



METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)  
MINUTES

August 18, 2014

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on August 18, 2014, in the conference room of the Historical Commission office at 3000 Granny White Pike, with Commission Vice-Chair Jim Forkum presiding.

**Commissioners Present:** Jim Forkum, Vice-Chair; Bob Allen, Clay Bailey, Menié Bell, Lula Brooks, George Cate Jr, Holly Conner, David Currey, Don Cusic, Lynn Maddox, Mark Rogers, Gerry Searcy and Linda Wynn. Jim Hoobler and Dr. Bill McKee were not present.

**Guests Present:** Dr. Carroll Van West, Aaron Deter-Wolf, Tanya M. Peres, Katie Randall

**Staff Members Present:** Tim Walker, Sean Alexander, Tara Mielnik, Yvonne Ogren

Vice-Chair Jim Forkum called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm, after verifying that a quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Cusic moved to approve the minutes from the June meeting as written. Commissioner Wynn seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

#### NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATIONS

Aaron Deter-Wolf, archeologist with the Tennessee Division of Archaeology, presented a NR nomination for *site 40DV307*, the *Barnes' Site*, meeting the criteria for its archaeological significance. The .41 acre site was identified following the 2010 flood, on the banks of the Cumberland River in the vicinity of Bells Bend. The exact location of the property is not given to protect the area from looters. The site contains intact archaeological deposits from settlements dating back as early as 8000 BC to AD 1200, and includes archaeological deposits that meet the National Register criteria for archaeological sites.

**Motion:** Commissioner Rodgers moved to approve the Barnes' Site NR nomination as presented. Commissioner Wynn seconded. Approved unanimously.

Dr. Carroll Van West, of the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, presented a NR nomination for the Grand Old Opry House, meeting the criteria for Communications and Popular Culture, and possibly its architecture as well. The building has been home to the Grand Ole Opry program since its construction in 1974. It was nearly destroyed in the 2010 flood, but has since been completely restored and renovated. This was the only major renovation to the building since it opened. Although the first sixteen rows of seats were underwater and completely destroyed, the original round section of the stage floor brought over from the Ryman Auditorium

was able to be saved. The technology and media equipment was also saved from being flooded, as it was designed to hang above the stage from the rafters. This original analog equipment was upgraded with modern digital media equipment when the building was renovated.

**Motion:** Commissioner Cusic moved to approve the Grand Ole Opry House NR nomination as presented. Commissioner Conner seconded, and the nomination was approved unanimously.

The nominations will be considered at the State Review Board in September.

#### **NASHVILLE ENCYCLOPEDIA – Tara Mielnik**

Tara Mielnik reported that the Encyclopedia project was moving along well and that the ITS Dept. has already published more than fifty articles on the website. There are many more topics that are unassigned but need to be written and commissioners were encouraged to volunteer to write at least one.

#### **SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE REPORT – Tim Walker, Jim Forkum**

- Programming for the Sesquicentennial commemoration will be in full swing for the remainder of 2014, beginning with a series of special events sponsored by Lipscomb University, titled *Agents of Their Own Destiny: Race and Remembrance in a Civil War City*.
- As a featured event in the Lipscomb program, Commissioner David Currey will be leading a tour each Saturday in October. Reservations will be required and space is limited to about 25 persons per tour.
- Arrangements have been made for Mary Newton from ITS to visit the Civil War sites on Dec. 13 to record a video of commemoration reenactments and programming, which would then be posted on Metro Channel 3 for the public.

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

- A second report by Centric Architecture was released last month, analyzing the JLL structure report, on the Cordell Hull Building. This report states that they feel the building is an excellent candidate for rehab and it makes more sense to reuse it, than to rebuild. Mr. Walker and Melissa Wylie from HNI were interviewed about this by Phil Williams of Channel 5 news, and the story would be aired that evening. The State Building Commission was to meet that week and the future of the building would be on the agenda.
- Funding was approved for the Metro Audit department to conduct an audit of the workload and staff of the MHC/MHZC. This will likely begin sometime in September.
- A NashvilleNext meeting, co-sponsored by the MHC and Tennessee Preservation Trust, was scheduled for that evening at 5:30, in the Sonny West Conference Center. This coincides with the Planning Commission's 25-year plan for Nashville 2040, and is to help insure that historic preservation plays a part in the development of the plan.
- Walker has been working behind the scenes with Walmart's attorney on the Gallatin Avenue Fire Hall. They recently put out a request for proposals of how to adapt and reuse the building. RFP's came back in July and a couple of them had contacted the office to find out what changes they could make to the building because it is a designated landmark and cannot be demolished. Since then, he has heard that a group of firefighters had been awarded the location and will restore the building and open a family-style restaurant, displaying photos and memorabilia from its days as a fire hall.
- Tennessee Wars Commission has awarded a grant for interpretive signage at the Buchanan Station Cemetery. This will be administrated through the MHC Foundation. David Currey's design firm, Encore Interpretive, has been hired to design the plaques.

- A group in the 12South neighborhood would like to have an area designated as a neighborhood conservation zoning district. Expansions of three existing districts have been approved by council. The expansion of the Broadway historic district goes to second reading at the August 19 Council meeting.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner David Currey mentioned that the Tennessee Preservation Trust would be releasing its annual Ten in Tennessee list of endangered properties in the state. They are considering listing the city of Nashville as a City in Crisis, as more and more historic properties are demolished by developers.

Commissioner George Cate Jr announced that his term on the MHC had expired and that he had asked not to be reappointed. A new appointee has not been determined.

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

Respectfully submitted by

*Yvonne Ogren*

September 9, 2014