

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC) MINUTES

August 21, 2023

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held a meeting in the Community Room of the Midtown Hills Police Precinct on August 21, 2023, with Chair Linda Wynn presiding.

- Commissioners Present:** Dr. Clay Bailey, Dr. Celso Castilho, Dr. Don Cusic, Jim Hoobler, Dr. Jane Landers, Lynn Maddox, Laura Rost, Gerry Searcy, and Linda Wynn **were present.**
- Staff Members Present:** Tim Walker, Robin Zeigler, Caroline Eller, Dr. Adam Fracchia, Russell LeSturgeon, Scarlett Miles, Jessica Reeves, and Ann Mikkelsen (Metro Legal) **were present.**
- County Historian:** Dr. Carole Bucy **was present.**
- Guest:** Sandra Shelton.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME – *Linda Wynn*

Chair Wynn called the meeting to order at approximately 12:06 p.m. after verifying that a quorum was present.

II. GUEST SPEAKER – *Meg Hershey, Preservation Society of Nashville*

Meg Hershey with Preservation Society of Nashville (PSN) introduced the new non-profit historic preservation organization to the commission. Preservation Society of Nashville launched in December 2022, with the mission to protect and champion Nashville's unique stories, neighborhoods, and architecture through education, advocacy, and historic preservation. Hershey reviewed the group's mission, differentiators, first year accomplishments and goals, and forthcoming projects.

MHC Director Tim Walker reminded the commission of PSN's partnership with MHC for the 2023 Preservation Awards reception and noted PSN's recent advocacy for the expansion of the Downtown Historic Preservation Zoning Overlay District.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *Linda Wynn*

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

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – *Linda Wynn*

Chair Wynn opened the floor for Public Comment. No members of the public requested time to speak.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SALARY INCREASE – *Linda Wynn*

As a reminder, the MHC discussed the salary increase/adjustment last fall and earlier this year, and former Chair Maddox and Commissioner Bell requested the salary adjustment as part of a budget increase from the mayor's office. The salary

increase of \$25,000 was included in the department's Metro Council approved budget for FY24, which runs from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, however, the MHC has not yet voted on the salary adjustment.

Upon motion of Commissioner Hoobler, seconded by Commissioner Landers, and discussion, the salary increase of \$25,000 was unanimously approved for the Executive Director.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EVALUATION – *Linda Wynn*

[Chair Wynn intentionally switched this agenda item with the Revision of Bylaws to remain on a related topic.] Chair Wynn stated that she is asking the MHC's new Human Resources and Budget Committee to meet to complete Director Walker's annual review with a goal of having it ready for MHC review at the September meeting.

VII. REVISION OF BYLAWS – *Linda Wynn/Ann Mikkelsen*

The MHC Executive Committee met with Ann Mikkelsen in mid-July to review proposed updates to the MHC's bylaws. The bylaws are about ten years old. Mikkelsen reported she is working with several Metro boards and commissions to update their bylaws to incorporate new requirements for open meetings, public comment, etc. The MHC's updates will add more detail and structure to the commission's bylaws and will clarify policies, oversight of the executive director, committees, etc.

Chair Wynn reported that the Executive Committee plans to meet again before the next MHC meeting with the goal of presenting the proposed updates for review at the September meeting.

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT– *Tim Walker*

a) Director Walker highlighted a few items from the August 2023 Director's Report:

- i. Nashville City Cemetery Updates (NCC): Metro HR has posted the new position, NCC Site Manager, and it will close on August 24. We hope to have someone in place by the end of September. As previously mentioned, due to theft and damage of the electrical wiring, the Keeble building will need to be rewired before staff is placed at the NCC. This damage is not unique to the NCC as it has happened at other Parks sites. One of the Site Manager's first tasks will be a reassessment of the site for a revised capital spending request.
- ii. Sunnyside Construction: Project is moving forward and is on track for completion in late November to early December 2022. In part due to requirements to repave Kirkwood Avenue, we have gone through the minimal contingency budget. Therefore, we plan to ask the new mayoral administration for additional funds to complete the entirety of the project. We will also make a 4% request to finish out furniture needs.
- iii. Questions/Comments from Commissioners: Brief discussion about provenance of antique furniture pieces currently in use at Sunnyside. Brief discussion about the NCC Site Manager and plans for the site.

IX. HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – *Robin Zeigler*

- a) After twelve years of work, expansion of the Downtown Historic Preservation Zoning Overlay District was finally approved by Metro Council last week. Although there are additional properties we would like to include in the future, the boundaries of the original district were substantially expanded.
- b) Citizen’s Historic Preservation Academy, fall 2023: Fourteen participants were selected. Commissioners are invited to attend the last session of the Academy when participants will present a final project. Staff will send a calendar invite with details about the program.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XI. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Commissioner Bailey mentioned a public meeting about the expansion of the 440 Greenway. Staff will confirm details and share with the MHC. Bailey also asked if anyone knows if there are any plans to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the film *Nashville*; commissioners were unsure of any. Bailey also mentioned learning about a documentary underway about Brown’s Diner. Commissioner Hoobler mentioned that the Tennessee State Museum has a watercolor of the diner.
- b) Guest Sandra Shelton was invited to introduce herself. She is the former owner of Pangaea store in Hillsboro Village and is a resident of Belmont-Hillsboro. She wanted to learn more about PSN, hence her attendance today. Also, she is working on a survey of post-World War II apartment buildings in Nashville.
- c) Commissioner Cusic mentioned he is making progress with a music lecture series. He will share details about the lecture scheduled for late October at RCA Studio B.
- d) Chair Wynn mentioned she is working with Dr. André Churchwell of Vanderbilt University on a series of public programs over the next 5-6 months. [Dr. Churchwell is the Vice Chancellor for Outreach, Inclusion and Belonging and Chief Diversity Officer for Vanderbilt University.] Wynn will speak about North Nashville and Pearl High School at the main Nashville Public Library next week. Staff will confirm details and share with the MHC. Also, planning is underway for the NCAAHC in February 2024.
- e) Director Walker also mentioned the unveiling ceremony for the new U.S.P.S. postage stamp honoring Rep. John Lewis. The event will take place later this week at American Baptist College. Staff will confirm details and share with the MHC.
- f) Chair Wynn is working on a short piece about the Morris Memorial Building for the *HistoryGram* (the monthly newsletter of the MHC), at the request of Jessica Reeves. She encouraged all commissioners to submit at least one 250-word article for publication in the newsletter.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wynn called for adjournment. Commissioner Cusic made a motion to adjourn, and Commissioner Rost provided a second. The meeting ended at approximately 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted Monday, September 18, 2023.

Scarlett C. Miles