



METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION

METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 23, 2026

The Special Called Meeting of the Metropolitan Historical Commission was called to order by Chair Linda Wynn at 8:00 a.m. in the ITS Enterprise Conference Room, Third Floor, Howard Office Building, 700 President Ronald Reagan Way, with the purpose of interviewing finalist candidates for the position of Executive Director and selecting a preferred candidate and runner-up.

Attendance

Commissioners: Dr. Clay Bailey, John Bridges, Dr. Erica Hayden (partial), Jim Hoobler, Kaitlyn Jones, Sandra Parham, Betsy Phillips, Dr. Marisa Richmond, Vice Chair Laura Rost, and Chair Linda Wynn were **present**. Gary Burke, Dr. Don Cusic, Dr. Jane Landers, Dr. Bill McKee, and Tom Wood were not present. Davidson County Historian (ex officio), Dr. Learotha Williams, Jr., was not present.

MHC Staff Members: Dr. Adam Fracchia, Scarlett Miles, and Dustin Summers

Dept of Law: Hannah Zeitlin, Attorney (Client Advice for MHC)

Dept of Human Resources: Lisa Mason, Talent Acquisition and Training Manager
Christian Lovett, Human Resources Analyst

Dept of Finance/Office of Impact: Andrea Blackman, Chief Impact Officer

Guest: Cyril Stewart, Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission, representative on virtual interview panel

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call and Welcome – *Chair Linda Wynn*
Chair Linda Wynn called the meeting to order at approximately 8:00 a.m. She verified that a quorum was present after the roll call of attendance.
- II. Overview of Meeting Schedule and Process – *Lisa Mason, Human Resources (HR)*
Ms. Mason explained that she would introduce each candidate and then the Commission would interview them using the questions provided by HR in an assigned order. The same commissioners would ask the same questions of each candidate. Ms. Blackman would also participate by asking one of the provided questions. There would be a brief discussion of first impressions after each

candidate's interview. As Commissioner Hayden would need to miss one of the interviews, she would participate in discussion, but she would not ask a question during the interviews and would recuse herself from voting.

- III. Commission Interview with Executive Director Candidate #1
The Commission interviewed Blythe Semmer, PhD.
- IV. Commission Interview Executive Director Candidate #2
The Commission interviewed Tim Netsch.
- V. Close Meeting, Break for Lunch, No Business Discussion – *Chair Linda Wynn*
After the conclusion of the second interview and brief discussion, Chair Wynn closed the meeting for a lunch break at 10:55 a.m.
- VI. Reopen Meeting with Call to Order and Roll Call – *Chair Linda Wynn*
Chair Wynn reopened the meeting at 12:29 p.m. and verified that quorum was present by a roll call of attendance.
- VII. Commission Interview with Executive Director Candidate #3
The Commission interviewed Jeff Sellers.
- VIII. Commission Interview with Executive Director Candidate #4
The Commission interviewed Caroline Eller.
- IX. Commission Discussion
The Commission discussed all candidates in depth, guided by Ms. Mason. Commissioner Hayden participated in the discussion but did not participate in voting as she did not attend all four interviews. After discussion of each commissioner's top candidates, and upon a voice vote by the Commission, elimination of Candidate Blythe Semmer was approved unanimously. After continued discussion, Ms. Mason asked commissioners to submit ballots ranking the three remaining candidates. Chair Wynn read each commissioner's rankings, which collectively ranked Candidate Jeff Sellers as No. 1, Candidate Caroline Eller as No. 2, and Candidate Tim Netsch as No. 3. Elimination of Candidate Tim Netsch from consideration was approved unanimously. After continued discussion, Ms. Mason asked the commissioners to vote on the two remaining candidates and submit their ballots. Chair Wynn read each commissioner's vote. Commissioners Bailey, Bridges, Parham, and Wynn (4) voted for Candidate Jeff Sellers. Commissioners Hoobler, Jones, Phillips, Richmond, and Rost (5) voted for Candidate Caroline Eller.
- X. Commission Vote
Commissioner Richmond made a motion granting the Department of Human Resources the authority to extend an offer on behalf of the MHC to Caroline Eller for the position of Executive Director, and if she does not accept the offer to move forward with extending an offer to Jeff Sellers. Commissioner Phillips seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0-1).

- XI. Review of Next Steps by Department of Human Resources
Ms. Mason explained that the Department of Human Resources would proceed as directed and offer the position to the preferred candidate. Once the candidate has returned a decision, Ms. Mason will inform Chair Wynn, Mr. Summers, and Ms. Miles of the outcome and if there is a need to contact the runner-up.
- XII. Adjourn
Chair Wynn adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted Monday, April 20, 2026.

Scarlett Miles