



METROPOLITAN
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)
MINUTES

February 25, 2019

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on February 25, 2019, in the conference room of the Metro Historical Commission office at 3000 Granny White Pike, with Commission Chair Jim Forkum presiding.

Commissioners Present: Jim Forkum, Chair; Bob Allen, Dr. Clay Bailey, Christopher Cotton, Dr. Don Cusic, Michelle Hall, Jim Hoobler, Lynn Maddox, Dr. Bill McKee, Mark Rogers, Gerry Searcy, E. Thomas Wood, Linda Wynn **were present.** Menié Bell, Dr. Carole Bucy, county historian, and Lynne Holliday **did not attend.**

Guests Present: Dr. Mary Ellen Pethel

Staff Members Present: Tim Walker, Sean Alexander, Melissa Baldock, Caroline Eller, Paula Person, Jessica Reeves, Melissa Sajid, Fred Zahn, Robin Zeigler were present.

Chair Jim Forkum called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. after verifying that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *Jim Forkum*

Jim Forkum asked for approval of the January minutes. Jim Hoobler made a motion to approve, Chris Cotton provided a second and the January minutes were unanimously approved.

HISTORICAL MARKERS– *Jessica Reeves*

Jessica Reeves presented the District 34 marker for Josephine Holloway and the Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee. The location of this marker will be at the Girl Scout headquarters on Granny White Pike. Michelle Hall suggested that “African American” be hyphenated in the text body. Linda Wynn made a motion to approve, Tom Wood provided a second and the marker was unanimously approved. Please be aware that in March we will have the Nashville YMCA marker dedication and Dodson School marker dedication.

Nashville Sites Project –*Dr. Mary Ellen Pethel*

Dr. Pethel gave a presentation on the progress of the Nashville Sites project. She explained that it is a mobile-friendly website with desktop compatibility, and noted the number of tours completed so far. She also played a bit of audio from one of the tours, narrated by County Historian Dr. Carole Bucy. There are future plans to add a button on the website that will accept donations, for those wishing to do so. Volunteers are needed and welcomed to assist with the testing of tours.

No oral report was given; copies were submitted for the Director's Report, MHC Budget and MHZC Report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – *Tim Walker*

BL2018-1417 and BL2018-1418 were approved on third reading by Metro Council at its February 19th meeting. The first bill clarifies the language in the zoning code to require a preservation permit for work in a historic overlay. The second bill creates a new zoning overlay, a Historic Interiors Landmark, which will allow for significant public interior spaces to be protected. I plan to ask the administration to landmark the interiors of Union Station and the Customs House as the federal government already requires Metro preserve their interiors. The federal government formerly owned both buildings and as a part of their transfer to Metro required the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties* be applied to all exterior and interior changes. The MHC is required to biennially submit a report to the NPS on both buildings.

MHC staff has submitted its comments/edits to PlaceEconomics on the Economic Impact Study for Historic Preservation in Metro Nashville. We expect a final draft of the document in the next week for review. We'll have two weeks to review prior to our final edits submittal. The report should be completed by the end of March, and a public presentation of the report will take place in May to coincide with National Preservation Month.

MHC and Parks will receive the second draft of the Fort Negley Cultural Landscape Report on March 8th. We'll have until March 25th to review and provide comments/edits/changes to the consultant, Encore Interpretive Design. We expect the final document to be completed by mid-April.

MHC Budget Update – *Tim Walker*

MHC's 2019-2020 Budget and Four Percent submissions were made on February 12th. Although we were not permitted to ask for an increase, we did make the case that the prior unfunded increases we incurred for software renewals and the internet service, which total more than \$4,000 should be funded through an increase to our budget. Those expenses are required for our normal operations.

Four percent requests included monies for redesign and printing of the *African American Historic Sites* brochure, historical markers, preservation award plaques, a printer, and other miscellaneous office equipment.

HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – *Robin Zeigler*

The Old House Fair will be March 2, 2019, 9am-3pm, Sevier Park Community Center. There will be approximately 35 exhibitors. Historic Travellers Rest Plantation & Museum is returning with activities for children. Presenters schedule can be found here: <https://www.nashville.gov/Historical-Commission/Events-and-Programs/Old-House-Fair.aspx>

The Design Guideline Consolidation Project began with the first stakeholders meeting on February 18, 2019. Public participation is encouraged through an online platform called Padlet. A link to Padlet can be found on our website that provides a general overview of the project: <https://www.nashville.gov/Historical-Commission/About/Historic-Zoning-Commission/Design-Guideline-Consolidation-Project.aspx>

The Kenner Manor NCZO has passed the public hearing with the MHZC with a reduced boundary. The Planning Commission public hearing is expected to be March 28 and the Council public hearing will be April 2.

An HPZO is expected to be filed within the next couple of months for Marathon Village.

The MHZC has a new commission member, Leigh Fitts. Fitts is an architect and project manager at Hastings Architecture Associates. She replaces Eric Brown who had to step down due to scheduling conflicts.

STAFF REPORTS

Jessica Reeves reminded everyone about the marker upcoming ceremonies and gave the Preservation Awards update on behalf of Scarlett Miles: Nominations for architectural awards are due on Friday, March 8. Feel free to submit your own nominations and/or spread the word if you know of any exceptional preservation projects (forms online or on table in hall). Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 9, 4:30 p.m. for the awards program at the Nashville Public Library, downtown. Reception TBA. Have ideas for a free or extremely low cost reception location? Please email Scarlett ASAP. Nominations for Achievement Award, Commissioners' Award, and Fletch Coke Award are due to Scarlett by Monday, March 4. Check your email for those forms; email Scarlett if you need them re-sent to you. Or, we have a few paper copies available today. Curious about past winners? A full list is available on our website. Reminder: Events/Special Projects and Nominations Committee will meet Monday, March 11 at 9:00 a.m. Please email Scarlett if you can/can't attend. Yes, we will revisit past nominations, but new nominations are always helpful. If you'd like to assist with the MHC table at the Old House Fair (anytime from 9:00am to 3:00pm), please email Scarlett.

Caroline Eller mentioned that the February Nashville 101 series with Dr. Carole Bucy was very successful and we will be adding the same series at the Bellevue library in April due to popular demand. A Nashville 102 series will be held on Mondays in September at the Lentz Public Health Center.

Robin Zeigler reminded everyone of the Old House Fair event on March 2 and asked that anyone who can help in providing 17 tables for the event please contact her.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Clay Bailey informed the group of the walk through at Ft. Negley tomorrow for the Nashville Sites Tour. We are in need of sponsors (business or individuals) for the Memorial Day Dash benefitting the Nashville City Cemetery that is coming up on May 27th.

Jim Hoobler expressed concern over the public park on Church Street being swapped for a parking lot next to the Morris Memorial Building. He stated that giving away that particular green space in the heart of the city is a bad idea, and he would like the Commission to write a letter to the Metro Council stating our opposition to the exchange. After some discussion, it was decided that Mr. Hoobler will present a proposal to the Commission at the next meeting.

Chris Cotton mentioned the great turnout on a cold day at the Patsy Cline marker dedication ceremony and urged the Commissioner's to attend these ceremonies as they are fun and the community appreciates it.

Linda Wynn thanked everyone that attended and helped to make the Nashville Conference on African American History and Culture a success this year. A lot of comments were mentioned on the variations of musical talent that performed.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted March 12, 2019.

Paula R. Person