

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)
MINUTES

January 27, 2014

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting on January 27, 2014, in the conference room of the Historical Commission office at 3000 Granny White Pike, with Commission Chair Bill McKee presiding.

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

Guests Present: Dr. Carole Bucy

Staff Members Present: Tim Walker, Melissa Baldock, Paul Hoffman, Scarlett Miles, Yvonne Ogren

Chair Bill McKee called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm, after verifying that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner George Cate moved to approve the minutes from the December meeting as written. Commissioner Holly Conner seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE CONFERENCE – Linda Wynn

Commissioner Wynn talked about the schedule for the 2014 conference which will take place on Friday, February 14, 2014; from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. The program covers several topics including *Black Soldiers and the War of the Rebellion*; *James Weldon Johnson*; and *Reading, Writing, and Segregation: A Century of Black Women Schoolteachers in Nashville*. Brochures were mailed out early in January and registration forms are still being accepted. Ms. Wynn encouraged the commissioners to attend.

PRESERVATION AWARDS – Scarlett Miles

Scarlett Miles spoke about the 2014 Preservation Awards program. Commissioners received a form to complete with any information on potential Achievement and Commissioners' Award nominees. Members of the Events and Nominations committees will meet on February 6 to discuss nominations and bring recommendations to the February MHC meeting. The location and date for the 2014 program are not determined at this time.

OPEN HOUSE – Menié Bell

The Open House has been rescheduled for February 27th. Commissioner Bell mentioned the planning and a list was passed for volunteers to help or contribute food or beverage items.

NASHVILLE ENCYCLOPEDIA – *Dr. Carole Bucy*

Dr. Bucy gave an update on the Encyclopedia. The first entries, primarily focused on the early settlement and settlers, *pre-Civil War*, are due by January 31, 2014. The editing teams have begun to review them. Commissioners were asked to contact her if they have suggestions or know of individuals who have expertise on a certain topic. The committees hope to have 1,000 or more entries when the website goes live at the end of 2014, or early 2015.

Beginning in late February, Dr. Bucy plans to be available on Thursday afternoons at the Downtown Library's Nashville Room to assist any writers who would like help with research and developing their articles.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – *Tim Walker*

- The FY15 budget preparation season began today with a presentation given at the Sonny West Conference Center by Finance Director Rich Riebeling. Yvonne attended the meeting and reported that all Metro departments have been asked to submit a 3% budget reduction scenario, which is over \$20,000 for MHC and would require that a staff member be laid off if implemented.
- Mayor Bill Coke of Forest Hills has led a drive to raise funds to support preservation of the Kellytown archaeological site. To date, close to \$250,000 has been raised. You can learn more about the project and how to make donations or get involved at the website *Friendsofkellytown.com*
- MHC has been working with Metro schools to have the Interurban Rail Shelter near Overton High School repaired. It is one of only two remaining shelters from the rail line on Franklin Rd.
- We continue to work on the initiative to save the Cordell Hull State Office Building. The previous week Mr. Walker spoke at the Tennessee State Employees Association meeting and learned that the employees are very much in favor of preserving the building. He followed up by writing an article for their employee newsletter. The petition to save the building has over 1,000 signatures to date and a date will be set soon for it to be hand-delivered to the governor.
- The office has applied for two grants from the Tennessee Historical Commission; one is for training and would pay 60% of the cost for MHZC staff to attend the 2014 NAPC Conference (the remaining 40% covered by the staff persons attending); the other would pay for MHC to hire staff or consultant to write National Register nominations for historic districts that have been under-served in this area.
- A small burial site located adjacent to the parking lot at Grassmere is known to be the burial site of a number of former slaves at the plantation. There may have been as many as 15 persons buried in that site. Plans are underway to move the remains nearer the house, which is adjacent to the family cemetery at the rear of the historic house. Interpretive signage will be designed and placed to tell their history of African-Americans at Grassmere.
- The office is working with Historic Nashville to get word about 1818 Eastland Avenue. The site is being developed, and the owner has offered to donate the house to be moved off site. The house, which dates to the 1870s or 80s, was likely built as Spout Springs School and later renovated for multi-family housing.

STAFF REPORTS – *Robin Zeigler*

Robin Zeigler mentioned that there are now nine different neighborhoods are seeking new or expanded historic zoning overlay designation. The number of properties continues to grow and MHZC staff is continually busy.

Zeigler also mentioned the upcoming Old House Fair. This year's event will be held March 8th at 2400 Fairfax Avenue.

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

Yvonne Ogren

February 19, 2014

Metropolitan Historical Commission, Meeting Minutes January 27, 2014