

METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY



Metropolitan Historical Commission
Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission
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METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC) MINUTES January 22, 2024

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting at the Howard Office Building, Sonny West Conference Center on January 22, 2024, with Chair Linda Wynn presiding.

Attendance

Commissioners: Menié Bell, John Bridges, Dr. Don Cusic, Dr. Erica Hayden, Jim Hoobler, Dr. Jane Landers, Sandra Parham, Laura Rost, and Linda Wynn were **present**.

Dr. Clay Bailey, Dr. Celso Castilho, Dr. Bill McKee, Dr. Marisa Richmond, Tom Wood, Larry Woods were **not present**.

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

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

- I. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND WELCOME – Chair Linda Wynn**
Chair Linda Wynn called the meeting to order at approximately 12:05 p.m. and verified that a quorum was present through a Roll Call of attendance.
- II. **APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES – Chair Linda Wynn**
Chair Wynn presented the December 2023 meeting minutes for approval. Commissioner Hoobler made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Bridges provided a second. The commission unanimously approved the December 2023 minutes.
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – Chair Linda Wynn**
Chair Wynn opened the floor for Public Comment. No members of the public requested time to speak.

IV. GUEST SPEAKER:

[Becky Magura, President and CEO, Nashville Public Television](#)

Chair Wynn, who serves on the Nashville Public Television (NPT) Community Advisory Board, introduced Ms. Magura to the commission. Ms. Magura spoke to the commission about NPT's role in sharing and curating the history of Nashville and Tennessee, and how it is relevant to our country. Ms. Magura provided some brief history about NPT, noting that it started as a Nashville Public Schools licensee and predates PBS. NPT offices are located on the former campus of Central High School in the Wedgewood-Houston neighborhood. NPT is one of six community licensees in Tennessee, serving urban Nashville and surrounding Middle Tennessee through its mission to provide engaging educational programming for all ages. Some notable NPT projects include *Facing North: Jefferson Street* and The Citizenship Project series, featuring *By One Vote: Woman Suffrage in the South*, *Education: Keys to Freedom*, *The Fight to Vote*, and *Uprooted*. The next installment of the series will air on February 15 [check local listings]. Called *Last Rites: Saving Tennessee's Black Cemeteries*, the Ed Jones-produced documentary focuses on efforts to protect these sacred spaces. Ms. Magura expressed excitement about her recent discovery of *Nashville Sites*, which she plans to promote within her team and to visitors, and she encouraged the commission to look for other ways to partner together to make a broader impact. She spoke about NPT's work with independent producers, like the 2019 documentary *Past is Prologue: The Cameron Class of 1969* (re-airing February 22 at 9:30PM), a forthcoming four-part series on the Tennessee Maneuvers, and pieces on Minnie Pearl and Brenda Lee, many of which are of interest to PBS/American Experience. The highly anticipated *Gospel* premieres this month, and NPT is holding screenings in partnership with WPLN, Vanderbilt University and Tennessee Performing Arts. This Skip Gates-produced documentary is the featured PBS series of the season. Ms. Magura also mentioned the "Ken Burns Classroom" resources on PBS Learning Media and recommended the PBS app and NPT website (wnpt.org) for viewing most, if not all, of these programs. Ms. Magura brought copies of NPT's *Report to the Community, 2021-2022* for commissioners. She concluded by stressing the importance of looking at history to protect our democracy, which is a critical mandate for public media right now.

Comments: Commissioner Cusic mentioned the connection between the Tennessee Maneuvers and Country Music; general discussion about the *Gospel* documentary; Commissioner Parham mentioned a documentary about Meharry Medical College; and Ms. Magura added that PBS has specific parameters for programming, so it helps to connect with NPT to make sure those requirements are met for NPT to share the content.

V. REVIEW OF ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER – [Ann Mikkelsen, Metro Legal](#)

Ann Mikkelsen, attorney with Metro Government's Department of Law and MHC's legal representative, briefly reviewed Robert's Rules of Order for parliamentary procedure. She highlighted the purpose of the rules, authority

according to the MHC's bylaws and policies, state statutes, and local ordinances, and basic rules of procedure.

Chair Wynn thanked Ms. Mikkelsen for her patience and assistance with meeting proceedings.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT– *Tim Walker*

Chair Wynn began by expressing appreciation for MHC staff members, who are busy carrying out the functions of the MHC.

Director Walker had one item to add to this month's Director's Report, emailed to commissioners last week. He has heard from the finance director, Kevin Crumbo, that budget submissions for FY25 are due Friday, February 9. Departmental meetings with the mayor's office and finance department will be held in March, date and time to be announced.

Comments/questions: Regarding the Fletch Coke Award, Commissioner Bridges suggested minor rewording of the award criteria.

IX. HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – *Robin Zeigler*

One of the three neighborhood conservation zoning overlay districts that did not join the Consolidated Neighborhood Conservation Zoning Overlays for Turn-of-the-20th Century Districts in 2021 is now working toward being added to consolidated design guidelines. The Planning Commission has appointed Matt Smith as its representative to the Historic Zoning Commission.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

- 2024 Preservation Awards: Scarlett Miles provided a status update about the program. Nominations for preservation projects are due Friday, March 1. The awards program is scheduled for Monday, May 6 at 4:30 p.m. The deadline for honor awards nominations from commissioners is Friday, February 2. The events/special projects and nominations committees will meet and then present the slate of award recipients to the MHC during the February meeting.
- Nashville Conference on African American History and Culture: Caroline Eller announced the conference will be held in person (with a virtual option) at the TSU Avon Williams Campus downtown on Friday, February 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Ms. Eller provided an overview of the program, "Marching Towards an Inclusive Future: Seismic Shifts in Tennessee Communities." Registration is now open. Chair Wynn, who co-founded the conference, noted that this is the 43rd year of the conference and shared brief details about the program's origins. This year's program honors the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the 70th anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. Chair Wynn thanked Ms. Eller for her work on this program.

XI. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Wynn opened the floor for other Comments/Announcements:

- a. Commissioner Rost asked to revisit the Director's Report, regarding the Morris Memorial Building and Dir. Walker's reference to potential for an African American history museum. Dir. Walker reported that several council members and community are concerned about Nashville's lack of a city museum and an African American history museum. The new owners of Morris Memorial do not plan to include a museum component as part of the building's hotel programming. Thus, Council Member Suara and others would like to explore options elsewhere. CM Suara may ask to add funding for a feasibility study to the MHC's budget.
- b. Historical Markers: Jessica Reeves announced the dedication for the St. Bernard Academy historical marker is scheduled for Sunday, January 28 at 3:00 p.m., with a reception to follow. Council Member Tom Cash plans to attend. Chair Wynn inquired about the status of the Ed Temple marker. Ms. Reeves reported that after a slight delay for photo approval by his family, the office has ordered the marker and is awaiting its arrival in several months.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cusic moved to adjourn; Commissioner Rost seconded. The meeting ended at approximately 12:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted Monday, February 26, 2024.
Scarlett C. Miles