



METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)
MINUTES

January 26, 2015

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on January 26, 2015, 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, Clay Bailey, Menié Bell, Lula Brooks, Alex Buchanan, David Currey, Don Cusic, Jim Hoobler, Lynn Maddox, Mark Rogers, and Gerry Searcy. Holly Conner and Linda Wynn were not present.

Staff Members Present: Tim Walker, Tara Mielnik, Yvonne Ogren, Jessica Reeves, and Fred Zahn

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

FY16 BUDGET KICK-OFF – Tim Walker

Mr. Walker reported that all departments have been asked to submit a 3% reduction scenario for FY16. For the MHC/MHZC this is equivalent to \$20,800. One full-time Historic Preservationist 1 (HP1) position would be cut to half-time. The operating expenses have been cut more than 18% in the last five years.

Dr. McKee mentioned that it is very important for as many commissioners as possible to attend both the Mayor's Hearing, which will be in late March or early April, and also the Council Budget Hearing. Mayor Dean has mentioned the Commission's support at the hearings in recent years.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Bob Allen made a motion to approve the minutes from the December meeting as written. Jim Hoobler seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as written.

NASHVILLE ARCHITECTURE BOOK

Dr. McKee introduced the topic of the architecture book that is soon to be published and asked for a brief history for the commission. Tara Mielnik explained that the MHC and the Middle Tennessee Chapter of the American Institute of Architects had been collaborating on a book of city architecture for about 25 years, as an update to *Nashville: A Short History and Selected Buildings*, which was published in 1974. Many staff members have been involved over the years, including Ann Roberts and Ophelia Paine. The majority of the text was prepared by Dr. Carroll Van West, the state historian. Several years ago, MHC staff began working on this again, updating the text, buildings and photography, and recently approved the final draft.

The title of the book will be *Nashville Architecture: A Guide to the City*. It will be published by UT Press in August of 2015.

CONFERENCE on AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE – Tara Mielnik

Ms. Mielnik gave a brief synopsis of the speakers and presentations that were scheduled in the 2015 conference. This year's program will focus on some of the unsung personalities of African Americans in

Tennessee and their contributions to the state's history. Three additional profiles will be added to the ongoing series. The \$20 fee includes all lunch and all conference materials. Registration has been open for several weeks, with approximately 125 registrars at this date.

ENCYCLOPEDIA UPDATE - *Tara Mielnik*

Tara Mielnik reported that little progress has been made on the Encyclopedia project since last month, however, the Library is hiring two employees who will work exclusively on the project. They will take on the majority of the editing and correspondence with writers. Commissioners who had agreed to write articles were urged to complete and submit them soon.

Mrs. Mielnik also mentioned that Tennessee History Day is coming up on February 27 at MTSU. Volunteers are always needed for the event.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – *Tim Walker*

- The historic chapel at Mt Olivet cemetery was destroyed by fire during the night of January 25. Mr. Walker and members of HNI had been negotiating with the ownership to try and save the building for several years, but it is likely a total loss.
- The office is applying for two CLG Grants for developing Master Interpretive Plans; one for Kellytown and the other is for Two Rivers Mansion.
- Walker has received the final report from the workload audit that was started in 2014. A copy is available in his office, or can be emailed to anyone interested.
- MHC, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, HNI, Tennessee Preservation Trust, the Music Row Coalition, and the Tennessee Historical Commission are working jointly on a project to have all remaining recording industry locations on Music Row surveyed and documented to determine which are eligible to be listed on the National Historic Register. The estimated cost to hire a consultant to do the survey and documentation is \$40-50,000. This would allow them to write NR nominations for up to ten eligible properties.
- He plans to meet with Mayor Dean in the next few weeks and ask him to landmark a number of city-owned properties, including the expansion of Warner Park, Lock 1, Lock Two, Bells Bend, the Naval Building in Shelby Park, Kellytown, Buchanan Station Cemetery, Stone Hall, and Centennial Park. Currently only the Parthenon has landmark status. Another is Bank Street, the cobblestone alley between First and Second avenues, south of the Courthouse. It is the last original cobblestone street left in the city. The final property on the list is the Ben West Library. This would be a total of eleven new designated Landmarks in the city.

OTHER BUSINESS

David Currey mentioned that the 2015 Tennessee Preservation Trust conference is coming up at the end of April, and will be held in Chattanooga.

Currey also reported that bids are being accepted for Phase One of the Fort Nashborough project. He is hopeful that work will begin on the site before summer.

Commissioner Lynn Maddox mentioned that on March 5, the Cumberland River Compact and the local DAR chapter will be hosting a panel discussion on the planned Fort Nashborough interpretive center. It will be facilitated by Dr. McKee, and the panel members are Paul Clements, Tim Walker and Chris Koster. The Cumberland River Compact is located at the River Center in the Bridge Building, 2 Victory Ave.

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

Respectfully submitted March 11, 2015

Yvonne Ogren