



METROPOLITAN
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)
MINUTES

May 19, 2014

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on May 19, 2014, 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, Menié Bell, Lula Brooks, George Cate Jr, Holly Conner, Don Cusic, Jim Hoobler, Lynn Maddox, Mark Rogers, and Linda Wynn. Clay Bailey, David Currey, and Gerry Searcy were not present.

Guests Present: Dr. Carole Bucy

Staff Members Present: Tim Walker, Scarlett Miles, Tara Mielnik, Yvonne Ogren

Chair Bill McKee called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm, after verifying that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Allen moved to approve the minutes from the April meeting as written. Commissioner Maddox seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

PRESERVATION AWARDS – *Scarlett Miles*

Scarlett Miles mentioned that May 28 is the confirmed date for the program, with Mayor Dean attending to present awards. The program will be held at the Downtown Public Library with a reception to follow at the Arts Company on 5th Ave N. Judges for this year's program are Jaime Destefano and Susan Besser. Recipients of the Commissioners' and Achievement Awards will be the Native History Association and Paul Clements, respectively.

FY15 BUDGET UPDATE – Tim Walker

Mr. Walker reported there were no reductions for the department in Mayor Dean's recommended budget for FY15, however, the additional funds requested in the budget were not approved. The office will remain on a very slim operating budget for another year. The budget for salaries will remain, so there should be no necessity of a staff layoff during the coming year. \$10,000 was allocated for the Civil War Sesquicentennial events. Funds for a temporary staff person to assist with the increased workload due to the Nashville Encyclopedia project were not allocated.

In response to several questions from commissioners, Walker explained that the department had submitted a proposal to collect permit fees several years earlier, but because it was at the onset of the recession, the

administration had decided against it. He is not opposed to the idea of charging permit fees in the future, especially as the number of permits has increased dramatically with the number of overlays put in place throughout the city. The cost would be included and charged with the final permit fee taken by the Codes Administration. Walker explained that there has never been an official study of improved property values and economic benefits of preservation overlays in Nashville. A consulting firm would have to be contracted to perform a comprehensive study and that would be expensive. It might be possible if a grant was received for it.

NASHVILLE ENCYCLOPEDIA – *Dr. Tara Mielnik*

Ms. Mielnik reported that the project is moving forward. Approximately 650 topics have been identified from John Egerton's book, *Nashville: The Faces of Two Centuries, 1780-1980*. Of those, about 500 have been assigned to writers, and 150 completed articles have been turned in and assigned to editorial teams. Meetings were held recently with the editorial teams and writers. The website <http://writers.nashville.gov> has been established with guidelines for writers. Commissioners were encouraged to consider writing at least one article.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – *Tim Walker*

- MHC's Council Budget Hearing is scheduled for May 21st at 5:45 p.m. He is hoping a good number of commissioners will attend.
- Walker has recently met with Parks representatives and Council members Sandra Moore and Megan Barry at Fort Negley, to show areas where walls have collapsed recently. The locations were identified as needing bracing to prevent failure in the structural report that was completed in early 2014, and now that they have collapsed, it is causing damage to adjacent areas. Funds are needed to repair those areas immediately.
- Walker and Scarlett Miles met with Mike Cobb and Sharon Corbitt-House, who manage RCA Studio A, at that location. Cobb and Corbitt-House are concerned that the building might be demolished to make way for future development. They are interested in having the building designated as a landmark, to prevent its demolition. Mr. Walker and Scarlett are certain that the building would be eligible for listing on the National Register.
- After further discussion with Butch Spyridon of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, it was confirmed that the CVB will be granting the MHC \$5,000 for a reprint of two of its' brochures, as these are very popular with out-of-town visitors to the city.
- The MHC and MHZC are supportive of a possible Cultural Heritage Overlay to be created for portions of Broadway, Second Avenue, and Printers Alley to preserve its unique local business character and keep retail chain businesses from moving into these districts. More details are forthcoming.
- In response to a question from Commissioner Allen, Tim reported that only \$1,000,000 was allocated in the budget toward the Fort Nashborough reconstruction project. At this time that project cannot move forward as planned, as that amount is \$1.600,000 short of the total cost for implementation.
- Walker gave an update on the MHC Foundation, reporting that the foundation has been a pass-through agency for several grants for the office. The non-profit has received many contributions, and proceeds from the Old House Fair and other recent events have been channeled into the fund. The Foundation board has had several meetings and plan to hold a major fund-raiser in the future.

HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – *Tim Walker*

Mr. Walker reported that Ms. Zeigler was out of the office. He noted that there are four expansions of existing districts that will be coming to Metro Planning and Metro Council in the next six weeks.

STAFF REPORTS

Tara Mielnik reported on the success of the recent National History Day competition. She is encouraged that this year's event drew more participation from Metro schools than in previous years. She mentioned that Commissioner Holly Conner had been a volunteer judge for the event and was much appreciated.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

Respectfully submitted by

Yvonne Ogren

June 5, 2014