



METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)
MINUTES

April 20, 2015

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on April 20, 2015, 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, Clay Bailey, Menié Bell, Lula Brooks, Alex Buchanan, Holly Conner, David Currey, Don Cusic, Jim Hoobler, Lynn Maddox, Mark Rogers, Gerry Searcy and Linda Wynn were all present.

Staff Members Present: Tim Walker, Tara Mielnik. Jessica Reeves and Robin Zeigler

Guests: Carroll Van West, Aubrey Preston, Tori Weir

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Holly Conner moved to approve the minutes as written. Jim Hoobler seconded and commission approved unanimously.

NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION – Dr. Carroll Van West, Tara Mielnik

Dr. McKee asked to move Dr. West's presentation to the top of the agenda. Dr. West presented the RCA Victor Studio A nomination to the National Register. He gave a PowerPoint presentation of slides and traced the history and significance of the studio. The nomination will be presented to the Tennessee State Review Board in May. He also introduced Aubrey Preston, one of the new co-owners of the studio who made comments. Tara asked the commission to vote on the eligibility of the property and the proposed nomination. Dr. McKee asked Mr. Cusic for the motion. Don Cusic moved in favor of the property's eligibility, seconded by Jim Hoobler. The motion was approved unanimously.

McKee thanked Dr. West for his work, and congratulated him on his appointment as State Historian. He then asked Dr. West for an update on the Nashville Architecture book. Dr. West showed the draft of the book cover to the commission, and received a round of applause. Dr. West said the book will be published in late summer/early fall of this year.

HISTORICAL MARKERS

Tara Mielnik presented the draft text for the proposed Locust Hill marker, and that the committee had approved two versions with minor differences, in order for the property owner and marker sponsor to approve of the final version. The marker text was approved unanimously. (See attachment)

FY16 BUDGET UPDATE – Tim Walker

Tim presented an update on the 2016 Budget. He thanked the commission for attending the Mayor's Budget hearing, and announced that the Mayor's Budget would be made public on April 30. He asked the commission to attend the Council Budget Hearing, set for May 20. Dr. McKee indicated that he would not be able to attend and that Mr. Forkum would be representing the commission, but encouraged as many commissioners who could attend to be present.

ENCYCLOPEDIA UPDATE – Dr. Carole Bucy

Dr. Bucy presented an Encyclopedia update. She and Tara are working with the two new paid temporary employees to continue editing articles, but the project is still in need of writers for articles. She is teaching a class that meets at Fort Negley this month and proceeds from the class are going to the MHC Foundation and earmarked for the Nashville Encyclopedia.

PRESERVATION AWARDS – Jessica Reeves

Jessica presented a Preservation Awards update. Invitations were distributed to the commissioners. Judging was held April 8. This year saw the largest pool of nominees (60), and the largest number of awards to be given. Preservation Awards will be held on May 19 and commissioners are encouraged to attend. Dr. McKee asked that the front row of the auditorium be reserved for the commission.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Tim Walker

Tim gave the Director's report. He, Dr. McKee, and Mr. Forkum had met with the Mayor regarding the landmarking of several Metro properties, and the meeting was well-received. The Mayor will be announcing the landmarking of these properties at Preservation Awards.

The Fort Negley stabilization and repairs are on-going. Tim asked Dr. Bailey to mention other activities at Fort Negley. Dr. Bailey announced that the annual Memorial Day Observance will be held on May 23, and a new addition this year would be a Meet-and-Greet with the candidates for Mayor. Dr. Bailey passed around a flyer about the event. Ms. Conner made a motion that the MHC go on record in support of this event, which passed unanimously.

The MHC entered into executive session at 12:55.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION OF METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Dr. McKee called the Board into Executive Session. Tim Walker and other staff persons attending the Board meeting left the meeting as required. Dr. McKee started by giving a general overview of the process that has been followed to date in connection with the examination of Tim Walker's current pay and the consideration of the appropriateness of recommending Tim for a raise.

Dr. McKee emphasized that the process has been very deliberate and fairly time consuming and started with meetings with Tim to get his input and required additional meetings with Metro officials to learn as much as possible about how Metro determines pay grades. Most of Dr. McKee's contacts at Metro were with Jane Madden, who is with Metro Human Resources. Ms. Madden, after a number of discussions about comparable positions and responsibilities in Metro, ultimately provided Dr. McKee with an understanding that Metro Human Resources would support a request for Tim's salary to be increased up to \$90,000 per year but would not be supportive of the request in excess of such amount.

A number of Board members questioned whether giving Tim a raise to \$90,000 would impact the Commission's efforts to add to existing staff positions or to get pay raises for existing staff members. While Tim has been a chief spokesperson interfacing with Metro to try to get increases in staff size and pay raises for his staff, it generally has not been viewed as appropriate for the Executive Director to lobby for a raise for himself. Nevertheless, the consensus was that the appropriateness of a 'salary adjustment' for Tim should not negatively impact the potential for pay increases for the remaining staff or the potential to add positions to the current staff to relieve their over-extension.

After further discussion, the Board unanimously voted to approve the proposal that Tim Walker's salary be increased to \$90,000 per annum with each Board member voting in favor of the increase and the recommending that the same be included in Metro's up-coming budget and submitted to Metro for adoption as follows:

Dated: April 20, 2015

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|-----|---------------|-----|
| 1. | Lula Brooks | Yes |
| 2. | Gerry Searcy | Yes |
| 3. | Clay Bailey | Yes |
| 4. | Lynn Maddox | Yes |
| 5. | Bob Allen | Yes |
| 6. | Alex Buchanan | Yes |
| 7. | Jim Forkum | Yes |
| 8. | Mark Rogers | Yes |
| 9. | David Currey | Yes |
| 10. | Holly Conner | Yes |
| 11. | Jim Hoobler | Yes |
| 12. | Don Cusic | Yes |
| 13. | Linda Wynn | Yes |
| 14. | Minié Bell | Yes |

**Submitted by Commissioner Alex Buchanan*

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

Respectfully submitted May 13, 2015,

Yvonne Ogren

Historic Marker Text

As proposed:

Locust Hill

Located near Mills Creek, stands a rare example of one of the first brick homes, circa. 1795, built in Middle Tennessee, and occupied by Charles Hays and family who came from North Carolina. Constructed in the Federal architectural style, the home boasts intricately carved mantles, millwork, and original faux and grain pointed bedchamber wall.

347 characters and spaces

As edited:

Locust Hill

Located near Mill Creek, Locust Hill is one of the earliest brick homes in Middle Tennessee. Built c1805, it was home to the Charles Hays family until after the Civil War. The Federal-style house features intricately carved mantles and millwork, and impressive faux-wood graining techniques. Also known as the Hays-Kiser House, it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

401 characters and spaces.

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359 characters and spaces