

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC)

MINUTES

February 27, 2023

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held a meeting at the Howard Office Building Sonny West Conference Center on February 27, 2023, with Chair Lynn Maddox presiding.

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

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

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

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

- a) Chair Maddox called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m. after verifying that a quorum was present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *Lynn Maddox*

- a) Chair Maddox presented the January 2023 meeting minutes for approval. Commissioner Rost made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Wynn provided a second. The commission unanimously approved the January 2023 minutes.

III. HISTORICAL MARKERS – *Jessica Reeves*

- a) Marker #1: Saint Bernard Academy
  - i. SPONSOR/FUNDING: Private
  - ii. LOCATION: 2131 Bernard Avenue
  - iii. TEXT: *“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.”*
  - iv. **MOTION: Commissioner Maddox called for a vote on the marker. Commissioner Hoobler made a motion to approve the marker, and Commissioner Wynn provided a second. The Commission unanimously approved the marker.**

b) Marker #2: Bellevue High School

- i. SPONSOR/FUNDING: Private
- ii. LOCATION: 656 Colice Jeanne Rd.
- iii. TEXT: *“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.”*
- iv. **MOTION: Commissioner Maddox called for a vote on the marker. Commissioner McKee made a motion to approve the marker, and Commissioner Bridges provided a second. The Commission unanimously approved the marker.**

c) Marker #3: Robert Emmitt Lillard

- i. SPONSOR/FUNDING: MHC (for NPS Civil Rights grant)
- ii. LOCATION: 1062 2nd Ave S
- iii. TEXT: *“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.”*
- iv. **MOTION: Commissioner Maddox called for a vote on the marker. Commissioner Richmond made a motion to approve the marker, and Commissioner Bailey provided a second. The Commission unanimously approved the marker.**

d) Marker #4: Warehouse 28

- i. SPONSOR/FUNDING: Private
- ii. LOCATION: 2529 Franklin Pike
- iii. TEXT: *“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.”*
- iv. **MOTION: Commissioner Maddox called for a vote on the marker. Commissioner Wynn made a motion to approve the marker, and Commissioner Hoobler provided a second. The Commission unanimously approved the marker.**

#### IV. NASHVILLE CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE - Caroline Eller and Linda Wynn

- a. Caroline Eller and Vice Chair Linda Wynn provided an update on the overall accomplishments of the conference noting that this year's online conference drew nearly 240 attendees, a record number for the virtual event. Thanks were given to the Planning Committee, Metro Nashville Network, and Metro ITS who made the virtual event possible. Additional details about the conference can found at <https://ncaahc.org/>.
- b. Vice Chair Wynn noted that she received positive feedback from the planning committee and that the next conference will hopefully be in-person and not virtual.

#### II. GUEST SPEAKER – Melissa Baldock

- a) TOPIC: March 2020 Tornado Recovery:
  - a. MHZC's Melissa Baldock provided a presentation on recovery within the historic overlays after the 2020 tornado.
  - b. Commissioner Bell noted that the Assumption Church in Germantown has offered a tour to the MHC, to show off their recovery efforts.

#### III. 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:
  - a. Capital Spending & 4% Plan: On Tuesday, February 21, 2023 Metro Council approved with \$50K to go towards Historical Markers, \$550K towards the Sunnyside/Sevier Park Project that will assist with any overages and costs of inflation, as well as \$2M for the next phase of rebuilding the walls at Fort Negley.
  - b. Sunnyside Update:
    - a) MHC's Archeologist, Adam Fracchia, and students from MTSU and VU have been surveying/digging at Sunnyside discovering artifacts.
      - a. Adam noted that some of the logs on the Sunnyside ell date back to 1851 based off the artifacts that were found. bullet holes were discovered on the side of the house possibly dating back to the Civil War which may unfold more history on the Battle of Nashville. Further discoveries are expected to be found as the project progresses.
  - c. Open Historical Preservationist Position:
    - a) We received 21 applications for the recently vacated HP1 position. Tim and Robin are reviewing applications with the hope of staffing not only the current open position but an additional HP1 position from that same applicant pool later in the year once a temporary part-time HP1 position vacates.
  - d. FY24 Budget:
    - a) Budget was submitted on Friday, February 10, 2023 to Metro Finance and the Mayor's Office with requests for two and half

additional positions, staff raise/promotions, and other items to counter inflation costs.

- b) Both commission chairs have agreed to be present for a meeting with Metro Finance and the Mayor's Office on Friday, March 10, 2023 at 8AM.
  - c) Commission Questions: Commissioners inquired about the role of the requested City Cemetery Site Manager to which Director Walker explained would be an on-site staff member that would primarily manage the welfare of the cemetery and needed repairs.
- b) ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE: The full MHC Director's Report was sent to MHC Commissioners on Thursday, February 23, 2023.

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

- a) Historic Zoning Administrator Zeigler updated the Commission on various current MHZC projects including an update on new and potential mid-century overlays.

#### V. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Preservation Awards:
  - a. Commissioner Maddox inquired about any updates on the Preservation Awards to which Director Walker replied that Scarlett Miles will provide an update on a meeting date so that committees can discuss the awards. Director Walker went on to note that the deadline for the submission of Preservation Awards got extended through the 1<sup>st</sup> and encouraged commissioners to nominate recipients.
  - b. Commissioner Maddox inquired about the Thursday, May 18, 2023 Annual Preservation Awards Program location to which Director Walker noted that it would be held at the Metro Public Library and that the location for the reception has yet to be determined.
  - c. Commissioner Bell inquired about who the judges would be for the Preservations Awards.
- b) MHC Education and Training Retreat: Commissioner Maddox inquired about any updates on the Saturday, March 4, 2023 MHC Education and Training Retreat to which Director Walker replied that a full agenda has been populated and that the retreat will begin at 8AM at the Sevier Park Community Center Conference Room with a follow-up tour of the Sunnyside construction project.
- c) Announcement: Commissioner Hoobler announced that the Nashville Lawn and Garden Fair will be held Thursday, February 30 through Saturday, March 4, 2023, and they have volunteered to give some of the proceeds to the Nashville City Cemetery. Some commissioners will be manning an information booth there.
- d) Announcement: Dr. Carole Bucy discussed her testimony to the State and Local Government subcommittee of the State Legislature for local historical preservation and education.

#### VI. ADJOURNMENT

- a) Chair Maddox called for adjournment. Commissioner McKee made a motion to adjourn, and Commissioner Hoobler provided a second. The meeting ended at approximately 12:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted Monday, March 20, 2023.

*Dustin G. Summers*