

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)  
MINUTES

November 19, 2012

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on November 19, 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, Clay Bailey, Menié Bell, Lula Brooks, George Cate, Jr, David Currey, Don Cusic, Lynn McDonald, and Linda Wynn. Commissioners Jim Hoobler, Gerry Searcy, Holly Sharp, and Mark Rogers were not present.

**Staff Members Present:** Tim Walker, 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 October meeting as written. A minor correction was mentioned. After brief discussion, Commissioner Allen moved to approve the minutes as corrected; Commissioner Cusic seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

**METRO @ 50 – George Cate, Jr.**

Commissioner Cate gave a brief review of the events planned to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Metropolitan Government. Students from local universities will hold a debate on the wisdom of changing to a metropolitan form of government. Commissioner Jim Forkum talked about a reception that was held recently to honor all past and present Council Members. The Nashville Conference on African-American History and Culture (to be held on Friday, February 8, 2013) will include a Metro@50 session. Visit the website [www.metroat50.org](http://www.metroat50.org) and the **Metro at 50** Facebook page for up-to-date information about future Metro@50 events.

**STROBEL MARKER DEDICATION**

Dr. McKee talked about the dedication of the Mary Catherine Strobel Historic Marker, which was held the previous Sunday. A number of guests attended, including members of the Strobel family, the Fire Department, the Dominican Nuns, and several other groups. Commissioner Bell complimented Dr. McKee on his opening address and also noted that the dedication was quite a notable event.

**HISTORIC MARKER APPROVAL and REPORT- Dr. Tara Mielnik**

Dr. Mielnik presented the Marker committee's recommended text for the **Fehr School Marker**. Several changes were suggested, After brief discussion, Commissioner Cusic *moved to approve the marker with a final correction to be approved by the Marker Committee. Commissioner Wynn seconded the motion.* Motion carried.

Dr. Mielnik gave a report on other markers under consideration, and mentioned that there are several existing markers that have been damaged or vandalized. The MHC will use appropriated funds to purchase replacement markers.

#### CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL REPORT- *Jim Hoobler*

No report.

#### KEITH SEARCY MEMORIAL THANKSGIVING MEAL

In Commissioner Searcy's absence, Robin Zeigler talked about the annual Thanksgiving Day dinner provided by the Church of Assumption in Germantown, and the need for volunteers to help at the event. Several commissioners said they would possibly be able to assist.

#### MHC HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE-

Dr. McKee mentioned that the MHC Holiday Party would take place on Thursday, December 13th at Two Rivers Mansion. The guest list was briefly discussed and suggestions for attendees were given. Commissioner McDonald is planning the event. The catering will be provided by All Occasion Catering. The event will also serve as the kick-off fundraiser for the new 501(c)3 – MHC Foundation. Members of the non-profit group Friends of Two Rivers will also be on site to raise money for their group.

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT- *Tim Walker*

- *Mr. Walker mentioned that he had received the preliminary report on the Internal Audit. The majority of the report had been favorable. After he (Mr. Walker) has written a response to this, a Final Report will be sent to the MHC and available to the public. A copy of the Draft report was offered to any commissioner who desired to see it.*
- *The MHC has received two grants from the TN Civil War National Heritage Area; one is for a Historic Structures Report on Fort Negley; the other will fund a TN Civil War Crossroads Heritage Tourism brochure project.*
- *Mr. Walker has been working on a white paper on the role of preservation in Nashville's past, present and future, for a Metro Planning Commission's General Plan update.*
- *He and Robin Zeigler have met recently with Metro Planning, the Codes Administration, the Chamber, and other interested parties to discuss proposed new signage guidelines for the Downtown Code boundaries.*

#### HISTORIC ZONING REPORT- *Robin Zeigler*

- 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. There are plans to move ahead with overlay districts in Salemtown and Eastwood.
- The Historical Commission will be launching its new website on Dec 15. Staff has been working closely together and with the Information Systems Department to develop and update the site.
- Ms. Zeigler updated the commission with plans for the Old House Fair, which has been scheduled on March 9, 2013, at the Cohn Adult Learning Center. Several commissioners gave suggestions of possible sponsors.

#### NASHVILLE CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE – *Dr. Tara Mielnik*

Dr. Mielnik reminded everyone that the 2013 conference is scheduled for Friday, February 8 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. Mielnik mentioned the need for judges for National History Day, regional level, at Middle Tennessee State University on Friday, February 22, 2013. Dr. Bucy's next Know Nashville series will be in late February or March.
- Commission Vice-Chair Jim Forkum mentioned that he also serves on the State Fair Commission, and that support is needed to keep its current location.

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

Submitted by

*Yvonne Ogren*

December 11, 2012