

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)

MINUTES

November 21, 2022

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held a meeting at the Howard Office Building Sonny West Conference Center on November 21, 2022, with Commissioner Clay Bailey (proxy for Commission Chair Lynn Maddox) presiding.

Commissioners Present: Dr. Clay Bailey, Dr. Don Cusic, Jim Hoobler, Dr. Jane Landers, Dr. Bill McKee, Laura Rost, Gerry Searcy, and E. Thomas Wood **were present.**

Staff Members Present: Tim Walker, Robin Zeigler, Dustin Summers, Scarlett Miles, Caroline Eller, and Ann Mikkelsen (Metro Legal) **were present.**

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

Guests Present: Paul Clements and Steve Rogers **were present.**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME – *Dr. Clay Bailey*

- a) Proxy Chair Bailey called the meeting to order at approximately 12:02 p.m. after verifying that a quorum was present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *Dr. Clay Bailey*

- a) Proxy Chair Bailey presented the October meeting minutes for approval. Commissioner McKee made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Landers provided a second. The commission unanimously approved the October minutes.

III. CERTIFICATE OF MERIT & SERVICE – *Tim Walker*

- a) Director Walker noted that former commissioners Cotton and Amundson could not attend this meeting to accept their certificates. Commissioner Cotton will attend and accept his certificate next month. Commissioner Amundson enjoyed serving on the commission and expressed her interest in future service if possible.

IV. GUEST SPEAKER – *Paul Clements*

- a) PRESENTATION: Speaker’s Book – *Tell Them We Were Rising*
 - i. TOPIC: A presentation about influential and historical African Americans who experienced slavery in or around the Nashville area and went on to live compelling lives.

V. VOTE: HISTORICAL MARKERS – *Tim Walker*

a) MARKER #1: Peter Bashaw: 1763-1864

i. SPONSOR: District 8 Council Member Nancy VanReece

ii. LOCATION: Bashaw Cemetery

iii. TEXT:

Side 1: *“Private Peter Bashaw of Fauquier County, Va., son of James Bashaw, served three tours of service in the Virginia Militia during the Revolutionary War under Colonels Triplett and Edmonds. He fought at the battles of Cowpens and Yorktown in 1781 and served with armies under the command of Generals Lafayette and Washington in Richmond and Little York. In 1809, the French Huguenot Bashaw family moved to this area and established a working farm with a dogtrot-style cedar log cabin.”*

(481 characters and spaces)

Side 2: *“Bashaw owned nearly 200 acres of land and held at least eleven enslaved persons. Censuses record six men and two women in 1850 and three men and two women in 1860. Upon his death, sources noted Peter as the last surviving Revolutionary War soldier in Tennessee. Peter, his wife, Frances (1769-1851); daughter, Baheathelon (1786-1876); his brother, Benjamin (1771-1835); and relatives Elizabeth Dews (1831-1899) and Margaret P. Ulrich (1867-1890) are buried in the Bashaw Cemetery.”*

(480 characters and spaces)

v. MOTION: Commissioner Bailey called for a vote on the marker. Commissioner Hoobler made a motion to approve the marker, and Commissioner Cusic provided a second. The Commission unanimously approved the marker.

VI. ADMIN. NOTE: QUORUM ADJUSTMENT – *Dustin Summers*

- a) Commissioner Bailey had to leave the meeting early due to a professional obligation. Commissioner McKee took the lead as proxy Chair for the remainder of the meeting. To note, an official quorum was no longer needed due to all voting items being concluded (ref. Item IV. - Historical Markers).

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT– *Tim Walker*

- a) Director Walker updated the Commission on various projects that MHC is currently working on with the following key notes:
- i. Sunnyside's renovation status: Property is officially a full-scale construction site with deconstruction of the log house expected within the next week with plans for the materials to be repurposed/reused. Site access is noted as being somewhat difficult and contacting the office is encouraged prior to visitation.
 - ii. MHC Education/Training and Strategic Planning Retreat: Soon, the education and planning retreat will be scheduled for two separate Saturday mornings early in year, with each lasting about three hours. Commissioners are advised to be on the lookout for

an email from Dustin Summers polling commissioners on their availability in January and February.

- b) ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE: The full MHC Director's Report was sent to MHC members on Friday, November 18, 2022.

VIII. HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – *Robin Zeigler*

- a) Robin updated the Commission on various projects that MHZC is currently working on with the following key notes:
 - i. Robin reminded the commission of the Lathan Court neighborhood's conservation zoning overlay and the community's commitment to historical preservation. Of note, the neighborhood is significant for its architecture and its connection with rise of Nashville's growing Black middle class in the 1960s and 70s. Additionally, the street was developed by Nashville's first Black police officer and was home to the Swett family that began Swett's Restaurant.

IX. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Commissioner McKee noted that MHC was provided with an updated calendar of meetings and events and updated list of commissioners.

X. ADJOURNMENT

- a) Commissioner McKee called for adjournment. Commissioner Hoobler made a motion to adjourn, and Commissioner Cusic provided a second. The meeting ended at approximately 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted Monday, December 19, 2022

Dustin G. Summers