



METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)
MINUTES

March 19, 2018

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on March 19, 2018, 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, Dr. Clay Bailey, Menié Bell, Alex Buchanan, Dr. Don Cusic, Lynne Holliday, Jim Hoobler, Lynn Maddox, were present. Richard Courtney, Dr. Bill Hardin Dr. Bill McKee, Mark Rogers, Gerry Searcy, Linda Wynn did not attend. Also absent was Dr. Carole Bucy, Davidson County Historian.

Guests Present: NA

Staff Members Present: Sean Alexander, Melissa Baldock, Caroline Eller, Scarlett Miles, Paula Person, Jessica Reeves, Melissa Sajid, and Tim Walker were present.

Chair Jim Forkum called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. after verifying that a quorum was not present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Jim Forkum

Jim Forkum asked for approval of the February minutes. Minutes will be tabled until the next meeting due to the absence of voting members.

OPEN HOUSE RECOGNITION – Lynn Maddox

Lynn Maddox gave special recognition to the following: Metro Parks, The Fort Negley Visitors Center for sharing their space with us, Historical staff for assisting with set up, clean up, etc., Menie Bell for her experience and contributions. Pam with Ribbons of Chocolate Catering provided the shrimp, meatballs and cheese tray. Mark Rogers for providing wine and supervising the bar. Thank you to Cary for the flowers, Helen and the Dyer Observatory for tables, chairs and table cloths. Thank you to Dr. McKee for the vegetable trays, Jim, Mark and Dr. McKee for helping with setting up the venue in record time. Clay Bailey for his Professor Bailey's pimento cheese and crackers, Doug for the dessert bars from Gabby's and special thanks for contributions from Jim Forkum, Jim Hoobler, Gerry Searcy, Bob Allen, Alex Buchanan, Clay Bailey, Lynn Holliday and Linda Wynn. It was a great party with about 65 people attending. We did not have any Metro Council members in attendance; we might need to refocus the reason why we have the event to ensure attendance next year.

HISTORIC MARKERS- Jessica Reeves & Caroline Eller

Jessica presented information on the Rock City and Odom Sausage marker's while Caroline presented information on the Alex Green marker. The following markers need to be voted on, which will have to occur by email due to lack of a quorum.

District 3- Alex Little Page Green

In 1829, The Rev. Alex Green joined the Methodist Episcopal Church's Nashville Conference. Elected vice-president of the TN Conference's Temperance Society in 1835, Green was instrumental in the Southern

Methodist Publishing House's move to Nashville in 1854, and helped establish Shelby Medical College (1857) and Vanderbilt University (1873). By private venture, he opened Union St. from College St. to Market St. c. 1870. This area's first school was renamed Alex Green Academy in 1887.
489 characters with spaces

District 7- Rock City

Rock City was an African-American community established by at least 1881, when the First Baptist Church Rock City was founded at the corner of Otay St. and Pennington Ave. The approx. boundaries were Cahal Ave. to the south, Branch St. to the east, Litton Ave. to the north, and Northview Ave. to the west. Rock City Elementary School, built with funds raised by the community and the Men's Social Club, was located at 2616 Pennington Ave. until it closed in 1954. Commissioner Alex Buchanan wanted some additional confirmation that Green helped with the founding of Vanderbilt and suggested we make contact with Vanderbilt to have them confirm that facts in the marker text. Ms. Eller stated that she would make contact with staff at the University and send a follow up to commissioners along with the text for email voting.
464 characters and spaces

District 9- Odom's Tennessee Pride Sausage, Inc.

[side 1] In 1943, with a \$1000 loan from a friend, Douglas G. Odom, Sr., his wife Louise, and their children—Doug Jr., Richard, Judy, and June—started a four-hog a day sausage business. Before selling the company in 2012, the three generation family-owned business was one of the largest independent sausage manufacturers in America. The iconic farm boy and slogan, "Take Home a Package of Tennessee Pride," were regular features on *Grand Ole Opry* television broadcasts starting in 1956. [Side 2] will be an etching of the Tennessee Pride logo and farmboy image.

The markers that have been approved thorough March 18, 2018 are as follows: District 1 Leonardo, District 2 Hastings, District 3 Haywood, District 4 Swope, District 6 Withers, District 7 Davis, District 8 Van Reece, District 9 Pridemore. The markers to approve for next quarter are as follows: District 5-Davis District 10 Pardue, District 11 Hagar, District 12 Glover, District 13 Huezo and District 14 Rhoten.

