

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)

MINUTES

May 16, 2022

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held a meeting at the Howard Office Building Sonny West Conference Center on May 16, 2022, with Commission Chair Lynn Maddox presiding.

Commissioners Present: Chair Lynn Maddox, Vice-Chair Linda Wynn, Dr. Clay Bailey, Menié Bell, John Bridges, Jim Hoobler, Dr. Jane Landers, Dr. Bill McKee, Laura Rost, and Gerry Searcy **were present.**

Staff Members Present: Executive Director Tim Walker, Caroline Eller, Dustin Summers, Jessica Reeves, Scarlett Miles, and Ann Mikkelson (legal counsel) **were present.**

County Historian: Dr. Carole Bucy **was present.**

Guests Present: No guests were present.

Chair Lynn Maddox called the meeting to order at approximately 12:06 p.m. after verifying that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *Lynn Maddox*

Chair Maddox presented the April meeting minutes for approval. Commissioner Rost made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Bridges provided a second. The commission unanimously approved the April minutes.

HISTORICAL MARKERS – *Jessica Reeves*

Jessica Reeves presented texts for two historical markers, one privately funded through Vanderbilt University (Dudley Field) and one funded through the Metro Historical Commission (Ernest Rip Patton).

- Dudley Field:
 - Presentation: The Official name on the marker will be “Dudley Field/Vanderbilt Stadium” for the 100th Anniversary of the field’s construction. The marker will be available in August 2022 and installed in front of the stadium along Natchez Trace & Jess Neely Drive in time for the first home game in September 2022.
 - Question: Commissioner McKee inquired about the possibility of honoring Fred Russell (Vanderbilt Sports Journalist) with a future marker. Jessica replied that she would communicate with her Vanderbilt contacts to see if that could be done.

- Commissioner Bridges made a motion to vote in favor of the marker's installation, Commissioner Landers provided a second, and the commission unanimously approved.
- Ernest Rip Patton:
 - Presentation: This marker was suggested by Metro Nashville Council Member At-Large, Zulfat Suara to recognize civil rights activist Ernest Rip Patton. This marker is to be placed at the Gordon Memorial United Methodist Church. Side 1 would memorialize Ernest Rip Patton and Side 2 recognizes Civil Rights Activists in Nashville (1957-1964). Jessica noted that more markers relative to civil rights activists would follow as budget and funding becomes available.
 - Questions: Vice Chair Wynn inquired if the term "modern" could be placed before "Civil Rights Activists" for this and future markers, to which Jessica replied that it could be done. Commissioner Bailey noted that a comma was needed on side 2 - Civil Right Activists in Nashville after "1959."
 - Commissioner McKee made a motion to vote in favor of the marker's installation, Commissioner Bridges provided a second, and the commission unanimously approved.
- Announcement: Jessica noted that the Dr. Josie Wells marker will be unveiled at a ceremony on Friday, May 20, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at Meharry Medical College.

PRESERVATION AWARDS – *Scarlett Miles*

- Announcement: Chair Maddox announced that the Preservation Awards Ceremony would air this evening Monday, May 16, 2022 at 8:00 p.m. on Metro Nashville Network (MNN). Chair Maddox noted condolences of the passing of, Irene Jackson Wills, wife of Ridley Wills II.

GUEST SPEAKER – *Dr. Carole Bucy*

- Topic: Historic Preservation Month - Celebrating Historic Preservation
 - Dr. Carole Bucy provided a PowerPoint presentation, "What Treasures has Nashville Lost?" about historic Nashville buildings that have been lost and/or are endangered.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – *Tim Walker*

MHC Executive Director Tim Walker noted that the department will meet with Metro General Services, Parks, and sub-contractors next week (05/23-27) regarding the renovations/construction to Sevier Park's Sunnyside Mansion over the next year and half. Director Walker noted that he is skeptical about the optimistic timetable for completion given the demand for labor and skyrocketing prices for materials.

HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – Robin Zeigler

MHC Director Walker noted that Robin Zeigler was out sick and unable to present for the MHZC.

- Questions: Commissioner Bell noted that Knoxville has a city ordinance for “Demo by Neglect” and inquired about the possibility of introducing that to Davidson County, which does not have such an ordinance. Director Walker noted that this has been an issue that the MHC has been discussing with Metro Council Members, Metro Legal and Codes for over a decade, and that issues have been raised relative to budget and funding sources needed to accommodate the repairs relative to such an ordinance’s implementation.

OTHER ITEMS –

- Vice Chair Wynn requested that an item be added to the next MHC meeting agenda to address the Commission’s due diligence to respond to a citizen complaint. This request was echoed by Commissioner Bell.
- Commissioner Hoobler inquired about when the next MHC Retreat would be taking place to which Director Walker noted that he is still working on organizing it and that a more affirmed date with official details and trainings will be announced for the Fall of 2022.

ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Announcement:
 - Chair Maddox congratulated MHC staff on the following....
 - Onboarding and welcoming of Dustin Summers.
 - Caroline Eller and Trevor Porter for all their Social Media work.
 - Caroline Eller for her work with cemeteries and requested that she provide a presentation sometime in the future, if possible.
 - Sean Alexander for graduating from Cumberland University with his MSP Degree.
 - Chair Maddox reminded the Commission that the City Cemetery has the Memorial Day race coming up.
 - Commissioner McKee noted that the Daughters of the American Revolution made a statement that there were several graves of Revolutionary War Veterans in City Cemetery that are still not yet marked and that they would like them to be marked if possible. Director Walker stated that he would look into this matter and report back.
 - Director Walker thanked Scarlett Miles for her hard work on the Preservation Awards.
 - Scarlett Miles thanked Metro ITS/MNN for their help with the production of the Preservation Awards video and noted that it would be available on the Metro Nashville YouTube channel.

ADJOURNMENT

- Commissioner Bailey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, May 17, 2022,

Dustin G. Summers