



METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)  
MINUTES

October 17, 2016

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on October 17, 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, Menié Bell, Alex Buchanan, Pat Cummins, Don Cusic, Bill Hardin, Jim Hoobler, Lynn Maddox, Dr. Bill McKee, Gerry Searcy, and Linda Wynn were present. Bob Allen, David Currey and Mark Rogers did not attend.

**Guests Present:** none

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

Prior to the regular meeting, the Marker Committee held a brief meeting in the Sunnyside Conference Room. (See report below for details) Chair Jim Forkum called the meeting to order at 12:15 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 September 2016 meeting. Having none, Bill McKee made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Jim Hoobler seconded and the commission approved them unanimously.

**HISTORIC MARKERS – Jessica Reeves**

Staff member Jessica Reeves reported that the Marker Committee met before the regular commission meeting convened and discussed how best to spend the remaining funds in the 4% funds allocated to the MHC for historic markers. There are two markers that have been damaged and need to be replaced. They are the Ezell House and the Granny White markers. Sewah Studios (the manufacturer) may be able to repair the Granny White marker for a lesser cost and if that is an option, it should be repaired. The committee recommended that these have first priority. Part of the funds will be used to order additional marker posts for Public Works to have on hand. One of the street signs created during the Sesquicentennial for the Occupied City Walking Tour has been lost and will be replaced with these funds as well. Chair Forkum said that this information was all brought to the commission as a recommendation from the Marker Committee and did not require a second, only a vote to confirm. The commission voted unanimously to approve the committee's recommendation.

*Dr. McKee mentioned that the marker for First Baptist Church, which was posted near Broadway and 7th Avenue S, had been knocked down and that the pole was damaged when that occurred. Ms. Reeves said if the marker was located, the damaged pole would be replaced at no charge to the church, as the MHC has extra marker poles on hand at Public Works.*

#### DISCUSSION OF HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE – Lynn Maddox

Ms. Maddox said that the Events Committee had talked about the Open House and felt it would be best to put off until the spring, as people are typically very busy and have too many conflicts during the holiday season. March 14 is the tentative date. All who were present agreed that it should be held at Sunnyside.

#### NASHVILLE CITY CEMETERY LIVING HISTORY TOUR – Fred Zahn

Fred Zahn reported that the NCC Tour went very well. He and Commissioner Jim Hoobler participated in the event and portrayed characters who are buried in the cemetery. They estimated that over 500 people attended. The Metro Nashville Network videotaped the tour and it will be played on Channel 3 at various times in the coming weeks.

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Tim Walker

Tim Walker said that he, Jim Forkum and Brian Tibbs (MHZC Chair) met with the Mayor, Finance Director Talia Lomax-O'dneal, and Rich Riebeling on September 23 to discuss MHC's budget, staffing and capital projects. They discussed the possible creation of an annual preservation fund, a matching grant that would serve as an incentive for rehab of threatened historic buildings. They also talked about MHC's budget and staffing issues, the need for additional funding in FY18, and Tim gave a brief report of the growth of the MHC/MHZC office since 2008.

Construction has begun on the new interpretive center for Fort Nashborough. Crews from Channel 4 and 5 News covered the ground-breaking ceremony. The first blockhouses will be complete by February 2017.

The final draft of the Two Rivers Master Plan has been released. There have been many good comments on the MP from the state and from members of the Friends of Two Rivers Mansion board. It is a very ambitious plan with a cost of almost \$3,000,000 and it provides a framework for Metro Parks to move forward with interpretive plans and programming at the site. *There may have to be additional edits because additional maps have surfaced that show original locations of more buildings.*

The Friends of Kellytown board met the previous week. The Master Plan for Kellytown is almost complete, and there has been a lot of discussion about changing the name of the site to a Native American name. *Commissioner Pat Cummins, who is President of the Native History Association (NHA), mentioned that NHA had conducted an online poll of past and present Friends of Kellytown members, and also contacted the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma, to ask for suggestions about the possible name change. The Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma suggested an Indian name that translates to Otter Creek, however the site doesn't actually touch on Otter Creek. The Friends of Kellytown board felt it could be confusing.* Tim said there is renewed interest in trying to capture the adjacent property and include it in the interpretive plan. The majority of the Kellytown archaeological site is actually on that property.

The mitigation plan that was recommended in the Section 106 review for new cellular towers in the downtown area was approved by one Council committee, but deferred for two meetings by Council. Once approved, it will provide funding for an economic impact study of the downtown area, which will show the value of historic preservation in downtown Nashville, and he is hopeful it will be done by early 2017.

#### HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – Robin Zeigler

Robin Zeigler reported that she and Scarlett had both attended the most recent meeting about Music Row. One of the things that were discussed was financial incentives for preservation. The Tennessee Constitution prohibits most of the types of financial incentives that other cities are able to offer, therefore, Nashville has a real need for the annual preservation fund that Tim has been promoting in meetings with the administration.

Expansion of the Waverly-Belmont NCZD is moving forward and may be presented to the MHZC in November or December. Council Lady Kathleen Murphy is interested in establishing new conservation overlays and landmark designation in her district. These are in very early stages of discussion, but the Whitland district probably will be expanded to include another street. The BelAir mansion on Lebanon Road in Donelson is on the October 19 MHZC agenda for landmark designation.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Don Cusic mentioned that the Churchill Society of Tennessee would be holding a conference in Nashville in 2018. It will focus on Churchill's interest in music, but organizers hope to include some history of Franklin and the Civil War.

Linda Wynn said that Patrick McIntyre had invited the MHC to hold their January meeting at the Tennessee Historical Commission office in Donelson at Clover Bottom Mansion.

Ms. Wynn reported that the program is almost completed for the 2017 Conference on African-American History and Culture. Speakers will include Dr. Carole Bucy, Dr. Deirdre Butler, and Dr. K. T Ewing, among others. The event is scheduled on Feb. 10.

Clay Bailey mentioned that the Tennessee Historical Society would be hosting a conference on Civil Rights, at Fort Negley on November 5. The plan is to unveil a new interpretive panel pertaining to the contraband camps during that program.

In October, two public meetings were held on plans for the Greer Stadium property. Metro Parks and Metro Planning solicited suggestions from the public on what should be done with the site. Bailey felt that the Friends of Fort Negley's vision which includes a history-themed playground, walking trails with interpretive signage and softball fields on the property, had the broadest appeal and best met the needs and wishes of the nearby community. Metro Parks and the Mayor's office have indicated that a decision or an endorsement may be made before the end of 2016. Other plans that have been proposed for development of the 16 acre site include a tennis club, soccer fields, and a mixed retail and residential development.

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

Respectfully submitted November 8, 2016.

*Yvonne Ogren*