

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)

MINUTES

January 23, 2023

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held a meeting at the Howard Office Building Sonny West Conference Center on January 23, 2023, with Chair Lynn Maddox presiding.

Commissioners Present: Dr. Clay Bailey, Menié Bell, Dr. Don Cusic, Jim Hoobler, Lynn Maddox, Dr. Marisa Richmond, Laura Rost, Larry Woods, and Linda Wynn **were present.**

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

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

Guests Present: Katie O' Bryan, PhD (Executive Director of Travellers Rest) **was present.**

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

- a) Chair Maddox called the meeting to order at approximately 12:05 p.m. after verifying that a quorum was present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *Lynn Maddox*

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

III. GUEST SPEAKER – *Katie O'Bryan, PhD (Executive Director of Travellers Rest)*

- a) PRESENTATION: Historic Travellers Rest
 - i. TOPIC: Katie O'Bryan, PhD provided a history on the Historic Travellers Rest as well as an informative presentation about the on-going restoration and preservation efforts.

IV. PRESERVATION AWARDS – *Scarlett Miles*

- a) UPDATE: Coordination with the Mayor's Office is still on-going, and MHC has received nomination forms that will be returned by next Monday. Scarlett is working with committees to schedule a time to select recipients so that MHC can nominate awards.

V. 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 UPDATE:
 - a) Missing attachments from Director's report will be emailed to all Commissioners later in the day today.
 - b) Office is now an active construction site closed to the public and with limited access for safety reasons. Commissioners were invited to tour the renovations during the March 4th, 2023 Retreat.
 - c) Bid came in much higher than allocation and the scope will have to be cut back. However, the Capital Spending Plan will be coming in a few weeks and hopefully money will come back to Metro Parks so the full scope of the projected work can be completed.
 - d) Renovations are on schedule to be completed by mid-November 2023.
 - e) MHC's newly hired Archaeologist, Dr. Adam Fracchia, updated the commission on artifacts that he and some of his MTSU students found on the site during a planned dig on Saturday, January 21st, 2023. Preliminary items recovered of note; historical ceramics, animal bones, and Civil War era artifacts (i.e. exploded cannon ball).
 - a. QUESTION: Commissioner Bell inquired about the items being displayed at Sunnyside. Director Walker noted that plans are being made to display these artifacts and more in the new lobby area of Sunnyside once renovations are complete. There is a hope that funds will be available in the future to put up interpretive signage around the site as well.
 - f) Additional research by Tara Mielnik, former MHC staff member, of Cumberland University through grant funding produced information about the enslaved population on the site.
 - ii. STAFFING UPDATE: MHZC Staff Member Sean Alexander will be resigning from his position and transferring over to Metro Parks. It is hopeful that Sean may still be working with MHC in some capacity with his new role at Parks.
 - iii. EDUCATION/STRATEGIC PLANNING: Commissioner training meetings will take place over two weekends. This first will be on March 4th, 2023 at Sunnyside from 8:30-11:30AM. The second weekend is still being planned. Commissioners will be notified once a date/location has been selected.
 - iv. FY24 BUDGET PLANNING: Budget proposal is due to Metro Finance on February 13th, 2023. The following will be requested for this forthcoming fiscal year:
 - a) STAFFING ITEM 1: A full-time sexton for the Nashville City Cemetery who will perform maintenance, repairs, mowing. To note, the sexton position was lost to the NCC in the 1970s.
 - b) STAFFING ITEM 2: A full-time Public Information Officer. To note, other comparative departments have this type of position staffed.
 - c) STAFFING ITEM 3: Upgrading Historic Preservationist II position to provide potential for upward mobility to MHC/MHZC staff, most of whom are currently at the Historic Preservationist I position. If approved for FY23, an upgrade request will be made again in FY25

for another HPII promotional position to continue creating opportunities to deserving staff.

- d) STAFFING ITEM 4: A Part-Time Intern Position.
- e) STAFFING ITEM 5: Salary Increase for Historic Zoning Administrator Robin Zeigler.
- f) OPERATING BUDGET: Additional funding to assist with increased costs due to inflation and additional new office space operations.
- g) FY24 BUDGET SCHEDULE: Director Walker noted that the FY24 Budget schedule was to be included with the Director's Report and will be sent to them via email later in the day.
- b) ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE: The full MHC Director's Report was sent to MHC Commissioners on Friday, January 20th, 2023.

VI. 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. LATHAN-YOUNGS OVERLAY UPDATE: The overlay has passed Metro Historic Zoning, Planning, and is waiting to go before Council.
 - ii. LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION PROGRAM: MHZC has approved a new program for organizations or specific projects. It is the hope that this will produce a way to recognize district organizations for tours, events, overlay work, etc. The program is intentionally not an award program so that it will not compete with Preservation Awards.

VII. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) HISTORICAL MARKERS UPDATE: Jessica Reeves notified the commission that the Dudley Field marker will be installed on February 1st, 2023 with no planned ceremony.
- b) NASHVILLE CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE (NCAAHC) UPDATE: Caroline updated the commission on conference details, registration instructions, and payment information.
 - i. Director Walker noted that further details and instructions were to be included with this month's Director's report and that it would be sent to commissioners via email as a follow-up later in the day.
- c) APPRECIATION/THANKS:
 - i. Chair Maddox thanked Jessica for organizing the Saturday, January 21st, 2023 Kurdish Americans marker ceremony; noting that Commissioner's Bell, Bailey, Hoobler, various Metro Council Members, former-Mayor Bill Purcell, and about 100 audience members were in attendance. Kurdish attendees were very thankful for the recognition.
 - a) COMMENT: Commissioner Bell extended her thanks to Jessica and noted that this marker is an excellent step towards the recognition of Nashville's celebrated diversity.
 - ii. Chair Maddox thanked Ryan from Channel 17 for attending this MHC Meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- a) Chair Maddox called for adjournment. Commissioner Bell made a motion to adjourn, and Commissioner Hoobler provided a second. The meeting ended at approximately 12:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted Monday, February 27th, 2023.

Dustin G. Summers