

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)  
MINUTES

February 27, 2012

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on February 27, 2012, in the conference room of the Historical Commission office at 3000 Granny White Pike, with Chairman Bill McKee presiding.

**Commissioners Present:** Dr. Bill McKee, Chair; Bob Allen, Clay Bailey, Menié Bell, Lula Brooks, George Cate, Jr., David Currey, Don Cusic, Jim Forkum, Jim Hoobler, Holly Sharp and Linda Wynn. Commissioners Lynn McDonald, Mark Rogers, and Gerry Searcy not present.

**Guests in attendance:** Lu Whitworth

**Staff Members Present:** Tim Walker, Sean Alexander, Tara Mielnik, Scarlett Miles, Yvonne Ogren, Fred Zahn.

Commission Chair Bill McKee called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. after verifying that a quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes:** *Commissioner Cusic moved to approve the minutes from the January meeting as written. Commissioner Cate seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

**REPORT ON BUCHANAN STATION CEMETERY- Lu Whitworth**

Ms. Whitworth presented a brief history of the cemetery and relayed her concerns that the site may be sold to a developer. *Notes and related documents are attached.*

MHC Director Tim Walker has been in contact with Mike Slate, the Metro Archives, Metro Parks, Councilman Claiborne, and others regarding the future of the cemetery. No record has been found to indicate that the parcel has an easement in place to protect its current location and access. If the parcel were donated to Metro, the Parks Department would be willing to incorporate the site into a future greenway already planned for the area. The property owner has not responded to correspondence attempts.

**PRESERVATION AWARDS- Scarlett Miles**

The 2012 program is scheduled for Thursday, May 31, at 4:30 pm, and to be held at the Tennessee State Museum. It will be listed as an opening event of the Tennessee Preservation Trust Conference. The deadline for award nominations is March 30. Judges this year are Patrick Weber, an architect with Smith-Gee Studios; Julia Landstreet, Executive Director of the Downtown Civic Design Center; and Amanda Hall, Preservation Planner with the City of Franklin. Judging is scheduled on Friday, May 2.

**AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE CONFERENCE- Linda Wynn**

The African-American History & Culture Conference, on February 10, 2012, was a huge success. Approximately 350 people attended with more than 250 pre-registrations. The conference celebrated Tennessee State University's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with speakers and musical presentations.

**NASHVILLE 101, Session 2- Tim Walker**

Mr. Walker gave a report on Nashville 101, which concluded on February 23. There were 58 persons registered for the series, with approximately 50 attending each week. Proceeds will directly benefit the Fort Negley Visitor Center.

Registration is now open for the sequel, *Nashville 102*, which is to follow in April in the Sonny West Conference Center at the Howard Office Building. The fee is \$25 and will benefit the Historical Commission Foundation.

#### [Update on plans for Metro 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary- George Cate, Jr.](#)

Commissioner Cate reported that plans are moving along for the celebration event, which will begin on June 28, 2012, the 50th anniversary of the referendum filing, and proceed until April 1, 2013, the anniversary of the swearing in of Metropolitan Davidson County's first Mayor, Beverly Briley; first Vice-Mayor, George Cate, Jr.; and the first Metro Council. Dr. Carole Bucy is the Chair of the planning committee; George Cate, Jr. and John Siegenthaler, Sr. are honorary co-chairs.

Speakers and presentations are falling into place and will be announced later.

#### [CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL REPORT- Jim Hoobler](#)

- \* The symposium was held as scheduled on February 18, 2012 at the Fisk University Little Theater. After opening comments from Mayor Karl Dean, Professor Tim Smith spoke on the Fall of Fort Henry and Fort Donelson. Dr. Carole Bucy followed with a presentation on the panic that occurred in the city after the forts were surrendered. A musical performance by the 1861 Project was enjoyed by all attending.

#### [DIRECTOR'S REPORT- Tim Walker](#)

- \* The Historical Commission is a co-sponsor of the Tennessee Preservation Trust Conference, to be held from May 31-June 2. Commissioner David Currey is on the TPT Board. The event will focus on several different tracks. Sustainability- An Old House Fair will be offered to interested homeowners at a cost of \$10. They will be able to meet with contractors experienced in working on older properties. Bob Yapp, known for his former PBS TV series *This Old House*, will be a speaker on several topics. Another focus will be Civil War Preservation, to tie in with the State-wide Sesquicentennial focus.
- \* The oral history project of the Scottsboro-Bells Bend area is set for the coming week. The Public Library will set up at Bells Bend Park Community Center for local citizens to come and share the history of their way of life in the community and how it has changed.
- \* MHC has submitted their FY13 2% reduction scenario requested by the Finance & Budget Office. If implemented, a 2% cut would require a staff member to be laid off before the end of FY13. Commissioners were asked to call and write their council members in support of the MHC. Along with the 2% reduction, several improvement requests were submitted, with hope to recoup some of the reductions MHC has taken during the past 5 years.
- \* Requests were also submitted for two Capital Expense projects: repair and restoration at the Sunnyside mansion currently occupied by the MHC; and Fort Nashborough. The Mayor may announce his approved plans in late summer.

#### [HISTORIC ZONING REPORT- Tim Walker](#)

The Historic Zoning staff has continued to meet with citizens in the Belmont-Hillsboro area on a possible expansion of the B-H Conservation Overlay district. The Council representative and citizens of Salemtown are interested in a possible new Conservation Zoning overlay district. Developers have also shown support of the possible new district to be established.

#### [STAFF REPORTS](#)

Tara Mielnik reported on the Tennessee History Day events. Only three Metro Public School students participated, but were awarded a total of 16 medals between them.

Mrs. Mielnik also announced the first Metro-sponsored event celebrating Women's History month. On March 20 at 12:00, in the Fort Negley visitor's center, Krista Carillo will give a presentation on *Women in the Civil War*.

Commissioner Jim Hoobler mentioned that 2012 is the 100th Anniversary of Shelby Park. An event will be held in October. The public is encouraged to submit copies of family photos taken in the park.

Commissioner Currey reminded everyone that two committees in the TN Legislature would be reviewing the 4 bills impacting planning and zoning this week; the Senate State & Local Government Committee, and the House State & Local Government. Contact your representative and ask them to oppose the bills.

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

Submitted by

*Yvonne Ogren*

February 28, 2012