



METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)  
MINUTES

June 20, 2016

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on June 20, 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, Bob Allen, Alex Buchanan, Don Cusic, Jim Hoobler, Gerry Searcy, and Linda Wynn were present. Dr. Carole Bucy also attended. Menié Bell, Pat Cummins, David Currey, Bill Hardin, Lynn Maddox, Dr. Bill McKee, and Mark Rogers did not attend.

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

Chair Jim Forkum called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m., after verifying that a quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Jim Forkum**

Chair Jim Forkum asked if there were any amendments or questions regarding the minutes from the May 2016 meeting. Bob Allen made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Clay Bailey seconded and the commission voted to approve them unanimously.

*Tim Walker introduced two student interns, Serena Smithfield and Joe Henry, from Hume Fogg and Hillsboro high schools, who are working at the office during the month of June. They were assigned to the office from the Nashville Career Advancement Center as part of a program developed several years ago to assist students in developing skills needed to join the workforce after graduation. They have been updating digital files on National Register properties and also reorganizing the resource library. There are three additional interns working with Robin, scanning slides and updating files for historic zoning.*

**BUDGET HEARING REPORT – Tim Walker**

Tim Walker reported that Metro Council's alternate Metro budget for FY17 going before Metro Council for final approval did not include funds to hire an additional part-time staff person. Only the MHC's requests for an increase in travel funds and utilities had been funded. Metro employees will all receive a 3.1% COLA increase (3.29% was mentioned in the discussion, but this was incorrect). The salaries for some positions, including HP1, will receive an additional increase, since a 2014 pay plan study found they were unequal to those of comparable cities.

Chair Jim Forkum said that the commission should be more involved when the budget process for FY18 begins, by starting to contact council members individually and stressing the needs of the department.

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT – *Tim Walker*

Tim Walker reported that an intern had been hired by the Metro Historical Commission Foundation to enter all the records from the Davidson Co. Cemetery Survey into a database that can be accessed through Metro's Open Data portal. That position is funded thanks to donations from Fletch Coke and Bertie Shriver.

In 2013, Hodgson-Douglas, LLC completed a conceptual design of the Kellytown property for the City of Forest Hills and the Friends of Kellytown in anticipation of Metro Government's purchase of the site (2014). The firm is now working on a master plan for the site, considering how it can best be used, accessed, and interpreted in the future.

He has met with an architect from Jackson, Miss. who has been hired by the National Baptist Publishing House to look at renovating the Morris Memorial Building at 4th and Charlotte. It is a McKissack and McKissack-designed building, constructed in the early 1900s. They were proposing to add a 10-story addition to the roof for a boutique hotel. That size of addition would cause the building to lose its National Register-eligibility status. The meeting went well, but they were told their plan would not be approved. They were in the preliminary design phase of the project, but may come back with a different plan in the future. Tim wanted to be sure that the SHPO was aware and agreed with the assessment of the project design.

The office is still working with the architects and developers for the Ace Hotel project on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North in the Printers Alley historic district. The process of dismantling the non-historic portions of the buildings and the historic façade of the Climax Hotel has begun. The cast iron facade has been shipped to Arizona where it is being repaired and damaged pieces recast.

The office has also been meeting with the developer for the McGavock-Gatewood-Harris House on Meridian St. in Cleveland Park. The project is continuing to move forward. A Specific Plan (SP) for the site was approved at the last Planning Commission meeting. Three of the historic homes on the site will be demolished as part of the plan, but MHC determined that they were not National-Register eligible; therefore, MHC did not have the authority to hold up that demolition. The McGavock House and the historic Methodist church across the street will be renovated.

The Planning Commission will be presenting the new plan for Music Row at a public meeting to be held on June 27, at the Midtown Hills Police Precinct on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue So. The MHC, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic Nashville, Inc., Music Row Neighborhood Assoc., and Music Row Coalition all worked with the Planning Commission to create the final plan.

#### HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – *Robin Zeigler*

Robin Zeigler mentioned that plans for the new Downtown Historic district are moving forward, and the Neighborhood Conservation overlay in Waverly-Belmont may be expanded to include 60-70 more properties.

#### STAFF REPORTS – *none given*

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Bob Allen reported that Council member Sherri Weiner had acquired funds to purchase a marker and have it placed in Bellevue to commemorate the Bellevue community. Tim Walker said the office would be happy to correspond with her at any time.

Clay Bailey reported that the Memorial Day Dash 5K race was a huge success, with nearly 400 participating runners and volunteers.

Commissioner Bailey also mentioned that Metro Parks had been hosting a series of public meetings for input on a Master Plan for Metro Parks, and there is also an online survey for participants to comment. He urged the commissioners to complete the survey and to comment on the importance of preserving the historic resources within the parks.

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

Respectfully submitted July 13, 2016.

*Yvonne Ogren*