



Metropolitan Historical Commission Meeting Agenda

February 27, 2023
12:00 p.m.

Howard Office Building
Sonny West Conference Center
700 President Ronald Reagan Way

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| I. Call to Order and Welcome | Lynn Maddox |
| II. Approval of January Minutes | Lynn Maddox |
| III. VOTE: Historical Markers | Jessica Reeves |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saint Bernard Academy • Bellevue High School • Robert Emmitt Lillard • Warehouse 28 | |
| IV. Nashville Conference on African American History and Culture | Caroline Eller & Linda Wynn |
| V. Guest Speaker | Melissa Baldock |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TOPIC: 2020 Tornado Recovery | |
| VI. Director’s Report | Tim Walker |
| VII. Historic Zoning Report | Robin Zeigler |
| VIII. Other Business | |
| IX. Announcements | |
| X. Adjourn | |

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Saint Bernard Academy

Location: 2131 Bernard Avenue

Funding: private

Mother Catherine McAuley (1778-1841) founded the Sisters of Mercy in 1831 in Dublin, Ireland with the mission to serve those in need. In 1866, six Sisters of Mercy came to Nashville and opened St. Bernard Academy for young women. The school and convent moved to 21st Ave. South in 1905. The school became a private, co-educational, independent Catholic school in 1988 and continued in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy. In 2021 the school was recognized as a Mercy affiliate school.

486 characters and spaces

Bellevue High School, 656 Colice Jeanna Rd.

Location: 656 Colice Jeanne Rd.

Funding: private

Bellevue High School opened in 1931, serving almost 100 students. The first senior class graduated in 1933. A new high school opened across the street in 1970, and the former high school became a junior high. Amid community protests, Bellevue High School closed in 1980. The building was demolished in 1981. For the 50 years it stood, the school was the cornerstone of the Bellevue community, and students recorded numerous academic and athletic achievements.

459 characters and spaces

Robert Emmitt Lillard

Location: 1062 2nd Ave S

Funding: MHC (for NPS Civil Rights grant)

Robert E. Lillard (1907-1991) was a fireman at the city's first African American fire station, Engine Co. 11, until 1950, when he began practicing law full-time. In 1951, Lillard and attorney Z. A. Looby became the first African American Council members elected since 1911. Lillard helped desegregate the Parthenon, worked to pass anti-discrimination laws, defended student sit-in protesters, and was a First Circuit Court judge. He lived and worked at this location from 1936 to 1972.

485 characters and spaces

Warehouse 28

Location: 2529 Franklin Pike

Funding: private

Steve Smith and Michael "Dolly" Wilson opened Warehouse 28 in April 1978. The Warehouse began as a gay disco, but it quickly attracted anybody, gay or straight, who wanted to dance. As the AIDS epidemic exploded, the Warehouse staged drag-show fundraisers that made possible the founding of Nashville Council on AIDS, Resources, Education and Services (Nashville CARES) in 1985. The bar closed in 1994. Smith died of AIDS-related causes in 1995.

445 characters and spaces