

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)
MINUTES

October 15, 2012

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on October 15, 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; Vice-Chair Jim Forkum, Bob Allen, Lula Brooks, David Currey, Don Cusic, Jim Hoobler, Mark Rogers, and Gerry Searcy. Commissioners Clay Bailey, Menié Bell, George Cate, Jr., Lynn McDonald, Holly Sharp, and Linda Wynn were not present.

Staff Members Present: Yvonne Ogren, Tara Mielnik, Scarlett Miles, Fred Zahn, and Robin Zeigler.

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

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

KNOW NASHVILLE – Dr. Tara Mielnik for Dr. Carole Bucy

Dr. Carole Bucy's *Know Nashville* history series was well-attended. The final class was held October 4. Attendees of the class were invited to join Dr. Bucy on a private tour of the Omohundro Water Treatment facility. Registration for the next session of *Know Nashville*, to be held Thursdays in February 2013, will begin after the start of the year.

METRO @ 50 - Dr. Tara Mielnik

Dr. McKee inquired about upcoming events celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Metropolitan Government. As the MHC is not directly involved in the planning of these events, Dr. Mielnik advised Commissioners to visit the website www.metroat50.org and the *Metro at 50* Facebook page for up-to-date information about future Metro@50 events. Dr. Mielnik also noted that the Nashville Conference on African-American History and Culture (to be held on Friday, February 8, 2013) will include a Metro@50 session.

CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL REPORT- Jim Hoobler

Commissioner Hoobler mentioned that Commissioner Bailey continues to work with the Public Works department on the development of a Civil War-themed bicycle tour; it will include the Battle of Nashville battlefield. Commissioner Forkum mentioned the possibility of a Civil War Living History Tour.

HISTORIC ZONING REPORT- Robin Zeigler

- Ms. Zeigler mentioned plans for an Old House Fair to be held in February or March. She invited suggestions for venues and event partnership opportunities.
- Ms. Zeigler reported on updates to the cemetery resources page of the MHC website, including the addition of a new booklet prepared by MHC staff, "Caring for Davidson County's Cemeteries."
- On behalf of a downtown business, Ms. Zeigler invited suggestions for locating Printers Alley memorabilia. Several commissioners offered numerous suggestions.
- Intern Brad Baumgartner is working with the Historic Zoning staff.

- Ms. Zeigler also reported that there is substantial interest in expanding the Lockeland Springs-East End district and adding/expanding a district in Sylvan Park. Although this is exciting news, the proposed growth in historic preservation/neighborhood conservation zoning overlay districts will present a significant challenge for the small staff.

[BUCHANAN STATION CEMETERY – Vice-Chair Jim Forkum](#)

Commissioners Forkum and Brooks shared highlights from the Battle of Buchanan Station 220th Anniversary event held on September 30th at the Buchanan Station Cemetery. Commissioner Hoobler noted that several items related to Buchanan Station are on display at the Tennessee State Museum. Commissioners McKee, Currey, Allen, and Hoobler, and Dr. Mielnik and others generally discussed historic resources in the Donelson-Hermitage area, including the Buchanan Log House, and needs and opportunities for programming and heritage tourism.

[NASHVILLE CITY CEMETERY Living History Tour- Vice-Chair Jim Forkum](#)

Commissioners Forkum and Hoobler shared highlights from the Living History Tour held at the Nashville City Cemetery on October 6th. This year, to commemorate the Civil War Sesquicentennial, the tour featured personalities from Civil War Nashville. Attendance appeared to be slightly down this year—possibly due to the weather forecast as well as other events also taking place that day.

[OKTOBERFEST – Commissioner Searcy](#)

Commissioner Searcy reported that the event was successful. She stopped by the MHC/MHFC booth and spoke with staff member Fred Zahn. Like the Living History Tour, Ms. Searcy noted that attendance at this event appeared to be slightly down this year.

[NASHVILLE CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE – Dr. Tara Mielnik](#)

Dr. Mielnik reminded everyone that the conference is scheduled for Friday, February 8, 2013, at Tennessee State University's Avon Williams Campus. Presenters include Dr. Reavis Mitchell who will speak on the impact of the creation of the Metropolitan Government on the African-American community in Nashville. Other presentations will address the Emancipation Proclamation and African-American burials and mourning customs during the Civil War era. Registration will open after the holidays.

[OTHER BUSINESS](#)

- Dr. McKee mentioned that the MHC Holiday Party will take place on Thursday, December 13th at Two Rivers Mansion. Commissioner McDonald is planning the event; details are forthcoming. Yvonne Ogren added that the event will also serve as the kick-off event for the new 501(c)3 – MHC Foundation.
- Dr. Mielnik mentioned the need for judges for National History Day, regional level, at Middle Tennessee State University on Friday, February 22, 2013.
- Commissioner Currey mentioned activities surrounding the Alvin C. York exhibit that is opening at the Military Branch of the Tennessee State Museum in November.
- Commissioner Rogers offered a follow-up to concerns expressed at the last meeting about the closing of the State Archives in Georgia. He spoke with Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett and was assured that this is not an immediate concern for Tennessee. However, it was acknowledged by staff and commissioners that the situation in Georgia and other states is concerning.
- Commissioner Rogers proposed a two-part food-related program for the Civil War Sesquicentennial. The first would involve partnering with several of the "Nashville Originals" restaurants to host a "restaurant week" featuring food items and/or meals inspired by the Civil War era. The second would involve a lecture about food

and the Civil War—highlighting the role of food on the homefront and the front lines, for example. Commissioner Allen mentioned that this could be an interesting program for school children (e.g. through the Bellevue Edible Learning Lab).

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

Submitted by

Yvonne Ogren and Scarlett C. Miles

November 12, 2012