



METROPOLITAN
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)
MINUTES

March 21, 2016

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on March 21, 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, Alex Buchanan, Pat Cummins, David Currey, Don Cusic, Jim Hoobler, Lynn Maddox, Dr. Bill McKee, Mark Rogers*, and Linda Wynn were present. Bob Allen, Menié Bell, Bill Hardin, and Gerry Searcy did not attend.

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

Guests Present: Mary Barber, intern.

Chair Jim Forkum called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Jim Forkum

Mr. Forkum asked if there were any amendments, or questions regarding the minutes from the February meeting. With no corrections brought up, Don Cusic made a motion to approve them as written. Lynn Maddox seconded and the commission approved voted to approve them unanimously.

BUDGET UPDATE – Tim Walker

He mentioned that MHC's budget hearing with Mayor Megan Barry is scheduled for March 24 at 8:45 and hopes that commissioners would be able to attend.

Tim Walker mentioned that the MHC budget modification requests include funds to hire a consultant to study the effect of historic overlays on property values across the county, a part-time staff person who would primarily work with Historical Commission staff to update publications; additional funds for staff and commission members to attend conferences or other training opportunities; and increases in several accounts to cover rising costs in normal department operations.

**Mark Rogers joined the meeting.*

PRESERVATION AWARDS – Scarlett Miles

Mrs. Miles reported that everything is going as planned for the Preservation Awards program. The program will be held at 4:30 p.m. on May 4 in the Downtown Library auditorium, with the reception following at the Frost Building, 161 Rosa L. Parks Blvd. There is plenty of parking at the Library, where the first hour is free if your ticket has been validated in the lobby when you arrive. Over forty nominations were submitted, the majority of which are residential or residential infill properties. A new category entitled Monuments and Memorials has been created this year, and there are two nominations in that category as well. Judging day is scheduled for

April 12 and this year's judges are Carolyn Brackett, Julie Robison and Kaitlin Dastugue. Mary Barber has been assisting Scarlett with preparing the invitations and PowerPoint file other details.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Tim Walker

Tim Walker mentioned that Commissioners Clay Bailey, Alex Buchanan, Lynn Maddox and Mark Rogers had volunteered and manned a table for the Historical Commission at the Old House Fair. He thanked them for giving their free time to represent the staff and commission.

The Two Rivers Master Plan is moving forward. A community meeting will be set in April, for the public to give input on the future of the house and grounds.

Friends of Kellytown is paying for a consultant to prepare a Master Plan for that site as well. This plan will only apply to the existing site that is owned by Metro, but the report will discuss potential for the adjacent remaining property that is known to hold the majority of the archaeological site.

Walker thanked Commissioner Jim Hoobler for keeping track of the Giers-Hicks glass plate negatives over the past several years. In 1976, Metro appropriated funds to restore and catalog them, and the property owner who owned the negatives had signed a contract with Metro that upon her passing, the negatives would be gifted to Metro. She passed away in 2015 and distant family members are asking for original documentation to prove that the agreement was made legally.

Locations have been determined for the interpretive signs to be placed at the Buchanan Station Cemetery. They will be installed in the next few weeks. The MHC Foundation will be paying for that installation. The cemetery itself has undergone extensive renovations in the last couple of years. There likely will be a ceremony to dedicate that site soon after the installation.

Over the last few years, Tim has met several times with the owner of the Union Station baggage building, to talk about its renovation. A firm has been hired to design the update, using original architectural drawings that are on file here in the MHC office. The lost gable on the east side of the building will be reconstructed as a part of the work.

Tim reported on the status of the planned hotel encompassing the Utopia and Embers/Climax hotels on 4th Ave North. MDHA's board met the previous week and approved the TIFF funding for the building, with the stipulation that the developer works closely with MHC and HNI to make sure the Utopia Hotel is restored to its original grandeur and the front and rear facades of Embers/Climax hotel will be replaced exactly as they were originally built.

Recently, he met with a development team that has a contract on Bel-Air, the National Register listed house at the intersection of Lebanon and Briley Parkway. They plan to divide the property into four parcels and develop three of them but have promised to landmark the historic house and grounds.

Tim and David Currey had recently attended a meeting with Parks staff regarding Fort Negley. An engineer was hired to review the condition of the fort and compare with the historic structures report completed in 2014. Their findings indicated that stabilization of the walls would require a more invasive (and thereby more expensive) process than previously thought. Further discussion and planning will be required before action is taken.

HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – Robin Zeigler

Ms. Zeigler reported that the Old House Fair on March 5 was a big success. Exhibitors were pleased with the contacts they had made, and visitors to the fair were happy and took advantage of the opportunity to see inside the Tiny House that was on display. The children's activities were said to be fun and engaging. They hope to have more exhibitors in 2017.

A new commissioner will be joining the Historic Zoning Commission. Cyril Stewart will be confirmed by council next month and will be a representative architect. Brian Tibbs, the current architect representative, is joining the Planning Commission and will continue to serve the MHZC as the Planning Commission rep, replacing Hunter Gee, who was not reappointed to the Planning Commission.

STAFF REPORTS

Tara Mielnik mentioned that Tennessee History Day will be held on Saturday, April 9, at MTSU. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated.

OTHER BUSINESS

Don Cusic reported that Belmont University and the Metro Historical Commission are hosting a panel discussion titled "A History of Music Row" on Monday, April 18 at 5:30 p.m. in the Johnson Building at Belmont. Cusic will emcee the event, and panelists will be Bobby Braddock, author of "My Life on Music Row" and a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, Michael Kossler, author of "How Nashville Became Music City U.S.A." and Brenda Colladay, former head of the Grand Ole Opry Archive and currently conducting research on the history of RCA Studio A. The event is free and will be held in the large theater on the first floor of the Johnson Building; located at 1909 15th Avenue S. Parking is available in the Johnson parking garage.

Pat Cummins attended a recent meeting about the possible rezoning and expansion of the Fontanel site. There were some complaints about noise from the events that have been held there, but as a whole, the consensus of the meeting was positive. There are known to be some archeological sites on the property and that was his main concern. The site was already noted in mapping by the Planning Department, and after discussing this with the owners, they expressed their own concern that it would be left undisturbed if the new development took place.

Cummins also mentioned that text has been reviewed and approved for the Trail of Tears interpretive signage at the Toll Bridge site off the Gay Street connector. Signage has been ordered and hopefully will be installed in the next few months.

Clay Bailey mentioned that the Memorial Day Dash 5K race is coming up on May 30. The race will begin in front of the Adventure Science Center at 7:30 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted April 15, 2016.

Yvonne Ogren