



METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION

METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC) MINUTES NOVEMBER 17, 2025

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting at Fort Negley Visitors Center, 1100 Fort Negley Blvd, on November 17, 2025, with Chair Linda Wynn presiding.

Attendance

- Commissioners: Dr. Clay Bailey, John Bridges, Gary Burke, Dr. Don Cusic, Dr. Erica Hayden, Jim Hoobler, Kaitlyn Jones, Dr. Jane Landers, Dr. Bill McKee, Sandra Parham, Betsy Phillips, Dr. Marisa Richmond, Vice Chair Laura Rost, Tom Wood, and Chair Linda Wynn were **present**.
- Staff Members: Tim Walker, Caroline Eller, Jessica Fitzpatrick, Dr. Adam Fracchia, Bryan Gilley, Russell LeSturgeon, Scarlett Miles, Claudette Stager, and Dustin Summers were **present**. Hannah Zeitlin (Metro Legal) was **present**.
- County Historian: position vacant
- Guests: Representing Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc.:
Robbie D. Jones, Principal Senior Architectural Historian/Branch Manager; Sydney Schoof, Senior Architectural Historian; Mary Cate Mosher, Architectural Historian

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. She verified that a quorum was present after the roll call of attendance. Three commissioners arrived shortly after roll call.

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

Chair Wynn presented last month's meeting minutes for approval. Commissioner Hoobler moved to accept the October 2025 meeting minutes. Commissioner Bridges 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 speak to the commission.

IV. *Club Baron National Register of Historic Places Nomination/Donelson Historic Resources Survey* - Robbie D. Jones, Sydney Schoof, and Mary Cate Mosher, Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc.

Caroline Eller introduced the Club Baron/Donelson Historic Resources project, which received grant assistance through the Historic Preservation Fund, National Park Service, administered by the Tennessee Historical Commission. The overall grant initiative covered two smaller projects: 1) preparation of a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for Club Baron, which is protected by a local historic landmark overlay, and 2) a survey of mid-20th century architectural resources in Donelson. Robbie D. Jones with Richard Grubb & Associates (RGA), introduced the team members (including both MHC staff and RGA staff). Mr. Jones provided an overview of the nomination for Club Baron, including the research process and the building's history as Brown's Dinner Club, Hotel, and Pharmacy (1951-1959), Club Baron (1955-1965), and Elks Lodge (1966-current). Club Baron is eligible for the NRHP under criterion A. [Director's note: the commission will formally vote on the nomination at an upcoming meeting.]

Sydney Schoof and Mary Cate Mosher, RGA staff, summarized the process and findings for the Donelson architectural survey. MHC staff identified several mid-20th century residential neighborhoods of interest. RGA surveyed three of them: Hargis Heights, Cloverdale, and Sunny Acres. They explained the methodology of the project, including how the team defined a historic subdivision for the project, as well as efforts to document, research, and evaluate the neighborhoods for NRHP eligibility. RGA recommends Hargis Heights as eligible for the National Register under criteria A and C, with a period of significance of 1940-1955. Ultimately, the RGA team did not find Cloverdale to be NRHP-eligible. RGA also recommends Sunny Acres, completed in four sections between 1957-1959, as eligible for the National Register under criteria A and C.

Commissioner Richmond asked about the physical condition of Club Baron. Mr. Jones reported that the building is in good shape. Some may remember that during his term, Mayor John Cooper held his victory party and annual holiday party there. Chair Wynn shared a childhood memory of dining at Brown's Dinner Club with her aunt.

[Links to the recorded presentation and accompanying slides will be posted to the MHC's Grants and Special Projects webpage:

<https://www.nashville.gov/departments/historic-preservation/grants-and-special-projects>]

V. HISTORICAL MARKERS – *Jessica Fitzpatrick*

- a. The Frist Art Museum (privately funded) – This marker will be placed at the Frist Art Museum’s main entrance plaza along McGavock Street. Commissioner Cusic made a motion to approve the historical marker for The Frist Art Museum. Commissioner Hoobler seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- b. King Madison Hollands (Participatory Budget) – This marker will be placed along South Street, currently under consideration for renaming to “King Hollands Avenue” by the Metropolitan Council. Commissioner Richmond made a motion to approve the historical marker for King Madison Hollands. Commissioner Cusic seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- c. Home of Miranda and Moses McKissack III (Participatory Budget) – This marker will be placed at 1503 Edgehill Avenue. Vice Chair Rost moved to approve the historical marker for Home of Miranda and Moses McKissack. Commissioner Richmond seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- d. Ms. Fitzpatrick provided updates on upcoming marker dedications: Kossie Gardner, December 12, 10am, Jefferson Street (additional information forthcoming). We are waiting for better weather to install the markers we’ve recently received. The dedication ceremony for the First Masonic Lodge will be rescheduled, as there was an issue with the image on the marker that is being corrected. Two additional participatory budget markers are in the queue.

VI. DIRECTOR’S REPORT – *Tim Walker*

Director Walker noted that key cards were placed at commissioners’ seats for those who submitted their application at the last meeting. The key cards will grant commissioners access to the parking garage at the Fulton Campus for MHC meetings in the Sonny West Conference Center. It will not allow access to any Metro buildings or other garages. Construction at the campus should be concluded soon, and the MHC hopes to return to its regular meeting space in January.

Director Walker provided a status update regarding the landscape maintenance and gravestone repair position at Nashville City Cemetery. The position was reposted with a higher starting salary, yielding a good group of candidates. Director Walker and Bryan Gilley are holding in-person interviews this week with the goal of making an offer to one of the candidates on Friday.

Director Walker acknowledged this as being his last commission meeting. He expressed great appreciation for the MHC’s support, and he has enjoyed working with such a high caliber of commissioners and staff. With those remarks, Chair Wynn

presented a certificate of appreciation to Director Walker on behalf of the commission.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner McKee asked for an update on the mayoral appointment of the Davidson County Historian. Director Walker reported that the names of the four candidates recommended by the MHC at its last meeting were forwarded to the mayor's office. Director Walker also offered to provide the names of those candidates who self-selected out of the process. We are still awaiting a decision from the mayor's office. Chair Wynn is hoping to arrange a meeting with Mayor O'Connell to discuss this and other priorities of the commission.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Wynn congratulated Commissioner Cusic on the publication of his book, *Howdy! The Minnie Pearl Story*, co-authored with Dr. Mary Ellen Pethel.

Commissioner Burke, who serves on the board of the Friends of Fort Negley with Commissioners Bailey and Landers, informed commissioners of the placement of American flags at Fort Negley honoring the laborers who built Fort Negley. Commissioner Burke also mentioned the park's other initiatives, including the "Builders and Defenders" brochure, Fort Negley Descendants Project, and the master plan.

Chair Wynn congratulated Commissioner Parham on the publication of *Meharry Medical College*, part of the Images of America series, and noted her book signing this Thursday.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hoobler moved to adjourn; Commissioner McKee seconded. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted Monday, December 15, 2025.
Scarlett C. Miles