

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)  
MINUTES

August 20, 2012

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on August 20, 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, Lula Brooks, George Cate, Jr., David Currey, Don Cusic, Jim Forkum, Jim Hoobler, Lynn McDonald, Mark Rogers\*, Gerry Searcy, and Linda Wynn. Commissioner Menié Bell was not present.

**Staff Members Present:** Tim Walker, Sean Alexander, Tara Mielnik, Scarlett Miles, Fred Zahn, and Robin Zeigler.

**Guests Present:** Roxanne Caruso and Jack Henry, Metro Nashville Internal Audit; Kim and Tracy Parks, Historic Lebanon Tomorrow; Lu Whitworth, Buchanan Log House; Dan Allen, Dan Allen Associates; Dr. Harvell Eaton, Pres., Cumberland University

Commission Chair Bill McKee called the meeting to order after verifying that a quorum was present.

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

**BUCHANAN STATION CEMETERY- *Dr. Harvill C. Eaton, President of Cumberland University***

Dr. Eaton gave a report on the cemetery. On September 30<sup>th</sup>, a service will be held there to commemorate the 220<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Buchanan Station. Dan Allen Associates recently completed an archaeological survey of the site. A draft of the report was given to Chair Bill McKee and will be included in the meeting minutes.

*\*Indicates arrival of Commissioner Rogers*

**NASHVILLE CITY CEMETERY *Living History Tour-***

Chair McKee reported that the scheduled date for the LHT has been changed from October 13 to October 6, due to a conflict with Mt. Olivet Cemetery's Living History Tour.

**METRO @ 50**

Chair McKee reported that the Encyclopedia of Nashville project is moving forward. Dr. Carole Bucy has received a first draft, written by a graduate class in Media from Cumberland University.

Commissioner Geo. Cate reported that the first event of the celebration went well, and included a tribute to former Mayor Richard Fulton.

Future Metro@50 events will be posted on the website [www.metroat50.org](http://www.metroat50.org) and the [Metro at 50](#) Facebook page.

*Chair McKee introduced Roxanne Caruso and Jack Henry, who work for Metro Internal Audit. They will be working with the Historical Commission staff for the next few months.*

#### [HISTORIC MARKERS- Dr. Tara Mielnik](#)

Staff member Mielnik presented revised text for the [Holly Street Fire Hall/Bass Park](#) historic marker, which was approved at the July MHC Meeting. Text was also presented for a marker for [Cohn School](#). [The Marker Committee recommends approval of all. After brief discussion, the commission voted to approve as well.](#)

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

Commissioner Hoobler and Tim Walker have met with the Civil War Heritage Area about possible grants to assist with a Sesquicentennial Tour publication. Plans continue for commemorative event on April 13, 2013 at the Holy Trinity Church, which was used as a hospital during Nashville's Union occupation. Scheduled speakers as of this date are Dr. Bobby Lovett, and Stephen Ash from Knoxville, TN.

Signage for the Occupied City tour is up (Thanks to Metro Public Works) and brochures are available.

#### [KNOW NASHVILLE – Dr. Tara Mielnik for Dr. Carole Bucy](#)

This fall Dr. Carole Bucy will offer a series of 4 classes for the public on Nashville history. Beginning on September 13 and continuing on Thursdays through October 4, from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. The classes will be held in the auditorium of the Fort Negley Visitors Center.

In this series, Nashville's history will be presented topically. The first class, "Rock City: How the Land Shaped Nashville's History," will explore Davidson County & middle Tennessee geography, and its relationship to history. "The Buckle of the Bible Belt" will investigate Nashville's religious heritage.

Nashville's educational history will be the topic of Class 3, "The Athens of the South." The series will conclude on October 4 with a discussion of Nashville during times of war, "From Plowshares into Swords." Beginning with Andrew Jackson's rise to national prominence in the War of 1812, this class will discuss Nashville's role in every war in which the United States has participated, and the impact of war on our home front.

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

- Still waiting for the IRS' final approval of the Metro Historical Commission Foundation. It is expected soon.
- Several MHC-sponsored events are coming up in the next few months: the Buchanan Log House Fall Festival on September 15; Nashville City Cemetery Living History Tour on October 6; and Oktoberfest in Germantown on October 13.
- MHC and Metro Parks are working on an inventory of paintings and furnishings at Two Rivers Mansion.
- Mr. Walker has met with Chris Koster of Metro Parks, regarding the capital spending appropriation for the reconstruction for Fort Nashborough. A Request for Proposal is being drafted by Parks and MHC for the work.

#### [HISTORIC ZONING REPORT- Robin Zeigler](#)

- Ms. Zeigler reported that the MHZC continues to be busy with the short staff and increased number of overlay districts. Three commissioners' terms are up this year and will not be reinstated. As of this date only one replacement has been named.
- Melissa Baldock will be going out on maternity leave in September. Michelle Taylor, has been hired part-time to help cover Melissa's duties.
- Melissa and Sean Alexander were both presenters at the recent National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) Conference in Norfolk, VA. Melissa has a cover story in the Alliance Review.

## STAFF REPORTS

Sean Alexander reported that he and Tim visited Bells Bend, where a team of archaeologists from UT Knoxville and the University of Arizona were wrapping up their third summer excavation field school. There are several known archaeological sites in the area, dating back as far as 13,000 years old. The current project is a site believed to be around 5,000 years old, and was discovered when artifacts were exposed after the 2010 flood eroded the riverbank along Bells Bend.

The team will analyze the artifacts and data they collected during the fall semester and produce a report by spring of 2013. They hope to continue the excavation next year.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Linda Wynn spoke about a Symposium that was coming up August 31, on Music during the Civil Rights. She also mentioned topics that were being considered for the 2013 African American History and Culture Conference. More information will be coming later.

*Chair Bill McKee, along with the rest of the Commission expressed their appreciation to the MHC staff for all the work and dedication put in each month to carry out the various functions of the Historical Commission.*

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

Submitted by

*Yvonne Ogren*

September 12, 2012