PRESERVATION AWARDS – *Scarlett Miles*

Scarlett Miles spoke on the preservation award nominees for the Achievement Award, Commissioners Award and the Fletch Coke Award. The Achievement Award is given to an individual in recognition of his or her extraordinary leadership in preserving Nashville's history—either through research and writing history, or through advocacy and raising public awareness of history and preservation.

NOMINATION FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: Lorenzo Washington

The Achievement Award will recognize Washington's efforts to document the music history of Jefferson Street. He maintains a small museum within the offices of his record label Jefferson Street Sound. He advocated for the designation of the Elks Lodge on Jefferson Street (former Club Baron) as a local Historic Landmark. His music tree graphic "Nightclubbin' on Historical Jefferson Street" tells the musical history of Jefferson Street through a visual medium. He received an award from the Chamber of Commerce for his efforts. His work is truly "for the love of preserving it." In 2015, Vanderbilt's Space, Learning & Mobility Lab (SLaM) at Vanderbilt's Peabody College of education and human development partnered with Mr. Washington to create a digital spatial story line, or DSSL, with StoryLiner, an interactive digital mapping app. The Jefferson Street DSSL is an interactive online map embedded with archival media, including photographs, oral histories, news articles and song playlists collected from various resources, including the Nashville Public Library and the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. He has led numerous tours of Jefferson Street, including the Chancellor's Charters tour for Vanderbilt University's Chancellor Zeppos. Speaking engagements include the Nashville Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society.

COMMISSIONERS' AWARD:

The Commissioners' Award recognizes a group, program, or project that enhances Nashville's history and historic resources. It is designed to honor projects that do not fit within the traditional preservation award categories.

NOMINATION FOR THE COMMISSIONERS' AWARD - Friends of Fort Negley

Organized in 2013, Friends of Fort Negley supports education and preservation programs and advocates for the protection of greenspace at Fort Negley Park.

FLETCH COKE AWARD:

The Historical Commission recognized Fletch Coke, as “an indefatigable leader and activist for historic preservation in our community,” with the Achievement award in September 1997. Twenty years later, Mrs. Coke remains a role model for volunteers and professionals alike. Her contributions have helped to preserve, fund, and restore many of the places and things that make our city unique. Without her intervention, many of our city’s landmarks may have been lost. The Fletch Coke Award honors her extraordinary efforts to preserve the history and historic landmarks of Nashville and Davidson County. Recipients are selected for their tenacity, curious spirit, and excellence in historical research, writing, and promotion of Nashville’s local history and historic places. Debie Cox received the first Fletch Coke Award in 2016.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE FLETCH COKE AWARD: Jean Roseman, Ed. D.

This award will recognize Roseman’s efforts to tell the stories of Nashville’s Jewish community and educate the public about Nashville’s Jewish history, primarily after 1901, through her books *Barney and Clyde, An Illustrated Tale of Murder and Madness* (illustrated with rare photographs from early Nashville, first published in 2007 as an article in *Southern Jewish History*, the journal of the Southern Jewish Historical Society, and then as a book in 2015), *From Y to J, The Hundred-Year History of Nashville’s Jewish Community Center* (2004), and *Shalom Nashville, A Jewish History* (2010). She has contributed to the *Nashville Historical Newsletter* as well as *The Jewish Observer*, a publication of the Jewish Federation of Nashville, and recently led a tour of Temple Cemetery for Historic Nashville, Inc. Speaking engagements include the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Vanderbilt as well as the conference of the Southern Jewish Historical Society. She is a retired teacher of German and Holocaust history.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT – *Tim Walker*

Tim Walker requested that if the Commissioners could attend the Mayor’s Budget Hearing being held on March 21st as a show of support which they have in the past, it would be greatly appreciated. Mr. Walker also noted that the administration stated it was a status quo budget with no improvements to any department, however, MHC will be asking for monies to cover the increased internet bandwidth fee. Discussion was held regarding Mayor Briley’s announcement at Greer Stadium and the status of the Cultural Landscape Report for Fort Negley Park.

HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – *Robin Zeigler*

Robin Zeigler was not in attendance and the Historic Zoning staff had nothing to report for March.

STAFF REPORTS

Staff members had nothing to report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Voting on items for today’s meeting will be completed by email, results will be provided in the next meeting. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:41 pm. Respectfully submitted March 30, 2018.

Paula R. Person