

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)

MINUTES

December 19, 2022

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held a meeting at the Howard Office Building Sonny West Conference Center on December 19, 2022, with Chair Lynn Maddox presiding.

Commissioners Present: Dr. Clay Bailey, Menié Bell, Dr. John Bridges, Jim Hoobler, Lynn Maddox, Dr. Bill McKee, Dr. Marisa Richmond, Laura Rost, Gerry Searcy, and Larry Woods **were present.**

Staff Members Present: Tim Walker, Robin Zeigler, Dustin Summers, Scarlett Miles, Jessica Reeves, Dr. Adam Fracchia, and Ann Mikkelsen (Metro Legal) **were present.**

County Historian: Dr. Carole Bucy **was NOT present.**

Guests Present: Christopher Cotton and Linda Mansur **were present.**

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

- a) Chair Maddox called the meeting to order at approximately 12:01 p.m. after verifying that a quorum was present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *Lynn Maddox*

- a) Chair Maddox presented the November meeting minutes for approval. Commissioner McKee made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Hoobler provided a second. The commission unanimously approved the November minutes.

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

- a) Director Walker and the MHC presented Former MHC Commissioner Cotton with thanks for his service and offered a certificate that was delivered to him later the same day.

IV. GUEST SPEAKER – *Linda Mansur*

- a) PRESENTATION: Buchanan Log House
 - i. TOPIC: Linda Mansur provided a history on the Buchanan Log House as well as an informative presentation about the on-going restoration and preservation efforts.
 - ii. COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: The Commission thanked Linda Mansur for the informative presentation. Questions were asked about the efforts of repurposing logs that are from the Buchanan Log House and locating some that were from its period, if not originally from the house itself.

V. PRESERVATION AWARDS – Scarlett Miles

- a) PRESENTATION: Scarlett Miles stated that the Preservation Awards process for 2023 has begun and that the Commission is to nominate and select the recipients of the honor awards (Achievement, Commissioners', and Fletch Coke Awards). The Events and Special Projects Committee members are Dr. Don Cusic, Pamela Bobo, Christopher Cotton, Jim Hoobler, Dr. Jane Landers, Dr. Bill McKee, and Gerry Searcy. Dr. Bill McKee is on the nominations committee, and Chair Lynn Maddox serves on both of those committees.

VI. VOTE: Exit/In's National Register Nomination – Scarlett Miles

- a) PRESENTATION: Scarlett Miles notified the Commission that as a Certified Local Government they are charged with reviewing Davidson County nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. Scarlett advised the MHC that the Exit/In nomination is scheduled to be presented to the Tennessee State Review Board in January 2023 and provided an informational/historical overview of the building.
 - i. COMMENT/QUESTIONS: The Commission inquired about the following: historic overlay, the current owners support, and protection from demolition.
- b) MOTION: Chair Maddox called for a vote to make a recommendation to the Tennessee State Review Board that Exit/In be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. Commissioner Bell made a motion to approve the recommendation, and Commissioner Rost provided a second. The Commission unanimously approved the recommendation.

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. Newly appointed MHC Commissioner Dr. Marisa Richmond and MHC's New Hire/Archaeologist, Dr. Adam Fracchia.
 - ii. SUNNYSIDE UPDATE:
 - a) Office is now an active construction site closed to the public and with limited access for safety reasons. Contacting the office is encouraged prior to visiting.
 - b) New drive path and entrance construction is underway.
 - c) Careful dismantling of the ell has begun with enough layers being removed to expose the original logs as well as a previously unknown part of the structure. A log building expert has been on-site to assess the structure, and a structural engineer will visit the site in the coming weeks to work with construction crews on the on-going efforts to preserve the site. Commissioners will be afforded a future opportunity to visit the site and see the on-going work.
 - d) COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: The Commission inquired about the new mailing address for Sunnyside to which Director Walker noted that both addresses are being used at this time until the new drive path is complete, at which time the new address on Kirkwood will be the sole address.

- iii. EDUCATION/STRATEGIC PLANNING: Commissioner training meetings will take place over two weekends in February 2023 and email notices will be sent out very soon inquiring about availability.
- iv. HUD ABC GRANT: Economic Development Initiative (EDI) Community Project Funding Grant for \$800,000 has been awarded and MDHA is completing the required environmental review. A major announcement relative to this grant is expected from the Mayor's Office in early January. This grant will help fund repairs and renovations of buildings on the American Baptist College (ABC) campus and MHC staff will be working closely with them. These repairs and renovations will begin in Spring 2023 with projected completion before the end of 2025.
 - a) COMMENT/QUESTIONS: The Commission inquired about how the MHC will be assisting. Director Walker replied that work will be reviewed as it is on-going and reporting any changes in the scope of work to HUD. Additionally, the Commission inquired if it is a local Historic Landmark district. Director Walker replied that it is not.
 - b) ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE: The full MHC Director's Report was sent to MHC Commissioners on Friday, December 16, 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 said that staff continue to provide education in all ways possible, such as being a panelist for the Trustee's showing of *Disrupt and Dismantle*, providing a 2nd Avenue update for the DAR, and a presentation for the Barnes Fund committee
 - ii. The owners of Patsy Cline's home requested a local Historic Landmark for the property.
 - iii. Robin is developing a Historic Preservation Citizens Academy consisting of 5-7 different two-hour educational training sessions at different Metro locations. Plans are to hold the academy in fall 2023.

IX. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) HISTORICAL MARKERS UPDATE: Jessica notified the Commission that MHC should have two markers on the January 23rd MHC Meeting Agenda and that a Marker Ceremony is to be expected in January as well. Several historical marker dedication ceremonies are projected for Spring 2023.
- b) PAPER USAGE REDUCTION: Commissioner Bell requested that the MHC reduce its paper usage at meetings by limiting print offs to those "As Requested" from Commissioners in response to meeting invitations.
- c) CIVIL WARS TRAIL MARKER: Commissioner Bailey commented on his attendance at a Historical Marker Ceremony for the recognition of U.S. Colored Troop soldiers and noted how this has enhanced their story.
- d) PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF NASHVILLE: Commissioner Bailey noted the success of the newly launched Preservation Society of Nashville and that the organization will complement on-going historic preservation efforts throughout Davidson County.

- e) HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL LIBRARY: Chair Maddox noted that the Highlander Library was recently listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

X. ADJOURNMENT

- a) Chair Maddox called for adjournment. Commissioner McKee made a motion to adjourn, and Commissioner Bridges provided a second. The meeting ended at approximately 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted Monday, January 23, 2023

Dustin G. Summers