



METROPOLITAN  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)  
MINUTES

February 27, 2017

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on February 27, 2017, 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, Clay Bailey, Menié Bell, David Currey, Don Cusic, Barrett Hobbs, Jim Hoobler, Lynn Maddox, Mark Rogers, and Gerry Searcy were present. Alex Buchanan, Bill Hardin, Dr. Bill McKee, and Linda Wynn did not attend.

**Guests Present:** Rob McDonald

**Staff Members Present:** Tim Walker, Melissa Baldock, Tara Mitchell Mielnik, Scarlett Miles, Yvonne Ogren, Jessica Reeves, Melissa Sajid, Fred Zahn and Robin Zeigler.

Chair Jim Forkum called the meeting to order at 12:10 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 January meeting. Having none, Bob Allen made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Jim Hoobler seconded and the commission approved them unanimously.

**PRESENTATION ON HISTORIC MARKER APP – Rob McDonald**

Guest presenter Rob McDonald gave a PowerPoint presentation on a cell phone app he is developing that will feature historic sites and marker locations around the city (*supporting material is attached*). McDonald hopes to find financial support as his project moves forward.

**PRESERVATION AWARDS – Scarlett Miles**

Plans for the 2017 Awards program are moving forward. The program is scheduled for May 10 at 4:30 in the auditorium of the downtown public library. The reception will follow at a location to be determined. Commissioner Menié Bell, who also serves on the Historic Zoning Commission, has agreed to serve as a judge and presenter for the program. Members of the Events and Nominations committees will meet immediately following this meeting to discuss the special awards. Nominations for awards are due March 10.

**CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE – Tara Mielnik**

Tara reported that the conference on February 10 was very good and very well attended. Two of the scheduled presenters were unable to attend. One was snowed in and could not fly into town, and the other had emergency surgery the day before the conference. Fortunately, Dr. Carole Bucy and Anne-Leslie Owens were there and were able to give presentations to fill those time slots. Mielnik said she was grateful to have had friends and colleagues she could count on in attendance for this situation.

### [MHC OPEN HOUSE – Lynn Maddox](#)

Lynn Maddox said she and Menie Bell are working on final details of the MHC Open House and everything is coming together. It will be held at Sunnyside on March 14, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Invitations will go out 2 or 3 weeks before the event, and Scarlett Miles will set up an Eventbrite page for RSVPs. The theme for the event is “A Taste of 12South.” Maddox plans to contact Cary/Geny’s about flower arrangements. Menie has contacted restaurants in the 12South area, and Edley’s, Sloco, Taqueria del Sol, and Las Paletas are confirmed for food donations. Jessica Reeves will bring coffee from Frothy Monkey 12South. Barrett Hobbs will donate beer and wine. Commissioners could help by making monetary donations to the MHC Foundation. Donations will be used to purchase any food or supplies not donated by area merchants.

### [DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Tim Walker](#)

Yvonne Ogren has turned in her notice and will be retiring on September 1st. After that date, Yvonne will be working part-time until her replacement is trained.

Tara Mielnik has turned in her notice and her last day will be March 28. She will be greatly missed. Jessica Reeves will be coming on full-time soon after and take on Mielnik’s other responsibilities.

MHC’s budget hearing with Mayor Barry is on March 14 at 9:15 a.m. Mr. Walker asked that all commissioners who are available be in attendance. Each department is scheduled for only 15 minutes. Tim and Yvonne have a meeting this afternoon with the director and assistant director of finance.

Tim Walker reported that all requests for the FY18 budget have been submitted. We are requesting two full-time staff positions. If only one position is funded the new staff person would primarily work with the Historical Commission office staff. The second position would be for the MHZC, where there is great need for a staff person with an architecture degree. We are asking for a recurring \$25,000 maintenance fund for the City Cemetery. We are also asking for \$50,000 to hire a consulting firm to complete a Historic Zoning Economic Impact Study.

Metro Parks alone will be submitting capital requests for restoration funding for Sunnyside, Fort Nashborough, and Fort Negley. The MHC is submitting a request for capital funds to complete the Master Plan at the City Cemetery. MHC will repeat several budget modification requests that were submitted but not funded in FY17, including printing, travel and a \$2500 request for funds to pay a consultant as needed to review economic hardship cases for the MHZC.

Walker has been told the administration plans to approve the Preservation Grant Fund. This fund will provide \$500,000 per year to assist property owners with the expenses of restoring historic structures. 10% of the fund will go toward administrative projects, such as updates of design guidelines, or area surveys. At this time it is unclear if the fund will become part of MHC’s annual operating budget, or if it will be held by the Office of Economic Development.

In answer to questions about the RFQs for development of the former Greer stadium property, Tim said MHC and Metro Parks have applied for a grant to create a Cultural Landscape Plan of the Fort Negley and Greer Stadium parcels. This plan would include archeological studies and review of the remaining WPA stonework. Walker is hopeful that final development plans will not be approved until after the CLP is completed.

### [HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – Robin Zeigler](#)

Ms. Zeigler also mentioned that the Old House Fair is coming up on March 4, and that volunteers will be needed to set up and tear down tables and displays in the auditorium and also to man a table during the event. The Old House Fair will be held at the Sevier Park Community Center for the third year in a row.

### [STAFF REPORTS](#)

Jessica Reeves reported that the markers approved by the commission in November have all been ordered and many have been installed. On February 25th there was a dedication ceremony for the Surrender of Nashville: East Bank marker.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

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

Respectfully submitted March 17, 2017.

*Yvonne Ogren*