



METROPOLITAN
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)
MINUTES

September 18, 2017

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on September 18, 2017, in the conference room of the Metro Historical Commission office at 3000 Granny White Pike, with Commission Chair Jim Forkum presiding.

Commissioners Present: Jim Forkum, Chair; Bob Allen, Clay Bailey, Menié Bell, Alex Buchanan, Don Cusic, Lynne Holliday, Jim Hoobler, Lynn Maddox, Dr. Bill McKee, Gerry Searcy and Linda Wynn were present. Bill Hardin and Mark Rogers did not attend.

Guest Present: Patrick Christie-Mizell

Staff Members Present: Tim Walker, Sean Alexander, Melissa Sajid, Scarlett Miles, Yvonne Ogren, Jessica Reeves, Fred Zahn and Robin Zeigler.

Chair Jim Forkum called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. He mentioned that a new commissioner, Lynne Holliday was present for her first meeting with the commission. Ms. Holliday is taking the place of former commissioner David Currey, whose term expired. He welcomed her to the meeting and each commissioner introduced themselves and told a little of their background with the commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Jim Forkum

Jim Forkum asked if there were any amendments or questions regarding the minutes from the August meeting. Linda Wynn asked that she be marked excused from the August meeting, for the record. Bob Allen made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Jim Hoobler seconded and the minutes were approved.

HISTORIC MARKERS – Jessica Reeves

Ms. Reeves mentioned that she is working on the text for the Grandale marker and it is not complete at this time, so there are no new markers before the commission for approval at this time, The marker committee was scheduled to meet that afternoon to discuss the timeline for approval of markers over the next two years.

There were questions about the guidelines for choosing historic markers, when and how they were established. Tim Walker responded that the guidelines had been established in the 1960's, around the time when the commission itself was formed. Commissioners raised concerns about the process and it was determined that the historic marker committee would review the guidelines over the next two months and come back to the commission with revisions in November, if possible.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Tim Walker

Mr. Walker mentioned that he would be attending council committee meetings that week for approval of the grant for the Fort Negley Cultural Landscape Plan. He was prepared to answer any questions that might arise at the meeting. The Fort Negley Technical Advisory Committee would be meeting on Thursday to discuss the

scope of work for that plan. Support for keeping the site as a park is growing in the council, the public and private sector. The National Park Service has mentioned that it meets the criteria of an Underground Railroad site. Any development on the site would be reviewed under the 2016 Tennessee Heritage Site protection act, as well as the National Park Service and local governing bodies.

Walker went on to report that a demo permit has been issued for the Sullivan Tower. The Historical Commission has a 90-day hold on the demolition, but November 29 is the last day the hold would be in effect. Tennessee Historical Commission staff, the MHC, and members of Historic Nashville have scheduled a walk-through in that building on September 27 and commissioners who wished to attend were asked to let Tim know as soon as possible. The developer has not been responsive to the idea of retaining the National Register-eligible structure.

Ground-breaking for the new Virgin Hotel will take place this week. Richard Branson is in Nashville for the event. The state archaeologist was allowed to review the site in the last few weeks to search for any Civil War artifacts, but none were found,

Jessica attended a meeting for Councilman Hagar, who is planning a centennial celebration in October 2018 for Old Hickory. Activities for the celebration include a parade and a golf tournament. Special guest speakers will tell the history of Dupont and how the city there grew around the plant. Poppies are to be planted all around the Old Hickory area in honor of the centennial.

Dr. Carole Bucy, Tim Walker, Dr. Reavis Mitchell, and Linda Wynn met with Metro Parks to discuss the Centennial Park Master Plan. There is a statue of a Civil War soldier with names of 50 or more Confederate soldiers, located on the Great Lawn in the park. The park master plan calls for it to be moved to nearby Flagpole Hill, where other Civil War memorials have also been relocated.

On a related topic, Don Cusic passed out copies of a document (see *attached*) he has been working on that pertains to setting guidelines for treatment of statues and memorials in Nashville and Davidson County, and said his intent was to start discussion among the commissioners. There was some discussion of whether it is a precedent that should be set and also if or how it should relate to the current historic marker program. No action was taken and Chair Forkum tabled the discussion and said it would be brought up with the historic marker committee in their upcoming meeting.

Caroline Eller has been hired to fill the MHC's new HP1 full-time position. She will begin in the next few weeks and will be sharing the office with Scarlett and Jessica.

Design guidelines for the Broadway, Second Avenue, and Downtown historic preservation districts are being updated. Designation is in progress for new neighborhood conservation overlays in Edgehill and Marathon Village. Both will likely be approved by the end of the year.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted October 9, 2017.

Yvonne Ogren

Metro Historical Commission 091817

TO: Metro Historical Commission
FROM Don Cusic
DATE: September 18, 2017

Here is something I have drawn up as a starting point for discussions re: statues and memorials in Nashville and Davidson County honoring individuals and/or events. PLEASE NOTE: This is only compiled as a starting point for discussion with comments and suggestions encouraged.

As the Metro Historical Commission, engaged in the preservation and appreciation of history and historical events, we encourage and advocate

1. More statues, memorials and other sculpture honoring historical figures and events
2. That these statues, memorials and sculptures should honor local as well as national individuals and events
3. That these individuals and events honored should present a diverse representation of our Nashville and Davidson County
4. And that these statues, memorials and sculptures include a plaque which gives pertinent information on the significance of the individual or event being honored.

Further, we encourage and advocate that any statues or memorials already in place include a plaque giving pertinent information on the significant of the individual or event being honored.

Finally, we encourage and advocate that a portion of the budgets of Metro Nashville and the State of Tennessee include funding for statues and memorials honoring individuals and events and the selection of the committee to approve these statues and memorials include members of the Tennessee Historical Commission, the Metro Historical Commission, the Governor of the State, the Mayor of Nashville and a member(s) of the Tennessee State Legislation and the Metro Council.