

## METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)

### MINUTES

November 15, 2021

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held a meeting at the Sonny West Conference Center—Fulton Campus on November 15, 2021, with Commission Chair Lynn Maddox presiding.

**Commissioners Present:** Chair Lynn Maddox; Clay Bailey, Pamela Bobo, Christopher Cotton, Don Cusic, Jim Hoobler, William McKee, E. Thomas Wood, and Linda Wynn, **were present.**

**Staff Members Present:** Tim Walker, Robin Zeigler, Caroline Eller, Jessica Reeves, Scarlett Miles, and Susie Pallas

**Guests Present:** Metro Attorney Alex Dickerson, Metro Attorney Ann Mikkelsen, County Historian Dr. Carole Bucy (ex-officio), Patrick McIntyre, Josh Wagner

Chair Lynn Maddox called the meeting to order at approximately 12:03 p.m. after verifying that a quorum was present. Attorney Alex Dickerson introduced Ann Mikkelsen who will be the new attorney for our department.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *Lynn Maddox*

Chair Maddox presented the October minutes for approval. Commissioner Cotton made a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Wynn provided a second, and the October minutes were unanimously approved.

Chair Maddox introduced Patrick McIntyre, Executive Director of the Tennessee Historical Commission, who gave a presentation about the THC and its programs. After his presentation, Tim expressed appreciation to Patrick and his staff for their willingness to help our office. Patrick returned the appreciation for the strong working relationship shared by our two offices.

#### THE HIBBETTAGE NATIONAL REGISTER REMOVAL – *Scarlett Miles*

Scarlett explained that as a Certified Local Government, the MHC is tasked with reviewing nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and proposed removals from the same. The Hibbittance has already been demolished, so the Tennessee Historical Commission is proposing removal. Commissioner McKee made a motion to recommend removal of The Hibbittance from the National Register of Historic Places, Commissioner Wynn provided a second, and the motion was unanimously approved.

## HISTORICAL MARKERS – *Jessica Reeves*

Jessica presented the marker for the Centennial Park Swimming Pool, which will be paid for by the Centennial Park Conservancy and placed in the park near the Centennial Art Center (CAC). Josh Wagner, director of CAC, was in attendance to express Art Center staff's support for the proposed marker. Dr. Bucy detailed some of the history of the Centennial Park Swimming Pool. Commissioner Cotton made a motion to approve the marker, Commissioner Wynn provided a second, and the Centennial Park marker was unanimously approved.

The next marker was presented for Vine Hill, which is privately funded by the Mertie family. This is connected to the William Gerst Brewery and was the home of the Gerst family. Commissioner Wynn made a motion to approve the marker, Commissioner Bailey provided a second, and the Vine Hill marker was unanimously approved.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT – *Tim Walker*

The Mayor's proposed Capital Spending Plan (CSP) includes funds for the purchase of 88 Hermitage Avenue, a National Register Eligible property. The building was constructed in 1944 and served as classrooms and dormitories for African American blind students from 1952 to 1965. The Colonial Revival-style school building was designed by Donald Southgate, a prominent mid-20<sup>th</sup> century Nashville architect. If purchased by the city, the building will likely be renovated for Metro offices and supportive services for the adjacent Wharf Park. Tim offered to draft a letter of support for the Mayor's plan to purchase 88 Hermitage Avenue and rehabilitate the structure for Metro uses. With the MHC's approval, Chair Maddox asked Tim to draft the letter and send to Metro Council. In addition, Commissioner Wood moved that the MHC send a letter of support for BL2021-1016, which names the landing and steps in front of the Historic Metropolitan Courthouse in honor of Diane Nash, and Commissioner Wynn provided a second. Commissioner McKee suggested a roll call vote, so that was done, and it was unanimously approved. Tim will also draft this letter and send to Metro Council.

### Roll Call Vote

Commissioner Bailey	YES
Commissioner Bobo	YES
Commissioner Cotton	YES
Commissioner Cusic	YES
Commissioner Hoobler	YES
Commissioner Maddox	YES
Commissioner McKee	YES
Commissioner Wood	YES
Commissioner Wynn	YES

Tim continued his report with information about the Fort Negley Master Plan. The first public input meeting was held on November 9<sup>th</sup> to gather input from neighbors and hear their concerns and wishes for the site. It was well attended with well over 100 individuals. Special thanks to MHZC Commissioner Dr. Lea Williams and Davidson County Historian Dr. Carole Bucy for participating on the discussion panel at the beginning of the meeting as well as Commissioner Chris Cotton, who moderated the panel. MHC staff manned breakout

tables where public input was received. Hodgson Douglas Landscape Architects leads the master planning process for Metro Parks. They'll be presenting to the MHC in early 2022 and getting the Commission's input. The report is expected to be completed in late spring of next year. The TN Civil War National Heritage Area is providing \$100,000 in grant money for this project. Dr. Bucy and Commissioner Bailey expressed positive comments about the public meeting, and Commissioner Hoobler added that there is interest in having a Fort Negley exhibit in the Conte Community Arts Gallery at the Frist Museum in 2023. In Second Avenue recovery news, Tim reported that there is a hope that Second Avenue can be fully opened soon with the barricades pulled back to the building fronts. MHC staff and The DISTRICT will be holding a workday on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> to complete salvage of building materials from 166-176 Second Avenue North that can be reused in the repair and reconstruction of their Second Avenue facades. The workday will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and EOA Architects will be providing pizza and drinks for the lunchtime break. Commissioner McKee asked Tim for an update on Fort Nashborough. Tim said that it did not make it into the Mayor's capital spending plan, but he will keep the MHC updated about any future developments. Tim added that Two Rivers Mansion is scheduled to receive funding in the capital spending plan if it is approved.

#### **HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – Robin Zeigler**

MVNTN Owner LLC, the owner of the Exit/In at 2208 Elliston, has applied for Historic Landmark designation. Three pieces of legislation are expected to be approved on final reading by Council on November 16<sup>th</sup>: expansion of the Bowling House District (BL2021-903), a moratorium on permits within potential overlays once the application has been filed, which will provide more protection than the current legislation (BL2021-621), and creation of a Historic Signage Landmark District (BL2021-843). The proposed overlay provides for a new tool that allows for the landmarking of a sign only, rather than a sign landmarked along with a building. In addition, staff presented to the Mayor's Special Bombing Review Commission about our response to the 2020 Christmas morning bombing. We provided information on our role in the rebuilding process, our damage assessment, how we assisted property owners as well as our ongoing efforts.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS – Lynn Maddox**

Commissioner Landers will be up for approval at the next Council meeting. Commissioners Bell, Bobo and McKee were reappointed at the last Council meeting. HNI's annual meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### **TASK FORCE COMMITTEE REPORT – Clay Bailey**

Commissioner Bailey stated that there is nothing new to report and they will schedule another meeting this month.

Commissioner Wynn suggested changing the December meeting date. Alex stated that the way to do that is to make a motion to have a special meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup> and cancel the December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner Wynn made the motion, Commissioner Cotton seconded it, and it was unanimously approved.

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Cotton moved to adjourn, and Commissioner Cusic seconded. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, December 6, 2021.

*Susie Dallas*