

## METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)

### MINUTES

August 15, 2022

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held a meeting at the Howard Office Building Sonny West Conference Center on August 15, 2022, with Commission Chair Lynn Maddox presiding.

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

**Staff Members Present:** Executive Director Tim Walker, Scarlett Miles, Jessica Reeves, Caroline Eller, Robin Zeigler and Metro Legal Counsel (Ann Mikkelsen) **were present.**

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

**Guests Present:** Michelle Holt & Edwina Temple **were present.**

#### I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME – *Lynn Maddox*

- a) Chair Lynn Maddox called the meeting to order at approximately 12:04 p.m. after verifying that a quorum was present.

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

- a) Chair Maddox presented the July meeting minutes for approval. Commissioner Rost made a motion to approve, and Vice-Chair Wynn provided a second. The commission unanimously approved the June minutes.

#### III. HISTORICAL MARKERS REVIEW

- a) MARKER #1: Ernest Rip Patton 1940-2021 (updated text) - 486 characters and spaces
  - i. LOCATION: Gordon Memorial Methodist (2334 Herman St.)
  - ii. TEXT: “Ernest Rip Patton attended Tennessee Agricultural & Industrial State University where he joined the Nashville Student Movement, attended meetings at local churches—including his own, Gordon Memorial Methodist—and participated in lunch counter sit-ins. In 1961, he was one of 14 students the state expelled after their arrests during the Freedom Rides. They all received honorary doctoral degrees from TSU in 2008. Dr. Patton spoke, and often sang, across the country about his activism.”
  - iii. GUEST NOTICE/REQUEST: Michelle Holt & Edwina Temple

- a) Michelle Holt noted that the name of the church should be Gordon Memorial United Methodist Church (emphasis on “United”) and Jessica Reeves noted this change.
  - iv. MOTION: Chair Maddox called for a vote on the marker. Commissioner Wynn made a motion to approve with the change and Commissioner Bobo provided a second. The Commission unanimously approved the marker.
- b) MARKER #2: Ratterman Row 1223 - 1231 5th Ave. N - 473 characters and spaces
- i. LOCATION: 1225 5th Ave. N
  - ii. TEXT: “In 1842, 18-year-old George Henry Ratterman arrived in Nashville from Bavaria. He became a successful grocer and merchant and built his residence at 1215 North Summer Street (now Fifth Ave. North.) Circa 1872, he erected this row of two duplexes and a detached house for new German immigrants. A grant-funded restoration of these houses in 1984 was pivotal to the revitalization of Germantown. Ratterman Row is the only surviving example of a row development in Germantown.”
  - iii. NOTE: This will be funded by the Germantown neighborhood association and located on 5th Avenue North; Jessica Reeves will be meeting at the site today to help determine the exact location with property owners. The marker will be installed on private property where there are two duplexes and a single house built by George Ratterman. The homes of Berdelle Campbell and Ratterman are nearby. The neighborhood is very excited to place this marker.
  - iv. MOTION: Chair Maddox called for a vote on the marker. Commissioner Bridges made a motion to approve the marker, and Commissioner Cotton provided a second. The Commission unanimously approved the marker.
- c) MARKER # 3: Edward Stanley Temple 1927-2016 - 455 characters and spaces
- i. LOCATION: Ed Temple Blvd. near John A. Merritt/ TSU campus
  - ii. TEXT: Edward Stanley Temple coached the legendary Tennessee State University Women’s Track and Field team from 1950-1994. His Tigerbelle dynasty won 34 national championships. Forty Tigerbelle Olympians earned one or more academic degrees and won a combined 23 medals: 13 gold, 6 silver, and 4 bronze. Temple served as head coach of the U.S. Olympic Women’s Track and Field Team in 1960 and 1964 and is one of only four coaches in the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame.
  - iii. NOTE: Jessica Reeves introduced guest Dr. Edwina Temple, Coach Temple’s daughter, and Chair Maddox thanked Dr. Temple for being present. Ms. Reeves explained that MHC had been approached by several people about placing this marker and that there were discussions with Tennessee State University regarding placement. The school will fund a second marker at Coach Temple’s statue. This marker will have text on one side and an image on the second side, based upon a photograph generously provided by Dr. Temple. Ms. Reeves asked Dr. Temple if she had any additional comments about the marker and she replied that she was just here to support.
  - iv. MOTION: Chair Maddox called for a vote on the marker. Vice-Chair Wynn made a motion to approve the marker, and Commissioner Landers provided a second. The Commission unanimously approved the marker.

- d) QUESTIONS: Commissioner Bridges inquired about the status of the Cane Ridge [Samuel Smith] marker and if it had been unveiled. Ms. Reeves replied that no, it is on hold as there is a church being built in that area and the road is being improved, but that we will keep the Commission updated on a dedication ceremony date. Walker noted that the Council is aware of this delay and that it will likely be installed next year.
- e) ADDITIONAL MARKER NOTES: Jessica Reeves noted that the unveiling for the Percy Priest Lake marker on Smith Springs Rd. was cancelled; she is working with Council Member Delishia Porterfield to reschedule the ceremony. Dudley Field will not be dedicated on September 3rd because our marker manufacturer, SEWAH Studios, is running behind with production of all markers. The delivery date is unknown but hopefully MHC will install by the end of the [college football] season. The dedication for the Alice Thompson Collinsworth marker will be on Friday, October 7th.

