

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)

MINUTES

June 28, 2022

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held a meeting at the Howard Office Building Sonny West Conference Center on June 28, 2022, with Commission Chair Lynn Maddox presiding.

Commissioners Present: Chair Lynn Maddox, Vice-Chair Linda Wynn, Dr. Jhennifer Amundson, Dr. Clay Bailey, Menié Bell, Christopher Cotton, Dr. Don Cusic, Jim Hoobler, Laura Rost, and Gerry Searcy **were present.**

Staff Members Present: Executive Director Tim Walker, Dustin Summers, Robin Ziegler, and Ann Mikkelson (legal counsel) **were present.**

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

Guests Present: David Currey **was present.**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME – Lynn Maddox

Chair Lynn Maddox called the meeting to order at approximately 12:03 p.m. after verifying that a quorum was present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Lynn Maddox

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

MOTION MADE – Lynn Maddox

Chair Maddox informed the commission that the Guest Speaker, David Currey was unexpectedly running late and motioned that the agenda items be reorganized to accommodate by making Item III. Responding to Complainant 12/20/20 – Linda Wynn, item IV. Director’s Report – Tim Walker, and item V. Highlander Folk School – David Currey. Commissioner Cusic made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Cotton provided a second. The commission unanimously approved.

III. Responding to Complainant 12/20/20 – Linda Wynn

- i. At the end of the May 2022 meeting Vice Commissioner Linda Wynn requested that an item be added to the June 2022 agenda to address

the commission's due diligence to a citizen compliant. Vice Chair Wynn has subsequently drafted a letter to be sent to the complainant and the MHC Director, Tim Walker has provided copies of this letter to all attending commissioners so that they may provide a motion after reviewing it and hearing Vice Chair Wynn's remarks.

- ii. Vice Chair Wynn's Remarks detailed that she felt it was good practice for the commission to respond to the citizen's complaint after it had established the task force that reviewed it, and with that in mind she worked with Legal to draft the letter to be sent.
- iii. MOTION: Vice Chair Wynn moved that the commission review and approve the drafted letter so that it can be mailed to the complainant. Commissioner Bell provided a second. Eight commissioners voted in favor with Commissioner Cotton abstaining. Thus, the motion was approved.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – *Tim Walker*

MHC Executive Director Tim Walker noted the following:

- i. Invitation: The final public presentation/meeting of the Fort Negley Master Plan will be on Thursday, June 30th, 2022, at 5:30 P.M. where they will be taking input and showing drafts.
- ii. Invitation: On Saturday, July 23rd, 2022, at 7:00 A.M. the Rep. John Lewis Way Annual March will be happening at the Tennessee State Library & Archives in Nashville, TN.
- iii. Notice: The Commission was shown the newly printed rack cards for Nashville Sites that promote the Civil Rights driving and walking tours on the website.
- iv. Budget:
 - a) All of MHC's request were met by the administration and Metro Council has approved them. MHC is expecting to have two new positions posted with HR next week and the positions are expected to be staffed by September 2022.
 - b) A much-needed cleaning crew has also been approved for the Sunnyside office.
 - c) A leased vehicle is also being approved, primarily for Kelli Mitchell to perform site visits. However, the vehicle will be available for all MHC staff to use as needed.
- v. Sunnyside Renovations: The Final Contract went to the general contractor who won the bid with the renegotiating scope of the overall construction plan. While Director Walker comment that he had not heard back from Metro Parks or Finance regarding the contract, he is hoping that they had signed it on Friday, June 24th, 2020. If that is the case a meeting with the contractor is expected with the contractor within the coming weeks with work starting within thirty days of the contracts signature.
- vi. Questions:

- a) Commissioner Bailey asked if staff would be remaining at Sunnyside during the construction to which Director Walker replied, yes with some remote work to be expected from staff intermittently as needed during the construction.
- b) Commissioner Rost noted that the Director's Report mentioned that some items were removed from the initial construction plan for Sunnyside and inquired what those items were to which Director Walker replied, the rehabilitation of the Carriage House that was going to be a restaurant/café, and the little white building to the left rear of it that was going to be converted into public restrooms in association to the restaurant/café. There were also some very minor items beyond those listed that were also taken out of the plan. But a meeting with Director Odom (Parks Dept) a couple of weeks ago proposed a future possibility of obtaining funds to cover some of those redacted items through a capital spending plan proposal.
- c) Commissioner Rost asked if MHC staff or MHZC would be receiving the two new positions to which Director Walker replied that it would be MHC with funding available to keep Trevor Porter employed part-time performing MHZC work for the remainder of the year since MHC will have salary savings due to the positions not being staffed until mid-September 2022 most likely. But that there is bound to be overlap between Trevor and the two new positions roles between MHC and MHZC.

V. GUEST SPEAKER – *David Currey*

- i. Topic: Highlander Folk School
 - a) David Currey of the Tennessee Preservation Trust provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, "Project: Saving Historic Highlander". The presentation detailed the history of the Highlander Folk School, it's contribution to the Civil Rights Movement, and the Tennessee Preservation Trust's ongoing efforts to restore & preserve the building.
- ii. Tour Invitation: David Currey offered a tour of the school to the Commission on a Saturday of their choosing.

VI. HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – *Robin Zeigler*

- i. Legal Update: The MHZC has won three violation cases in court; however, two are appealing and the third is expected to as well.
- ii. General Updates:
 - a) The National Alliance Preservations Commissions Conference will be in Cincinnati, Ohio where Robin will be presenting with Phil Thomason, from Historic Nashville, Inc.

- b) The College Hill neighborhood is seriously considering applying for a neighborhood conservation zoning overlay and has begun with community meetings.
- c) Citizens now have the option of sending violation complaints through HubNashville.
- iii. Questions:
 - a) Chair Maddox inquired about what the repercussions were for zoning violations to which Robin detailed that most issues are resolved through discussions between applicant and staff. When that is unsuccessful, the case is sent to Metro Legal and the court decides if there are fees. Applicants can appeal that decision which means that cases can be litigated for years.

VII. OTHER ITEMS –

- i. N/A

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i. Acknowledgement: Vice Chair Linda Wynn’s retirement from Fisk University.
- ii. Announcement: City Historian, Dr. Carole Bucy, made the commission aware of a presentation that she made in early June 2022 to two sub-committees with city council that detailed the history of the East Bank. The city is now referring to the East Bank as being bounded by the Cumberland River on one side, the interstate on the other, and the interstates on either end. Furthermore, plans are being discussed to turn this area into a “family friendly” area to visit within the city.
- iii. Invitation: The final public presentation/meeting of the Fort Negley Master Plan will be on Thursday, June 30, 2022, at 5:30 P.M. at the visitor’s center where they will be taking input and showing drafts. Additionally, Fort Negley will be holding a July 4th event where you will be able to view the downtown fireworks.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- i. Commissioner Cusic made a motion to adjourn at 12:50 P.M. and Commissioner Bailey provided a second.

Respectfully submitted, June 28, 2022,

Dustin G. Summers