

METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY



Metropolitan Historical Commission
Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission
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METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC) MINUTES JUNE 16, 2025

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting at the Howard Office Building, Sonny West Conference Center on June 16, 2025, with Chair Linda Wynn presiding.

Attendance

Commissioners: Dr. Clay Bailey, Menié Bell, John Bridges, Dr. Don Cusic, Dr. Erica Hayden, Jim Hoobler, Dr. Jane Landers, Sandra Parham, Vice Chair Laura Rost, and Chair Linda Wynn were **present**.

Dr. Bill McKee, Dr. Marisa Richmond, Tom Wood, were **not present**.

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

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

Guests: Jeff Sellers, Director of Education and Community Engagement, Tennessee State Museum

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND WELCOME – *Chair Linda Wynn*

Chair Linda Wynn called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m. and verified that a quorum was present after a roll call of attendance. Two commissioners arrived after the roll call.

II. REVIEW OF MAY MEETING MINUTES – *Chair Linda Wynn*

Chair Wynn presented last month's meeting minutes for approval. Commissioner Bell moved to accept the May 2025 minutes. Commissioner Hoobler seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

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. *Tennessee State Capitol – Jeff Sellers, Director of Education and Community Engagement, Tennessee State Museum*

Jeff Sellers presented images and history from his new book *The Tennessee State Capitol: Historic Images of a Tennessee Landmark*, which was published in October 2024. The book contains over 200 images sourced from the Tennessee State Museum, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Metropolitan Archives, and Nashville Public Library Special Collections. It is organized into chapters about 1) Design and Construction, 2) The Civil War Years, 3) Capitol Interiors, 4) The Capitol Grounds, 5) Restoration & Preservation, 6) The Capitol Hill Neighborhood, 7) The People's House.

V. ANNUAL EVALUATION FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – *Vice Chair Laura Rost*

On behalf of the MHC's Budget and Human Resources Committee, Vice Chair Rost reported that the committee met on May 28 to complete Director Walker's annual performance review. The committee members felt positively about Director Walker's performance over the past year and the department's outcomes under his leadership. The committee recommends a 2% merit salary increase for Director Walker. Commissioner Hoobler moved to award Director Walker the 2% salary increase. Commissioner Landers seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. ELECTION OF 2025-2027 OFFICERS – *Commissioner Jim Hoobler*

On behalf of the MHC's Nominations Committee, which met on May 29, Commissioner Hoobler presented the slate of officer nominations for the 2025-2027 term: Chair = Linda Wynn (2nd term); Vice Chair = Laura Rost (2nd term); MHC Representative to MHZC = Jim Hoobler (1st term). Commissioner Bell asked if all nominees accepted the nomination; all nominees formally accepted their respective nominations. Commissioner Bell moved to accept the slate of officers as presented by the committee. Commissioner Bridges seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Officer terms begin July 1, 2025.

VII. REVISIONS TO BYLAWS AND POLICIES – *Vice Chair Laura Rost*

On behalf of the MHC's Bylaws and Policies Committee, which met on May 28, Vice Chair Rost presented proposed changes to the commission's bylaws and policies as necessitated by the moving of the MHZC from the Historical Commission to the Planning Department. The main change addresses the hiring process of the executive director and the role of the MHZC in that process. The relationship between the two commissions will continue through representation of the MHC on the MHZC, but the MHZC will not have a role in the hiring of the executive director. Other changes address requirements for commissioner training and clarify conflicts of interest.

Commissioner Bell asked about Section VA2, the process for creating the search committee to select the executive director. The chair will appoint commissioners to the committee. Commissioners will also nominate and vote on members of the public to serve on the committee. Commissioner Bailey moved to accept the proposed revisions to the bylaws and policies. Commissioner Hayden seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT– *Tim Walker*

Sunnyside: Director Walker reported that the outdoor furniture arrived and thanked the commission for working with the Nashville Historical Foundation to purchase outdoor seating for the office.

Budget: Director Walker will attend the Metro Council Budget and Finance Committee meeting this afternoon to request 4% funds for mowing equipment for the Nashville City Cemetery. Also, the Metro Council's Substitute Budget adds \$60k to the MHC's budget for a feasibility study for a Nashville history museum. The mayor's office supports this allocation. If the budget is approved, we anticipate hiring a firm in the early spring of next year with the study taking about 9-10 months to complete. We have worked with Council Members Suara and Gregg on this line item.

MHZA: Director Walker thanked Historic Zoning Administrator Robin Zeigler and the MHZA staff for their years of service to the department, particularly during the past few months, and encouraged commissioners to reach out to the MHZA staff to offer their appreciation. This is Admin. Zeigler's last meeting with the MHC.

Chair Wynn echoed appreciation of the MHZA staff and thanked them for their diligent work over the years.

Commissioner Cusic asked if the MHZA group was staying together at Planning. Admin. Zeigler confirmed that the MHZA staff will remain together.

Commissioner Bell noted that the June MHZA meeting will be her last as the MHC representative to the MHZA. It has been an honor for her to serve in this role, a position she has held since 2011. She has learned so much from MHZA staff and commissioners, including Ron Gobbell, Judy Turner, and Brian Tibbs. She acknowledged the MHZA staff – they are stellar, so humble, very experienced, articulate, and do a lot of unseen work. She acknowledged the intensity and awkwardness of the past few months and the transition of the MHZA to Planning. She thanked Robin Zeigler and the staff; it was a pleasure to work with everyone. She knows Commissioner Hoobler will do well as the MHC's new representative to MHZA.

Director Walker also thanked attorney Ann Mikkelsen with Metro Legal who has provided helpful and supportive client advice to the department. She is sitting in for attorney Lora Fox today. Chair Wynn also thanked Ms. Mikkelsen.

VIII. HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – Robin Zeigler

Historic Zoning Administrator Zeigler reported that the process to designate Peabody Manor, 1901 Capers Avenue, as a local Historic Landmark is underway and should be completed by early fall.

The MHZC team has been moving through the transition to Planning. The department is open to providing additional resources to the team, is including them in early (pre-app) conversations about development that may involve preservation, will be hiring Stephanie Gittins as a part-time employee, will likely promote two staff members, and will support staff participating in NAPC's Summer Short Course. Admin. Zeigler thanked the commission and Ms. Mikkelsen for their support and guidance.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

X. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Wynn read a letter from Jean Roseman thanking the commission for recognizing the Nashville History Club with its Commissioners' Award during the 2025 Preservation Awards in May. Please save the date for the John Lewis Way Annual March on July 19 at 8:00am. Reminder: the commission will hold its July meeting at the Midtown Hills precinct.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cusic moved to adjourn; Commissioner Bridges seconded. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted Monday, July 21, 2025.
Scarlett C. Miles