

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)

MINUTES

July 20, 2020

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held an electronic meeting on July 20, 2020 with Commission Chair Clay Bailey presiding.

Commissioners Present: Dr. Clay Bailey, Chair; Menié Bell, John Bridges, Christopher Cotton, Dr. Don Cusic, Jim Hoobler, Lynn Maddox, Dr. Bill McKee, Chakita Patterson, and Linda Wynn, were present. County historian Dr. Carle Bucy was also present.

Staff Members Present: Caroline Eller, Susie Pallas, Jessica Reeves, and Tim Walker were present.

Guests Present: Metro Attorney Alex Dickerson

Chair Dr. Clay Bailey called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m. after verifying that a quorum was present.

Metro Attorney Alex Dickerson reviewed Gov. Lee's recent executive order permitting local boards and commissions to meet electronically to conduct essential business. Our agenda noted that the meeting would be electronic and that there would be a call-in feature offered. In addition, this meeting will be recorded and posted within 48 hours and voting will be conducted by roll call.

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

Commissioner Hoobler moved to temporarily suspend any rules or provisions that conflict with the executive order until its expiration and Commissioner Maddox seconded it. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

HISTORICAL MARKERS – Jessica Reeves

Ms. Reeves announced three privately-funded markers for the Commission's consideration: "Campaign to Win the Vote," "History of Edgehill," and "The Edgehill Community." The first marker presented, "Campaign to Win the Vote," was sponsored by the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission and the marker text was researched and written by Tom Vickstrom of Hermitage Hotel. The marker will be rushed to production by Sewah Studios in order to be unveiled in conjunction with the centennial celebration of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Commissioner Maddox suggested combining the first two sentences of the second side of the marker, so that the text reads, "for whom this 1912 boulevard was

named.” Dr. Bucy asked if it would be possible to substitute the name of a Nashville woman for Chattanooga-born Abby Crawford Milton. After much discussion concerning the possible name or names to include, Chair Bailey suggested that the marker might be approved with the caveat that Ms. Reeves would substitute a name or names, depending upon the character count, at her discretion with the assistance of Dr. Bucy. Ms. Reeves and Dr. Bucy assented and a motion to approve the marker was made by Commissioner Wynn and Commissioner Maddox seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Ms. Reeves then brought forth the second marker for consideration. Both the “History of Edgehill” and “The Edgehill Community” markers were funded by a coalition of various Edgehill community organizations and the text was written and researched by a committee of members of the coalition. A discussion ensued regarding the first sentence of the text and the exact date of the establishment of Meridian Hill as an estate. During the discussion, various Commissioners agreed that a broad statement rather than a specific date was best. Commissioner Patterson asked that either “many” or “more” be removed from the second sentence and the word “more” was removed. A motion to approve the marker was made by Commissioner Wynn and Commissioner Hoobler seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Finally, Ms. Reeves presented the third marker, “The Edgehill Community.” She stated that she was unhappy with the second sentence of the text and wondered if there was a better way to convey that Edgehill was home to many well-known musicians and artists as well as community and business leaders. Commissioner Cusic agreed, naming several of these artists including DeFord Bailey and A.O. Smith. Commissioner Wood suggested an edit that would combine two of the sentences and free up some more characters. After much discussion, Chair Bailey again asked if the commission might approve the text with all of the suggested changes and that Ms. Reeves might make the necessary edits to include “arts,” “artists,” or “musicians” in some capacity with her discretion. A motion to approve the marker was made by Commissioner Cusic and Commissioner Wood seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Closing Remarks – Chair Clay Bailey

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, July 20, 2020.

Susie Pallas