

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC) MINUTES

May 15, 2023

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held a meeting at the Howard Office Building Sonny West Conference Center on May 15, 2023, with Chair Lynn Maddox presiding.

Commissioners Present: Dr. Clay Bailey, John Bridges, Dr. Celso Castilho, Jim Hoobler, Dr. Jane Landers, Lynn Maddox, Dr. Bill McKee, Dr. Marisa Richmond, Laura Rost, Gerry Searcy, E. Tom Wood, Larry Woods, and Linda Wynn **were present**.

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

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

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

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*

Since there was no April MHC meeting, Chair Maddox presented the March 2023 meeting minutes for approval. Commissioner Hoobler made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Landers provided a second. The commission unanimously approved the March 2023 minutes. Chair Maddox also presented minutes from the MHC trainings for approval. Commissioner Hoobler made a motion to approve the March training minutes. Commissioner McKee provided a second and the March training minutes were unanimously approved. Commissioner McKee made a motion to approve the April training minutes. Commissioner Rost provided a second and the April training minutes were unanimously approved.

III. VOTE: Historical Markers – *Jessica Reeves*

1. Stratford High School (funded by MHC)

Commissioner Bridges made a motion to approve the marker. Vice Chair Wynn provided a second. During discussion, Commissioner McKee asked for whom the school was named. Jessica said she could do additional research and let the Commission know. Commissioner McKee made a motion to approve the marker as written with the stipulation that additional research was conducted concerning the name. Commissioner Bridges provided a second and the marker was unanimously approved.

2. Goodlettsville High School (privately funded)

Prior to the motion, Commissioner McKee stated that Goodlettsville was named for Mayor Goodlett so in essence the school was named for a former mayor and noting his opinion that if a school was named for a specific person that information

should be included on the marker. Commissioner Bridges made a motion to approve the marker as written. Commissioner Hoobler provided a second. During discussion, Vice Chair Wynn asked if school markers always included information on the origin of the name. Jessica replied that it was a case-by-case basis. Commissioner Castilho inquired about when the school was desegregated, and Jessica gave additional information about changes made to the text from the original version provided by the alumni. The marker was approved with Commissioner McKee voting against and all other Commissioners present voting in favor.

3. Jackie Shane (privately funded)

Prior to the motion, Jessica explained the origin of the idea for this marker, the involvement of the Shane family in the writing of the text, and the family's desire to include that Jackie Shane was the "first" transgender singer from Jefferson Street. Vice Chair Wynn said she was opposed to including "first" in the text, because that is hard to prove. She could be in favor of stating that Shane was "one of the first" if there is enough space on the marker. Commissioner Rost made a motion to approve the marker as written. Commissioner Richmond provided a second. Commissioners Landers and Rost inquired about the location of the marker and the connection between Shane and the proposed location on Jefferson Street, which Jessica answered. The marker was unanimously approved.

IV. GUEST SPEAKER – *Dr. Carole Bucy, Davidson County Historian*

Dr. Bucy described her role as County Historian and how it has evolved over the years. She also described many of the projects she has worked on and is currently working on, including the Nashville Encyclopedia and a Nashville History Museum. Director Walker, Dr. Bucy, and Metro Legal have been working on a list of requirements for the position, and Director Walker will send them out to the Commissioners.

V. PRESERVATION AWARDS – *Scarlett Miles*

Chair Maddox reminded everyone that May is Preservation Month and thanked the Commissioners who served on committees assisting with Preservation Awards. Scarlett reminded the Commissioners of the upcoming ceremony and let them know that Commissioner Cusic had pre-recorded his introduction of RCA Studio A since he would miss the actual ceremony. Director Walker let the Commissioners know that the MHC Foundation, Historic Nashville, Inc., and Preservation Society of Nashville will all co-sponsor a reception at Hastings (the old Ben West library) following the ceremony.

VI. MHC COMMITTEE STRUCTURE – *Lynn Maddox/ Tim Walker*

Chair Maddox stated that she, Director Walker, and Vice Chair Wynn had all met to discuss revising the MHC Committee structure following discussions about committees during the MHC trainings. Proposed committees are: Nominating, Event and Special Projects, By-Laws, and Historical Markers. Chair Maddox stated that in lieu of a guest speaker next month, the Commission will discuss the Committees and asked everyone to think about which committee(s) they would like

to serve on. Those interested in serving on the Nominating committee should let Commissioner McKee—the committee chair—know following the meeting. A minimum of three people is needed for that committee.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT— *Tim Walker*

Director Walker stressed that preservation projects can be nominated as part of the Mayor's Participatory Budget process and encouraged Commissioners to nominate such projects. He updated the Commissioners on the HUD grant at American Baptist College, and let the Commissioners know that Historic Nashville, Inc. and Preservation Society of Nashville are compiling a questionnaire for prospective mayoral candidates to be sent out in June.

VIII. HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – *Robin Zeigler*

In celebration of May being Historic Preservation Month, Historic Zoning Administrator Zeigler stated the MHZC will present their new Neighborhood Leadership Award this month to Haynes Heights. Robin announced that there are two new pages on the website pertaining to archaeology and development and historic properties. MHZC staff have also written articles that can be used by neighborhood associations for their websites/ newsletters, about historic zoning. Commissioner McKee commended Robin for her excellent presentation to the Buchanan Log Cabin board last month.

IX. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Walker introduced MHC's newest staff member Russell LeSturgeon and asked Russell to introduce himself to the Commission. Chair Maddox asked for any staff reports; Jessica reminded the Commissioners of the Hillsboro High School marker dedication on May 16 at 11:00 a.m. Director Walker welcomed new MHC Commissioner Dr. Celso Castilho and thanked him for joining the Commission. Chair Maddox asked Commissioner Castilho to introduce himself. Director Walker reminded the Commission that the June meeting will be on Monday, June 26 due to the Juneteenth holiday on the 3rd Monday of June. Commissioner Woods asked if the meetings might be moved to a location with better parking. Commissioner Richmond announced her retirement from Middle Tennessee State University as well as her appointment by President Biden to the Presidential Advisory Commission on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Black Americans.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Maddox called for adjournment. Commissioner Landers made a motion to adjourn, and Commissioner Bridges provided a second. The meeting ended at approximately 12:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted Monday, June 26, 2023.

Jessica Reeves