

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC) MINUTES

June 26, 2023

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held a meeting at the Howard Office Building Sonny West Conference Center on June 26, 2023, with Chair Lynn Maddox presiding.

Commissioners Present: E. Menié Bell, John Bridges, Dr. Celso Castilho, Dr. Don Cusic, Jim Hoobler, Dr. Jane Landers, Lynn Maddox, Dr. Marisa Richmond, Laura Rost, Gerry Searcy, Larry Woods, and Linda Wynn **were present.**

Staff Members Present: Tim Walker, Robin Zeigler, Dustin Summers, Caroline Eller, Jessica Reeves, Scarlett Miles, Russell LeSturgeon, Grace Branlund, 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 May 2023 meeting minutes for approval.
 - i. Commissioner Rost made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Hoobler provided a second. The commission unanimously approved the May 2023 minutes.

III. HISTORICAL MARKERS – *Jessica Reeves*

- a) VOTE: Werthan Bag Company
 - i. Commissioner Bell made a motion to approve the marker, Commissioner Woods provided a second, and the marker was unanimously approved.
- b) Jessica noted that the Ernest Rip Patton marker will be dedicated on 7/14, while dedications are being planned for Rainbow Ranch, Washington Jr. High School, United Record Pressing, Patton House, and Enchanted Hills.
- c) Commissioner Bridges asked about the status of the Lynching of Samuel Smith marker. Jessica responded that it was removed sometime the week of June 5th and we don't know the cause but are re-ordering the marker.

IV. VOTE: Election of Officers – *Larry Woods (proxy for Dr. Bill McKee)*

- a) The MHC Nominations Committee met on June 1, 2023 and voted unanimously recommend the following new officers: Linda Wynn (MHC Chair), Laura Rost (MHC Vice-Chair), and E. Menié Bell (MHC representative to the MHZC).

- i. Commissioner Bridges made a motion to approve the nominations, Commissioner Maddox noted that a second was not required, and all the recommended MHC Officer nominations were unanimously approved.

V. **MHC COMMITTEES – Lynn Maddox**

- a) Commissioner Maddox noted that the Nominating, Special Events, Preservation Awards, By Laws, and Historical Markers Committees were all discussed at the 2023 MHC Education & Training retreat.
- b) Director Walker noted that he had received notice from commissioners about which committees they would like to serve on and that he and his staff would be sending out notice to all commissioners following the meeting to inform who is serving on which committee. Additionally, he asked if every committee could meet within the next two months so that goals and directives can be set and reported back to the MHC.

VI. **GUEST SPEAKER – Robin Zeigler**

- a) TOPIC: Historic Zoning Report
 - i. Historic Zoning Administrator, Robin Zeigler, provided a presentation on historic zoning and its importance as a planning tool.

VII. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Tim Walker**

- a) Director Walker provided commissioners with some selected points of note from his 06/2023 MHC Director's Report:
 - i. Information on the John Lewis Way Committee's June 15, 2023, John Lewis Way annual march and The Good Trouble Book Drive being held from June 15 through July 15, 2023.
 - ii. Invitation to the Ernest Rip Patton Marker unveiling on July 14, 2023, at 6PM.
 - iii. 48 State Tour workshop occurring at the Nashville City Cemetery on July 11.
 - iv. Legislation for the County Historian approval before end of Council term.
 - v. University of Louisville's Dendrochronology Lab at Sunnyside taking core samples from the log structures within the ell to date the oldest portions of the building.
 - vi. FY24 Budget being passed, and that nine of the eleven requests were given to MHC by the Mayor's office and Metro Council.
 - vii. A comprehensive archeological history project occurring at the Sunnyside site.

VIII. **HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – Robin Zeigler**

- a) Historic Zoning Administrator, Robin Zeigler, provided commissioners with some selected points of note related to the MHZC:

- i. Planning Department reappointed Mia Johnson as their representative to the MHZC.
- ii. Council Member O'Connell filed legislation to expand the existing Downtown Historic Preservation Zoning Overlay to include portions of 3rd and 4th Avenues North and Church and Union Streets.
- iii. Discussions have begun on the possibility of design guideline revisions for Second Avenue N, Broadway, and Richland West End.
- iv. New MHZC hire, Grace Branlund, was introduced.

IX. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Commissioners Bell and Wynn thanked Commissioner Maddox for serving as Chair of the MHC.
- b) County Historian Dr. Carole Bucy noted that she had a meeting with the Planning Commission staff to discuss how some developers' plans may be impacting historical sites. The MHC engaged in this discussion by providing information about potential site purchases for preservation by Metro Government and related past and/or potential future legislative actions.
- c) Commissioner Hoobler inquired about updates on the rehab of 2nd Ave. Director Walker replied that it is moving slowly along with the city working to repair and activate the streets and sidewalks, but that no new information has come in about the building repairs.
- d) Director Walker noted that due to the Elections Commission use of the Sonny West Conference Room during July, August, and September, the MHC meetings occurring during those months will be held at the MNPD Midtown Hills Precinct - 1441 12th Ave S.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Maddox called for adjournment. Commissioner Cusic made a motion to adjourn, and Commissioner Wynn provided a second. The meeting ended at approximately 1:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted Monday, June 26, 2023.

Dustin G. Summers