

## METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)

### MINUTES

October 18, 2021

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held a meeting at the Sonny West Conference Center—Fulton Campus on October 18, 2021, with Commission Chair Lynn Maddox presiding.

**Commissioners Present:** Chair Lynn Maddox; John Bridges, Christopher Cotton, Jim Hoobler, Gerry Searcy, E. Thomas Wood, and Linda Wynn, **were present.**

**Staff Members Present:** Tim Walker, Robin Zeigler, Caroline Eller, Jessica Reeves, and Susie Pallas

**Guests Present:** Metro Attorney Alex Dickerson, County Historian Dr. Carole Bucy (ex-officio), Davis Acker, John Williams, Amanda Trienens, and Claudette Stager

Chair Lynn Maddox called the meeting to order at approximately 12:06 p.m. after verifying that a quorum was present. Chair Maddox asked Attorney Alex Dickerson to clarify why the quorum was six Commissioners for the meeting. He explained that the MHC only has 10 active Commissioners as of today, and six constitutes a majority.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *Lynn Maddox*

Chair Maddox presented the September minutes for approval. Commissioner Wood suggested a few punctuation edits. Commissioner Bridges made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Commissioner Cotton provided a second, and the September minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

Director Walker presented a framed certificate to Davis Acker to thank him for his service to the MHC.

Tim also introduced John Williams, who was in attendance in support of the Woodmont School historical marker. Mr. Williams and two of his classmates in the Class of 1961 worked with Jessica to create the text for the marker.

#### CENTENNIAL PARK GRANT PRESENTATION – *Amanda Trienens*

Cultural Heritage Conservation (CHC) has finalized their assessment report on the Parthenon and historic concrete structures at Centennial Park. Amanda Trienens, owner and principal of CHC, virtually presented an overview of the project and findings. Claudette Stager from the Tennessee Historical Commission listened to the presentation via phone. After the presentation, Chair Maddox asked for clarification of the word “parging,” and Ms. Trienens explained that it is a thin stucco-like coating applied over concrete. Commissioner Wood asked if any structures are still around from 1897, and Caroline said that the Parthenon was

the only structure that was standing from the Centennial Exposition when it was reconstructed in the 1920s.

#### **HISTORICAL MARKER – *Jessica Reeves***

Jessica presented the marker text and drawing for Woodmont School. Commissioner Wood suggested a few punctuation edits to the text recommended by the marker committee. Discussion continued regarding placement of the marker on Estes Road and attribution of the drawing to Emily Ericson. Commissioner Bridges made a motion to approve the marker with the edits, Commissioner Wynn provided a second, and the Woodmont School marker was unanimously approved as amended.

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

Director Walker announced that the mayor will send four commissioner appointments to Council at their first November meeting. Commissioners Bell, Bobo and McKee will be reappointed, and Dr. Jane Landers will be appointed for the first time. If confirmed, they will serve at the November MHC meeting. There will be a memorial service/celebration of life for former MHC member Bob Allen this Saturday at 1:00 p.m. The service will take place at Bell Garden in Bellevue, and Dr. Bucy and former CM Charlie Tygard will be speaking. Dr. Bucy asked commissioners to send stories or memories about Bob to her, so she can share them at the service. Commissioner Wood asked Dr. Bucy to invite Bill Carey to the service. Director Walker reported that the MHZC held a special-called meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup> where it unanimously approved conceptual plans for the rebuilding of the four most heavily damaged buildings on Second Avenue, 170-176 Second Avenue North. The proposal is part of an SP that will go to the Planning Commission on October 28<sup>th</sup> and to Metro Council in November before returning to the MHZC for review of the project's final details. Additionally, staff has been meeting with representatives from the AT&T building at 185 Second Avenue North to discuss a new design for the façade of the building. Their submittal should be finalized in the next two weeks. A volunteer day is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. to assist with the sorting of material salvaged from the facades of 174 and 176. The owner is hoping to reuse viable building materials from the debris that's been stored on a Metro site across from the Stockyards' building. Staff has been working with the mayor's office on the fate of the Morris Memorial Building, about which many in the community have expressed concern. Commissioner Wood asked if AT&T plans to continue using the building on Second Avenue the same way. He and Director Walker commented on the vulnerability of the location.

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

Staff attended continuing education this month through the National Park Service and have taken advantage of free webinars that have been provided by many different organizations. Staff served as panel speaker regarding DADUs at a recent ULI event. Additionally, the College Hill neighborhood is exploring the potential of an overlay. Chair Maddox asked where College Hill is located. Robin said it is in North Nashville and explained that if it happens, it would be the second African American and primarily ranch home neighborhood to be protected. Director Walker added that staff will attend the virtual National Trust for Historic Preservation conference and a few spots will be available for interested commissioners.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS – Lynn Maddox

Jessica reported that the Vine Street Christian Church marker on Harding Pike was installed today. On Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, the downtown marker will be dedicated and installed and then the Harding Pike marker will be unveiled and dedicated, with a lunch to follow. Press coverage for the marker ceremony for the Battle of Nashville USCT marker that was placed at Granbury's Lunette was very positive. Dr. Bucy commented that the Nashville City Cemetery has never looked better and suggested the construction of two short brick walls with movable tops to house ashes. Commissioner Wynn announced that the 2022 Nashville Conference on African American History and Culture will probably be virtual again. Commissioner Cotton expressed excitement about the presentation he heard about the Fort Negley Master Plan and asked commissioners to add their voices as the process moves forward. Chair Maddox suggested that the Fort Negley Master Plan group speak at a future MHC meeting, and Director Walker said that they will speak at a meeting later in the spring when more work has been done. Commissioner Hoobler led a NCC lantern tour last Saturday night, and two more will be held on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Wynn moved to adjourn, and Commissioner Hoobler seconded. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, October 25, 2021.

*Susie Pallas*