



METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)
MINUTES

September 19, 2016

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on September 19, 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, Alex Buchanan, Pat Cummins, David Currey, Don Cusic, Bill Hardin, Jim Hoobler, Lynn Maddox, Dr. Bill McKee, Mark Rogers*, Gerry Searcy, and Linda Wynn were present. Menié Bell did not attend.

Guests Present: none

Staff Members Present: Tim Walker, Sean Alexander, Melissa Baldock, Tara Mielnik, Scarlett Miles, Yvonne Ogren, Melissa Sajid, Fred Zahn and Robin Zeigler.

Chair Jim Forkum called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m., after verifying that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *Jim Forkum*

Jim Forkum asked if there were any amendments or questions regarding the minutes from the August 2016 meeting. Having none, Bill McKee made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Clay Bailey seconded and the commission approved them unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Tim Walker opened discussion on the MHC's annual Open House. Lynn Maddox agreed to chair the committee that would plan the event. After brief discussion, the commission agreed that the Open House should be held after the New Year, as people are typically very busy and have too many conflicts. The consensus was that it would be best to postpone the event until February 2017, and that it should be held at Sunnyside.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – *Tim Walker*

Tim Walker said that he, Jim Forkum and Brian Tibbs (MHZC Chair) were meeting with the Mayor, the Finance Director, and Rich Riebeling on the following Friday to discuss MHC's budget, staffing and capital projects. They also plan to discuss the possible creation of an annual preservation fund, a matching grant that would serve as an incentive for rehab of threatened historic buildings. This has been done in other cities, such as Knoxville, with much success.

The intern who was hired to create a database from the Davidson County Cemetery Survey has finished that project. Tim, Fred, and Yvonne will be meeting with ITS to talk about how it will function on the Metro database. Hopefully the new Cemetery Survey website will go live before the end of 2016, and it will be much more interactive website, with more information and photos.

**Mark Rogers joined the meeting.*

Tim said he would be attending two committee meetings of Metro Council that same evening. Council members would be reviewing a change in the requirement for letters of public notice regarding design guideline changes to be sent to all property owners within a 600 foot buffer zone. Since it would only apply to changes in guidelines for preexisting overlay districts, any change in those guidelines would have minimal impact on outlying properties. If approved, notices would only have to be sent to owners within a 150 ft. buffer zone. Also under review is a resolution to accept funds for an economic impact study, as terms of mitigation in Section 106 review for a new type of cell towers in the downtown area. The 106 review was completed by MHC staff member Tara Mielnik.

The first draft of the Two Rivers Master Plan has been released. There have been many good comments on the MP from the state and from members of the Friends of Two Rivers Mansion board. It is a very ambitious plan that provides a framework for Metro Parks to move forward with interpretive plans and programming at the site.

At Tim Walker's request, David Currey reported that construction has begun for the new interpretive center for Fort Nashborough. The foundations are in for the first blockhouse, which should be built in the next 2-3 weeks. Currey estimated that Phase One of the Fort Nashborough project would be completed in the middle of 2017.

Tim mentioned that the Taste of Wedgewood-Houston fundraiser for Friends of Fort Negley was very well-attended. In light of its success, the group has plans to make it an annual event.

Clay Bailey mentioned that two public meetings would be held that week on plans for the Greer Stadium property. Friends of Fort Negley has a vision for the property, including a history-themed playground, walking trails with interpretive signage and softball fields. Bailey encouraged commissioners to attend one or both of the meetings in support of the group and their plan. Plans that have been proposed for development of the 16 acre site include a tennis club, soccer fields, and a mixed retail and residential development.

Tim Walker mentioned that on October 6 from 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m., the MHC and Planning, along with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, are co-sponsoring a Music Row Cultural Industry Summit at Belmont. The hope is that a new type of design review district could be established there and attendees could be educated about that plan. Pre-registration is required for that event.

On October 9, Historic Nashville is hosting an event to announce its Nashville Nine Most Endangered Properties list. It will be a fund-raising event and the group will be launching their new website.

Elizabeth Mayhall has been appointed as a new commissioner on the Historic Zoning Commission, replacing Richard Fletcher. Ms. Mayhall lives and works downtown and is expected to be a good addition to that board.

The Nashville City Cemetery's Living History Tour will be held on October 15 from 3-6 p.m. Parking will again be at Greer Stadium and attendees will be shuttled to the cemetery.

On September 29, The District will hold its annual Progressive Dinner Party. This is a fundraiser for the non-profit support group that the MHC co-created about 30 years ago to support historic preservation in the Downtown Historic District Second Avenue-Broadway-Printers Alley area.

HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – *Robin Zeigler*

Robin Zeigler reported that two new historic landmarks were on the September 21 Historic Zoning agenda. One is the Smith-Carter House in Madison. Three generations of Carter women have lived in that house, and numerous iconic country songs were written there. The Baron's Club on Jefferson Street is also up for Historic Landmark designation. The BelAir mansion in Donelson will be on the October 19 agenda for landmark designation.

STAFF REPORTS

Tara Mielnik mentioned that Jessica Reeves will be working part-time at the MHC, taking on some of Tara's duties, including the historical marker program. Jessica previously worked at MHC in 2015 for several months while Scarlett was on leave. At that time Ms. Reeves was the administrator for the Preservation Awards program.

Dr. Mielnik also mentioned that she and Commissioner Linda Wynn would be presenting at the Tennessee Great Wars Commission meeting in November, in Jackson, Tennessee. She encouraged the commissioners to attend in honor of the home front in Tennessee in the First World War.

OTHER BUSINESS

David Currey mentioned that on October 14 there will be a fundraiser from 4 to 8 p.m. at Centennial Park, with proceeds going toward the restoration of the train, which will then be used as an excursion train to Cookeville.

Currey mentioned that the final report and interpretive plan for Kellytown would be completed and released sometime in October.

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

Respectfully submitted October 11, 2016.

Yvonne Ogren