

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)
MINUTES

July 16, 2012

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on July 16, 2012, in the conference room of the Historical Commission office at 3000 Granny White Pike, with Chairman Bill McKee presiding.

Commissioners Present: Dr. Bill McKee, Chair; Bob Allen, Clay Bailey, Menié Bell*, Lula Brooks, George Cate, Jr., Don Cusic, Jim Forkum, Jim Hoobler, Lynn McDonald, Gerry Searcy, and Linda Wynn. Commissioners Mark Rogers, Holly Sharp, David Currey and were not present.

Staff Members Present: Tim Walker, Tara Mielnik, Scarlett Miles, Fred Zahn, and Robin Zeigler.

Guests Present: Members of the Strobel Family, NCCA Board members, Diane Lance*, MHC intern Rachel Hopkin.

Commission Chair Bill McKee called the meeting to order after verifying that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes: *Commissioner Allen moved to approve the minutes from the January meeting as written. Commissioner Wynn seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

NASHVILLE CITY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION (NCCA)

Commission Chair Bill McKee introduced Winder Campbell, President of NCCA, and Liz Parrott, NCCA Treasurer, who discussed current City Cemetery issues and idea for developing into a part of Metro Parks greenways. (See attachment)

After discussion, *Commissioner Bailey moved to endorse the NCCA proposal, Commissioner Wynn seconded the motion. (Commissioner Hoobler recused himself as a member of the NCCA board) Commissioner Allen moved to amend the motion to consider future suggestions to the plan. Commission voted to approve the motion as amended.*

*Indicates late arrival of Commissioner Bell; Diane Lance from the Mayor's office.

HISTORIC MARKERS- Tara Mielnik

Staff member Mielnik presented text for the [Mary Catherine Schweiss Strobel](#) marker. Grandchildren of Mrs. Strobel were in attendance to support approval of the marker.

Mrs. Mielnik presented the texts for a replacement marker for [Meharry Medical College](#), and a two-sided marker for the [Holly Street Fire Hall and Bass Park](#).

The Marker Committee recommended approval of all; the commission voted to approve as well.

MHC Director Tim Walker introduced intern Rachel Hopkin. She spoke briefly about her HABS fellowship on Nashville's Music History from 1880-1970. The focus is on downtown and the Music Row area.

UPDATE ON METRO 50TH ANNIVERSARY- Diane Lance

Ms. Lance reported that the Metro @ 50 kick-off event was a success and thanked Vice-Mayor Cate for his participation. The website for information, announcements, and event schedules went live on that day.

CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL REPORT- *Jim Hoobler*

Plans are underway for a commemorative event to be held in April, 2013 at the Holy Trinity Church, which was used as a hospital during Nashville's Union occupation. Scheduled speakers as of this date are Dr. Bobby Lovett, and Stephen Ash from Knoxville, TN.

Plans for the 2014 Battle of Nashville event are already under consideration.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT- *Tim Walker*

- Mr. Walker reported that the Historical Commission's operating budget was reduced slightly. The reduction was taken in printing and supplies.
- Walker further reported on the final capital spending plan for FY 2013, which included funds for Two Rivers Mansion and Fort Nashborough.
- Still waiting for the final approval of the Historical Commission Friends Group.
- The Civil War Heritage Area is offering grant money for related projects. Metro Parks has a \$40k match for a Historic Structures Report for Fort Negley.
- The Convention & Visitor's Bureau is offering to match funds for a reprint of MHC's Footnotes and Capital City walking tours as one combined brochure.

HISTORIC ZONING REPORT- *Robin Zeigler*

- Ms. Zeigler reported that the MHZC continues to be busy with the short staff and increased number of overlay districts.

Commissioner Bell mentioned that MHZC Commissioner Ron Gobbell had been serving on that commission for 25 years and was not to be re-instated this year. Commissioner Barri Bernstein was also leaving the MHZC board, after serving 2 terms.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

Submitted by

Yvonne Ogren

August 20, 2012

PRESENTATION TO METRO HISTORICAL COMMISSION

July 16, 2012

Nashville City Cemetery Association Inc.

"Making the Cemetery a Dual Use Area"

The Cemetery is a Metro Park and has "streets" and paths already laid. The Cemetery as brought up in the last Commission Meeting has been the "habitat" for a number of indigents. We have found the remnants of camps, the usage of tombstones as bathrooms, the use of the hose by Keebler building as a washroom, etc. Through the help of Metro Parks, the Commission, and the Police Department we have taken steps to cure this issue with better patrols, locking of all gates, increased foot traffic, cameras and metro police boxes.

- III. We want to make it better and bring more visitors to the Cemetery to 1) enrich the community through education of the history of the cemetery 2) bring more foot traffic to make the cemetery active and vibrant thus deterring indigents 3) bring more visitors to the Cemetery and alert them to the revitalization and renovations that have been done and still need to be done.
- IV. Ways to do this
 - a. Propose a dual use system with parks and greenways to get more visitors
 - b. Can be accomplished by creating a greenway and by getting mile markers to create a "walking, running, and biking" circuit in the cemetery. More people would use it. The cemetery currently has approximately 1 1/2 miles of paved walkways.
 - c. As the area around the Cemetery is developed more and more it gives the neighbors a safer place to walk, etc while keeping the historic aspect of the park.
 - d. As the Cemetery gets its status as an arboretum, even more uses as a greenway come into play.
 - e. As we progress, we will be looking at becoming part of the civil war trails — by being a greenway and maintained more regularly and with more visitors, the appeal to be included is greater.
 - f. It would take very little in the way of funds to incorporate the dual purpose use and in the long run would significantly assist in maintaining the cemetery as a safe, friendly environment for people to visit and learn about Nashville's history.