

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)

MINUTES

September 21, 2020

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held an electronic meeting on September 21, 2020 with Commission Chair Clay Bailey presiding.

Commissioners Present: Dr. Clay Bailey, Chair; John Bridges, Christopher Cotton, Dr. Don Cusic, Jim Hoobler, Lynn Maddox, Dr. Bill McKee, and Linda Wynn, **were present**.

Staff Members Present: 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.

Commissioner Cotton 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 Maddox. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

HISTORICAL MARKERS – Jessica Reeves

Jessica presented the **Dudley Park** marker which is privately funded by the Core Fund. It will be located in Chestnut Hill on the 3rd Ave. side of Dudley Park. Originally known as Chestnut Street Park, land for this South Nashville park was purchased in 1913. That same year, two daughters of Parks Commission chairman Robert M. Dudley—Louise and Rebecca—died in a train accident in Iowa. The park was renamed in their memory in 1914. Baseball fields and a swimming pool were added in 1920, and the Works Progress Administration built a community center in the 1930s. The park often hosted weekly concerts and movie nights in addition to sports. Commissioner Bridges moved to approve the marker and Commissioner Cotton seconded it. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

The next marker is a replacement for the **Neill S. Brown** marker which was damaged in the March 2020 tornado. It will be located on Neill Street between Main Street and Ramsey Avenue. Neill S. Brown was a founder of the Whig Party in Tennessee and was elected governor in 1847, serving one term. He also served as U.S. Minister to Russia from 1850 to 1853. He died in 1886 and is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Commissioner McKee mentioned that he appreciated the addition of information about Neill Brown's brother also serving as Governor. Discussion ensued about markers serving as jumping off points for further research. Commissioner McKee made a motion to approve the marker and Commissioner Wynn seconded it. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Jessica continued with marker news. Old Hickory Works marker was installed, and the Rock Block marker was dedicated and received great press. There was a small unveiling for the Betty Nixon marker with hopes of a larger ceremony when possible. The Bradley Studio, Berger Building and "Nashville Plan" school desegregation markers went up and ceremonies will be held when it is safe. The Campaign to Win the Vote marker will be visible when the Church Street Park construction is completed. Commissioner Maddox asked if all Commissioners can be notified of the marker committee meetings so they can attend. Jessica will convey meeting information when it is set each month.

Closing Remarks – Chair Clay Bailey

Clay reported that we will welcome our two new commissioners, Jhennifer Amundson and Pamela Bobo, at the October MHC meeting.

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Cusic moved to adjourn, and Commissioner Wynn seconded. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, September 21, 2020.

Susie Pallas