

METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY



Metropolitan Historical Commission
Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission
Sunnyside in Sevier Park
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METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC) MINUTES March 18, 2024

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting at the Howard Office Building, Sonny West Conference Center on March 18, 2024, with Chair Linda Wynn presiding.

Attendance

Commissioners: Dr. Clay Bailey, John Bridges, Dr. Don Cusic, Dr. Erica Hayden, Jim Hoobler, Dr. Jane Landers, Dr. Bill McKee, Sandra Parham, Dr. Marisa Richmond, Laura Rost, Tom Wood, and Linda Wynn were **present**.

Menié Bell, Dr. Celso Castilho, and Larry Woods were **not present**.

Staff Members: Tim Walker, Caroline Eller, Dr. Adam Fracchia, Bryan Gilley, Russell LeSturgeon, Scarlett Miles, Jessica Reeves, Dustin Summers, and Robin Zeigler were **present**. Ann Mikkelsen (Metro Legal) was **present**.

County Historian: Dr. Carole Bucy was **present**.

Guest Speaker: Robert Churchwell, Jr. (President, Friends of Hubbard House)

- I. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND WELCOME – Chair Linda Wynn**
Chair Linda Wynn called the meeting to order at approximately 12:01 p.m. and verified that a quorum was present after a roll call of attendance. Two commissioners arrived after roll call.
- II. **APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES – Chair Linda Wynn**
Chair Wynn presented the February 2024 meeting minutes for approval. Commissioner Rost made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Hoobler provided a second. The commission unanimously approved the February 2024 meeting minutes.
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – Chair Linda Wynn**

Chair Wynn opened the floor for Public Comment. No members of the public requested time to speak.

IV. GUEST SPEAKER –

Robert Churchwell, Jr., Friends of Hubbard House, President

Caroline Eller introduced Robert Churchwell, Jr., President of the Friends of Hubbard House. Mr. Churchwell updated the MHC on the activities of the group, which is a 501(c)(3) organization established to support the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the Hubbard House, located at 1109 1st Avenue South. Commissioner Parham is a board member. Mr. Churchwell reviewed the organization's mission and vision, and provided a historical overview of the house, which is the former residence of Dr. George W. Hubbard, founder of Meharry Medical College. The house is the last remaining building associated with the original campus of Meharry Medical College. It was designed by noted architect Moses McKissack III, constructed 1920-1921, and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places [under McKissack and McKissack Buildings in Nashville (1908-1930) Thematic Resources]. Despite some vandalism like broken windows, the house is in good condition and maintains a considerable amount of historic features. Seay-Hubbard United Methodist Church, located nearby at 1116 1st Ave S, owns the house. Mr. Churchwell provided a brief history of Meharry Medical College, showing numerous historic photos of the campus with the Hubbard House visible, and its relationship with Seay-Hubbard UMC. The Friends of Hubbard House is working to rehabilitate the house in order to provide healthcare, supportive services, and educational opportunities for the community. Mr. Churchwell reviewed the organization's initiatives and efforts to date toward this mission, including fundraising and partnership building. Contaminant remediation for the house is complete. In February 2024 the group applied, with MHC assistance, to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, requesting funds for Phase I rehabilitation. For more information, visit www.thehubbardhousenashville.org.

Questions: Commissioner Richmond asked about programming plans for the 2nd floor, assuming the clinic is on the 1st floor, and accessibility. Mr. Churchwell reported the 2nd floor will be used for administrative offices. The site will include accessible parking and a ramp to the house. Commissioner Bridges asked about the images in the wallpaper [interior images shown in presentation]. Mr. Churchwell replied that they are of the "southern style" and depict images of slavery. Commissioner Parham expressed thanks to Mr. Churchwell and Ms. Eller for the presentation. The Hubbard House is dear to her heart and researching it and the school's history is particularly meaningful. The Hubbard House is a landmark for Meharry, and the school is supportive of this project and the group's work to meet needs that still exist in that community. Commissioner McKee inquired if the original Hubbard Hospital was located there. Commissioner Parham explained that it was, and every year she brings the first-year medical students to the site to inform them of the school's history. Chair Wynn reaffirmed

the importance of the project, expressing her appreciation, support, and willingness to assist as needed.

V. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT– *Tim Walker***

Director Walker highlighted some items for the month. He thanked Commissioner Cusic for his monthly Nashville Music History Lecture Series, which will break from May to September. MHC-related projects were named in two of the 1,300 entries for participatory budget expenditures, including funds for markers and expansion of Nashville Sites tours. The expenditures also included funds for Jefferson Street Sound Museum. The MHC Foundation is planning on celebrating the reopening of Sunnyside with a fundraiser on June 6 at 5:30 p.m., look for invitations coming soon. Tickets are still available for the gala celebrating the dedication of the Diane Nash Plaza on Saturday, April 20th. Commissioners interested in attending should speak with Director Walker.

Director Walker announced that Bill Coke, husband of Fletch Coke and former Mayor of Forest Hills, passed away last week. A celebration of life is planned for Tuesday, April 2. Like Fletch, Bill was instrumental in historic preservation in Davidson County. For his efforts to preserve and protect Aittafama' archaeological site, the MHC recognized him with the Preservation Leadership Award in 2015. Chair Wynn asked about sending a note to Mrs. Coke from the MHC. Director Walker will work with her on this.

IX. **HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – *Robin Zeigler***

Historic Zoning Administrator Robin Zeigler reported that she and Director Walker hope to extend an offer for the historic zoning inspector position later today or tomorrow. Richland-West End and Lockeland Springs-East End are working on revising their design guidelines. The National Association of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) is holding its annual meeting in West Palm Beach this year and a few MHZC commissioners plan to attend. The change to the age requirement for landmark signage from 50 years of age to 30 years of age is scheduled for third reading before Metro Council tomorrow night, and we anticipate it will pass.

X. **OTHER BUSINESS**

None presented.

XI. **ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Wynn opened the floor for other Comments/Announcements:

Commissioner McKee announced Dr. Mark Cheatham's talk about President Van Buren's visit to Middle Tennessee taking place at Cumberland University tonight at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Hoobler thanked Bryan Gilley for providing a tour of the City Cemetery. Commissioner Cusic announced the next talk in the Nashville Music History Lecture Series is this Wednesday. The topic is "Cowboys and Country Music." Dr. Bucy reported that she is encouraging local chapters of the Sons/Daughters of the American Revolution (SAR, DAR) to organize local

celebrations as part of the national bicentennial celebration of Lafayette's farewell tour of the United States, including a stop in Nashville to meet Andrew Jackson in May 1825. In two years, 2026 will mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and plans are underway in Tennessee for this national celebration. Commissioner Hoobler announced that on March 25 at the Parthenon, the Hellenic Institute will celebrate Dr. Philip Lindsley's arrival in Nashville in 1824 and his vision for Nashville as "a New Athens." Greek Consul-Atlanta Theodoros Dimopoulos will attend.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cusic moved to adjourn; Commissioner Bailey seconded. The meeting ended at approximately 12:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted Monday, April 15, 2024.
Scarlett C. Miles