

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)

MINUTES

April 19, 2021

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held an electronic meeting on April 19, 2021 with Commission Chair Clay Bailey presiding.

Commissioners Present: Dr. Clay Bailey, Chair; Davis Acker, Dr. Jhennifer Amundson, Menié Bell, Pamela Bobo, John Bridges, Christopher Cotton, Dr. Don Cusic, Jim Hoobler, Lynn Maddox, E. Thomas Wood, and Linda Wynn, **were present.**

Dr. William McKee, Chakita Patterson, and Gerry Searcy **were absent.**

Staff Members Present: Tim Walker, Jessica Reeves, Susie Pallas, and Scarlett Miles were present.

Guests Present: Metro Attorney Alex Dickerson, ITS Dontrai Buchanan and Charda Johnson

Chair Dr. Clay Bailey called the meeting to order at approximately 12:02 p.m. after verifying that a quorum was present.

Alex Dickerson informed the Commission about changes made to Executive Order No. 16, which went into effect on October 1st. The meeting must be livestreamed, a recording must be made available to the public and anyone observing the meeting must be able to tell who is speaking. This can be achieved by the commissioners using video, announcing themselves as they begin speaking or by being recognized by Chair Bailey by name before they speak.

Commissioner Cusic made a motion that the proposed agenda constitutes essential business and that meeting electronically is necessary to maintain the health, safety and well-being of citizens due to the pandemic. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Cotton. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Dr. Clay Bailey

Chair Bailey presented the March minutes for approval. Commissioner Cotton made a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Wynn provided a second, and the March minutes were approved by roll call vote,

PRESERVATION AWARDS – *Scarlett Miles*

Scarlett explained that the Preservation Awards will be a pre-recorded virtual program that will air on Metro Nashville Network at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 26th. It will also be shown on the Metro YouTube channel almost immediately. We had 27 nominations for the architectural awards and the three judges—Brian Tibbs, Claudette Stager and Robbie Jones—have been reviewing those projects. Scarlett has contacted Commissioners to assist with the presentation of the honor awards.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – *Tim Walker*

Tim began his report by mentioning the email from Cyril Stewart that was sent out about the state historic tax credit coalition noting that the Governor's amended budget included \$5 million for historic preservation. It is not recurring now and only covers counties with populations of 200,000 or less, but it is a great first step. There will be a virtual community meeting on April 29th to discuss the Sam Smith lynching historical marker and to allow us to get more input from the Cane Ridge community. CM Rutherford and CM Styles will guide this process and there will be at least one more meeting this summer which will be in person. MHZC staff is very busy and will see the consolidation of neighborhood conservation zoning overlay guidelines come before the Commission for a vote this month. Staff is working with American Baptist College, the Mayor's Office and Representative Jim Cooper on a Historic Preservation Community Block Grant for improvements to Griggs Hall and John Lewis' dorm room, Room 202, as well as improvements to its administration building and library. All three are noted as contributing to the American Baptist Theological Seminary Historic District. Staff continues to work with CM Syracuse, Property Assessor Wilhoite and Metro Trustee Gilmore on the specifics of a program that would provide a 10-year tax abatement of improvements to threatened historic properties. We are hopeful the program will get the green light to move forward this summer. Metro Parks continues to move forward with improvements to Sunnyside, its outbuildings and Sevier Park. Parks finalized a vendor for a hazmat study and Finance is working to release a purchase order for the work. We have started reviewing construction documents and once they are completed, the documents will go to Metro Procurement for bidding the work. Additionally, staff has been working with Urban Land Institute, Metro Planning and others on the visioning process for Second Avenue. ULI will present their recommendations on Friday, April 23 at 8:30 a.m. Mayor Cooper's State of Metro address will be held on April 29th at 10:30 am. when he will release his FY22 budget. Commissioner Cotton asked how they can help the MHZC staff with the guideline consolidation effort and Tim said any letters or emails from commissioners and neighborhood groups to the MHZC would be appreciated. Commissioner Bell concurred with a request for neighborhood input for the consolidation and asked if we made an investment request for additional staff. Tim said we requested one and a half staff positions. Commissioner Bell also suggested that the MHC send a letter of appreciation to the Mayor's office and Metro Parks for their support of Sunnyside. At Commissioner Cotton's request, Tim detailed an ongoing issue involving an email sent from a Metro Parks employee to the Friends of Fort Negley board regarding concerns about a proposed tree planting by the Adventure Science Center on their land which is a portion of Fort Negley Park. Their lease agreement with the city gives them control of the land, but they are a part of a historic landmark district. MHZC would review any built improvements, but trees are not under the purview of our office or Parks. Adventure Science Center did hire TVAR archeologists to

review the proposed planting area and eliminated a tree based on TVAR's recommendation. Due to the contention, Adventure Science Center has put the tree planting on hold.

UPDATE - Dr. Clay Bailey

Chair Bailey gave an update on the progress and timeline of the Ad Hoc Task Force and they hope to bring a recommendation to the Commission in May. Commissioner Cotton commented on the difficult work being done by the task force. Chair Bailey announced that the nominating committee will be appointed soon and will present a slate of nominees for Chair, Vice Chair and MHZC Representative in June.

ETHICS TRAINING - Alex Dickerson

Alex Dickerson presented ethics training to the Commissioners.

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Bell moved to adjourn, and Commissioner Cusic seconded. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, May 6, 2021.

Susie Pallas