted to a recording studio complex in the 1970s. The two former residences are Colonial Revival in style. David Paul Briggs, a noted musician and publisher who previously worked with Elvis Presley and other notable recording artists, converted them for studio use. He began using them as a commercial studio in the early 1980s, first with Joe Cocker and Neil Young. The nomination was prepared by Robbie D. Jones of New South Associates. *Menie Bell made a motion to approve the nomination with Pat Cummins' second. The motion was approved.*

The *John Geist and Sons Blacksmith Shop* was originally listed in the National Historic Register in 1980. The nomination presented today is for a change in the original boundaries. *Scarlett presented information and slides to show that the residence included within the original boundaries has been demolished, and the request is to reduce the boundaries to only include the parcel with the blacksmith shop that remains. Jim Hoobler made a motion to approve the change in the boundaries of the property in the nomination. Linda Wynn seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

#### **BUDGET UPDATE – Tim Walker**

Mr. Walker mentioned that MHC's budget hearing with Mayor Megan Barry went very well, and he felt confident about the department's budget for FY17. He thanked the commissioners who attended for their support and noted that it indicates the importance of the work done by the department. The hearing before Metro Council is set for May 11 at 5:15 p.m. and Walker is hopeful the commissioners will again turn out in support.

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

Mr. Walker said that the department has been working with Fletch Coke to develop a plan to manage the database of the Davidson County Cemetery Survey (DCCS) website. That survey was initiated by the Colonial Dames in 1999 with assistance from MHC and other organizations, and over 605 cemeteries have been identified in the county and recorded. ITS, the MHC, Metro Archives, and Mrs. Coke have begun that work. Through donations from Fletch Coke and Bertie Shriver, an intern has been hired to begin entering the survey

information into a spreadsheet, for access through Metro's Open Data portal. Once that has been completed, Yvonne Ogren will be the point person for inquiries.

*Bob Allen mentioned that a friend of his, George Collier, is putting together information on historic cemeteries in Bellevue. He has photographed all the tombstones in approximately 60 cemeteries. Bob and this gentleman are writing and plan to publish a book on about 40 of those locations.*

Also related to the DCCS website, the MHC Foundation has agreed to be a liaison for donations to be given for the restoration or cleaning of any of those rural cemeteries.

The office is working with Dr. Carroll Van West from MTSU to write a NR nomination for the Maybelle Carter house in Madison. The owner is very supportive of this effort and designating the site as a historic landmark through MHZC in the future. The house was a gathering space for members of the Opry during Maybelle Carter's time there, and a number of well-known songs were written there.

The Warren House at 1812 Broadway has been in the news lately. Potential buyers Chris Redmon and Barry Walker have a proposal to move the house to a site adjacent to Marathon Village. The current owner, a developer, has offered to donate the house to be moved, but it must be off the site within 90 days.

#### [HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – Robin Zeigler](#)

On Monday, May 23, the Nashville Civic Design Center will sponsor a PechaKuchaNight focusing on projects that have shaped Nashville over the years. Each presentation contains 20 images x 20 seconds. A PechaKucha is a group of concise, rapid, focused presentations. This event will be held in The Special Collections Center on the second floor of the Downtown Library. Doors open at 5:00 p.m., presentations begin at 6:00 p.m.

#### [STAFF REPORTS](#)

Scarlett Miles reminded everyone that the Preservation Awards program is coming up on May 4 in the Downtown Library auditorium. The program will be held at 4:30 p.m., with the reception following at the Frost Building, 161 Rosa L. Parks Blvd. Parking is available at the Library, where the first hour is free if your ticket has been validated in the lobby when you arrive. Scarlett also mentioned that Mary Barber, our intern (present at the meeting) had designed the invitations and programs for this year's event.

#### [OTHER BUSINESS](#)

Don Cusic mentioned that the "History of Music Row" panel discussion, sponsored by Belmont University and the Metro Historical Commission, would take place that evening at 5:30 p.m. in the Johnson Building at Belmont. Cusic will emcee the event, and panelists will be Bobby Braddock, author of "My Life on Music Row" and a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, Michael Kosser, author of "How Nashville Became Music City U.S.A." and Brenda Colladay, former head of the Grand Ole Opry Archive and currently conducting research on the history of RCA Studio A. The event is free and will be held in the large theater on the first floor of the Johnson Building; located at 1909 15th Avenue S. Parking is available in the Johnson parking garage.

*In response to a question from David Currey about the Nashville Encyclopedia, Tim reported that Dr. Carole Bucy, County Historian, was still moving the project forward, but Metro had not provided any funds to support it in the FY16 budget. Volunteer participation has declined in the last year, so progress has been slow.*

Pat Cummins is teaching an adult learning class on Cherokee history out of Vanderbilt University. It has been going very well so far and he has about 200 students, many of which are retired teachers or professors.

Clay Bailey mentioned that the Memorial Day Dash 5K race is coming up on May 30. The race will begin in front of the Adventure Science Center at 7:30 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted May 12, 2016.

*Yvonne Ogren*