

# METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY



Metropolitan Historical Commission  
Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission  
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## METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC) MINUTES December 16, 2024

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting at the Howard Office Building, Sonny West Conference Center on December 16, 2024, with Chair Linda Wynn presiding.

### Attendance

Commissioners: Dr. Clay Bailey, Menié Bell, John Bridges, Jim Hoobler, Dr. Jane Landers, Dr. Bill McKee, Sandra Parham, Dr. Marisa Richmond, Vice Chair Laura Rost, Tom Wood, Larry Woods, and Chair Linda Wynn were **present**.

Dr. Don Cusic, Dr. Erica Hayden, and Dr. Celso Castilho were **not present**.

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

County Historian: Dr. Carole Bucy was not present.

Guest Speaker: Ellen Dement Hurd, Historic Nashville, Inc.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND WELCOME – Chair Linda Wynn**  
Chair Linda Wynn called the meeting to order at approximately 12:07 p.m. and verified that a quorum was present after a roll call of attendance.
- II. **REVIEW OF NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES – Chair Linda Wynn**  
Chair Wynn presented the November 2024 meeting minutes for approval. Vice Chair Rost moved to accept the November 2024 minutes and Commissioner Bridges provided a second. The commission unanimously approved the November 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 address the commission.

### IV. HISTORICAL MARKERS – *Jessica Reeves*

Jessica Reeves presented the First Masonic Hall historical marker for approval. Formerly a Tennessee Historical Commission historical marker, this marker will be placed along the 400-block of Church Street across from 415 Church Street, near the intersection of Church Street/Arcade Alley and closer to actual site of the Grand Lodge than the former location. Commissioner McKee moved for approval, seconded by Commissioner Bailey. The commission voted unanimously to approve the First Masonic Hall historical marker.

Chair Wynn asked Ms. Reeves if she knew the number of markers approved between 2023-2024 and how many of those markers were privately funded and how many utilized set-aside funds. Ms. Reeves asked to circle back to this question after the next presentations, which would allow her time to look up this information.

### V. PRESERVATION PARTNER - HISTORIC NASHVILLE, INC.:

*Ellen Dement Hurd, President, Historic Nashville, Inc. (HNI)*

Director Walker introduced Ms. Hurd, Board President of HNI. Ms. Hurd discussed the history of the organization, which was established in 1968 and renamed in 1975, and its work to promote and preserve the historic places that make Nashville unique. HNI has a rich history of historic preservation advocacy, including establishing the state's first Preservation Easement program in 1982; current programs also include Behind-the-Scenes tours and other membership events and the annual "Nashville Nine" list of endangered sites. Ms. Hurd highlighted some successes of the Nashville Nine and reviewed properties on the 2024 list. She described the Preservation Easement program and explained the process for placing a preservation easement on a property, highlighting rehabilitation of the former YWCA building on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North as a case study. Ms. Hurd concluded her presentation by noting how MHC members can support HNI and other historic preservation efforts in Metropolitan Nashville.

### VI. ARCHAEOLOGY OF INDIGENOUS NASHVILLE – *Adam D. Fracchia, PhD*

As an introduction, Dr. Fracchia provided a timeline of archaeological history from the Paleoindian to Mississippian periods, which encompass about 15,000 years of history that are largely invisible above the surface, usually unprotected, and known only through archaeological study. He highlighted MHC initiatives for public engagement and education about this history in Davidson County, including public/student digs at Metro-owned sites, production of an Archaeology Activity Workbook (ages 6-12), markers for the Trail of Tears, and the Nashville Sites driving tour "An Archaeological Tour of Indigenous Nashville," featuring ten

tour stops across the county. The tour features narrative, images, artist recreations, and augmented reality.

Commissioner McKee asked about the status of Aaitafama' (formerly called Kellytown). Director Walker reported that it is currently in a holding pattern. The O'Connell administration is interested in funding the project. The parcel adjacent to and south of Aaitafama', a Metro Park and local Historic Landmark, is for sale by the owner. We've been working with TennGreen Land Conservancy, the TN State Archaeologist's Office, and others on the potential purchase of this property, which contains a portion of the 15th century palisaded Mississippian village, so that it can be added to the park and protected.

#### VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT– *Tim Walker*

Director Walker reported that he and Dustin Summers have been working on the FY26 budget submittal. They recently met with Finance for a mid-year budget update. During the discussion, the topic of outstanding needs to fully complete the Sunnyside renovation came up. Director Walker is optimistic that these requests will be fully funded through MHC and Parks budgets and the capital spending plan.

The MHC Foundation is changing its name to the Nashville Historical Foundation. The official announcement is next week.

Vice Chair Rost expressed appreciation for the thorough report of the wonderful work by the MHC staff.

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

Historic Zoning Administrator Robin Zeigler reported that intern Stephanie Gittins is joining the HNI easement committee.

The Green Hills Neighborhood near Lipscomb University (Bonner, Green Hills Drive, Eden Ave, Burton Ave, and North/South Observatory) continues to explore neighborhood conservation zoning. Neighborhood meetings have gone well, and the council member plans to hold a larger meeting in January. Early meetings about updating the Broadway design guidelines have gone well.

#### VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Following up to Chair Wynn's question about historical marker funding, Ms. Reeves reported in 2024 Metro paid for one new marker and three replacement markers. Additionally, five markers were approved to be funded by the Participatory Budget funding. Six privately funded markers were approved: one replacement and five new markers. Commissioner Richmond mentioned the new marker dedicated today. Four commissioners attended, along with Council Member Preptit, and Gary Burke spoke.

IX. **ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Nashville Conference on African American History and Culture will take place on Friday, February 14, 2025, at TSU's Avon Williams Campus downtown. Registration is now open. Chair Wynn reviewed some of the details of the program and thanked Caroline Eller for her work planning the event.

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Hoobler moved to adjourn; Commissioner McKee seconded. Commissioners wished each other happy holidays. The meeting ended at approximately 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted Monday, January 27, 2024.  
Scarlett C. Miles