#### IV. GUEST SPEAKER – *Commissioner Jim Hoobler*

- a) PRESENTATION: “This Used to be Nashville” (Book)
  - i. Commissioner Hoobler provided a presentation of various historical images from Nashville’s past showing numerous buildings, districts, and sites primarily located in the downtown area. He noted that an extended talk about his book will occur on Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022, at the Belmont Mansion.
  - ii. QUESTION: Commissioner Rost inquired if there are copies of the book for sale, and Commissioner Hoobler replied that he had some copies with him that are available. Commissioner Bailey clarified with Commissioner Hoobler about some of the details of Sunday’s event at Belmont Mansion. Commissioner Bridges asked a follow up question related to the presentation about the Kress building in Montgomery, and Hoobler also noted the Kress store in Memphis.

#### V. DIRECTOR’S REPORT– *Tim Walker*

- a) MHC Executive Director, Tim Walker updated the Commission on various projects that MHC is currently working on with the following key notes:
  - i. SUNNYSIDE RENOVATIONS
    - a) There will be twice weekly on-site meetings with Metro Parks and the contractor going forward. We are on track and expect there to be 13 months of work unless there are unforeseen delays.
  - ii. CITY CEMETERY
    - a) Director Walker noted that the morning print edition of *The Tennessean* mentioned the property being developed adjacent and south of City Cemetery where recent burials were found. MHC required archaeological monitoring for this development, as part of the Specific Plan that was approved by the Metro Planning Commission, because we anticipated burials in this area. The area

was used for Civil War burials when they ran out of room at the City Cemetery. The paper said the burials were early 19th century, but they may be Civil War era burials. The developers agreed to do GPR (Ground Penetrating Radar), DNA analysis, and radiocarbon dating on sample bones to determine when these burials occurred. Both sets of remains are male. Tim and Sean Alexander have both visited recently to view the site. The remains are being stored with the archaeologist and will be buried at the City Cemetery likely later this year.

- b) QUESTION: Commissioner Cotton asked about the process of what happens when burials are found and Director Walker replied that there is a process through the State. He noted that the developers contacted the state archaeological office, but that MHC was not contacted and should have been. Vice Chair Wynn reminded the commission that there is a state cemetery board and that the Tennessee Historical Commission has a Cemetery Preservationist on staff. Commissioner Cotton asked if they may continue construction and Walker replied, they can. The development is mostly complete, there are concerns that other burials are on the site near the two they found.
  
- c) QUESTION: Commissioner Rost referred back to the property south of City Cemetery, noting that Betsy Phillips posted some photos on Twitter, and that the low point appears to be a cave or sinkhole. Director Walker replied that there is no evidence of either of those features on the property, and Commissioner Cotton noted a new article that appeared today in the *Nashville Scene* about this development. Commissioner Cotton asked how the Commission can help advocate for MHC involvement in the review and notification process, and Walker replied that this appeared to be a case of human error, as the State is usually good about involving our office in these discussions. Commissioner Cotton asked about the best strategy for commissioners in dealing with media requests and Walker said it is best to direct those to him or other MHC staff.
  
- d) QUESTION: Chair Maddox asked about the process that occurs when bodies are found on private lands, and if owners have to prove that there are no bodies. Walker reiterated that there is a process through the State and said that owners do not have to prove there are no burials on the property. He stated that we discovered through past efforts to protect burial sites that Metro does not have the authority to require anything stricter than what the State requires.
  
- e) COMMENT: Commissioner Bailey noted that the two bodies located at the property south of City Cemetery represent a larger peer group worth larger exploration and that there has been national news coverage.

- b) ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE: The full MHC Director's Report is available for review upon request, if needed.

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

- a) MHZC Manager Robin Zeigler updated the Commission on various projects that MHZC is currently working on with the following key notes;
  - i. Two commissioners are leaving the MHZC, Leigh Fitts and Kaitlyn Jones. MHZC continues to work on the tax abatement program and Council member Jeff Syracuse is working with Director Walker to raise the cap for this program. Robin and Chair Bell will participate in a National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) conference in September. The College Hill overlay is on hold as the neighborhood is not ready to pursue this designation.

## VII. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) County Historian, Dr. Carole Bucy
  - i. County Historian Dr. Carole Bucy noted that she has been receiving a large number of research requests and is also working with Metro Archives and Caroline Eller on updating the book, A History of Metro Charter, which will go to print in early 2023.
- b) New MHC Staff Member, Claudette Stager
  - i. Chair Maddox welcomed Claudette Stager as the new part-time MHC staff member.
- c) Question, Horton Avenue name change
  - i. Chair Maddox inquired with Scarlett Miles about the street name change for Horton Avenue. Scarlett Miles replied that there is no change yet, as research is ongoing.
- d) Nashville Sites
  - i. Jessica Reeves noted that Nashville Sites will appear at two conferences over the next two months.
- e) Good Neighbor Festival
  - i. Chair Maddox noted that MHC staff will participate in the September 24th Good Neighbor Festival.
- f) TED Talk
  - i. Commissioner Landers is set to perform a TED talk.
- g) Nashville City Cemetery Association
  - i. Commissioner Bailey noted an apropos typo in the recent Nashville City Cemetery Association minutes attributed to county historian "Carole Busy."
- h) City of Lebanon, TN
  - i. Commissioner Bailey noted that the city of Lebanon, Tennessee has an arcade that is being restored and reactivated.
- i) Community Meetings
  - i. Commissioner Bell thanked Robin for leading several recent community meetings, as these are important ways for us to educate the public, discuss controversial overlays, engage the community, and create awareness of what we do.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- a) Chair Maddox called for adjournment. Vice-Chair Wynn made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Landers provided a second. The meeting ended at approximately 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, August 15, 2022,

*Dustin G. Summers*