

METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY



Metropolitan Historical Commission
Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission
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METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC) MINUTES May 20, 2024

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting at the Howard Office Building, Sonny West Conference Center on May 20, 2024, with Chair Linda Wynn presiding.

Attendance

Commissioners: Dr. Clay Bailey, Dr. Celso Castilho, Dr. Erica Hayden, Jim Hoobler, Dr. Jane Landers, Sandra Parham, Dr. Marisa Richmond, and Linda Wynn were **present**.

Menié Bell, John Bridges, Dr. Don Cusic, Dr. Bill McKee, Laura Rost, Tom Wood, and Larry Woods were **not present**.

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

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

Guest: Gary Burke; Monchiere' Holmes-Jones, founder Jefferson Street Historical Society

- I. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND WELCOME – Chair Linda Wynn**
Chair Linda Wynn called the meeting to order at approximately 12:01 p.m. and verified that a quorum was present after a roll call of attendance.
- II. **REVIEW OF APRIL MEETING MINUTES – Chair Linda Wynn**
Chair Wynn presented the April 2024 meeting minutes for approval. Commissioner Hoobler made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Richmond provided a second. The commission unanimously approved the April 2024 meeting minutes.
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – Chair Linda Wynn**
Chair Wynn opened the floor for Public Comment. Gary Burke, who is board member for Friends of Fort Negley, Travellers Rest, and Stones River National

Battlefield, addressed the commission. Mr. Burke expressed his support for the US Colored Troops at Peach Orchard Hill historical marker, which is being presented for review and approval on today's agenda.

IV. HISTORICAL MARKERS – *Jessica Reeves*

- The John Wesley Frierson historical marker, which is funded by MHC, will be placed at the Frierson Building on Jefferson Street. Chair Wynn asked about the denomination of the churches established by the Frierson Foundation (i.e., if all of them were church of Christ) as well as the use of “established.” After some discussion, commission members proposed returning the text back to the marker committee for revision. Commissioner Richmond made a motion to table the vote until the June meeting, and Commissioner Castilho provided a second. The commission voted unanimously to table the vote until the June meeting.
- The Grassmere historical marker is a replacement marker with revised text. It was removed due to work at the Nashville Zoo, which allowed an opportunity to revise the text to correct some information on the original marker. After staff shared the draft text with commissioners, Grassmere staff requested some changes, including changing “built” to “had a brick house built” and “post Civil War” to “after Civil War.” Commissioner Hoobler made a motion to adopt the revised text, and Commissioner Richmond provided a second. The commission voted unanimously to approve the Grassmere historical marker as presented.
- The US Colored Troops at Peach Orchard Hill historical marker, a two-sided marker funded by the MHC, will be placed along the 4800 block of Franklin Pike, south of the crux of the fighting location and near John Overton High School. It is not a replacement of the Peach Orchard Hill historical marker that is located near the exit ramp from I-65 South onto Harding Place. There is one slight change to the previously shared text, changing “fighters” to “soldiers,” as well as some changes that tighten up the language regarding combat experience. Commissioner Hoobler made a motion to adopt the revised text, and Commissioner Richmond provided a second. The commission voted unanimously to approve the US Colored Troops at Peach Orchard Hill. Ms. Reeves noted that SEWAH is moving faster with marker production, so we hope to have the marker installed in time for the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Nashville. Commissioner Hoobler mentioned that Rep. Caleb Hemmer would like to attend the dedication.
- Ms. Reeves thanked Commissioner Hoobler for speaking at the dedication ceremony for the Bellevue High School marker. The Goodlettsville High School marker dedication is scheduled for Thursday, May 28. More ceremonies will follow in June.

- V. **JEFFERSON STREET HISTORICAL SOCIETY - *Monchiere' Holmes-Jones***
Executive Director Tim Walker introduced guest speaker Monchiere' Holmes-Jones, who is head of the Jefferson Street Historical Society and who was in the inaugural class of the Citizens Historic Preservation Academy. She also volunteered with the Rep. John Lewis Way March and the Diane Nash Plaza Dedication. Ms. Holmes-Jones provided background on the origins of Jefferson Street Historical Society (JSHS), which she founded in 2018 to meet the needs for an organization celebrating the street's history as J.U.M.P. has a slightly different focus. There are nearly 90 Black owned businesses on Jefferson Street with a traffic count of about 36,000 per week. Ms. Holmes-Jones reviewed the organization's mission and initial projects focusing on beautification and amplification, such as improvements in street lighting, ornamentation, furniture, and trees, improved safety measures like crosswalks and better parking, creation of self-guided and virtual tours, designation as an arts and cultural district, and local to national marketing and partnerships. Preservation of the neighborhood history and its historic landmarks, signage and murals is key to the group's mission. Some activities will be planned around community events like homecoming and arts crawls. For more information, visit the organization's website: www.historicjeffersonstreet.org and/or email info@historicjeffersonstreet.org.

Questions and comments: Commissioner Richmond asked about the cultural district designation process. Ms. Holmes-Jones said designation is through Metro Council. JSHS has also reached out to the CVC. Commissioner Bailey recommended reaching out to WalkBikeNashville about the Open Streets program. Ms. Holmes-Jones reported that a side street has been part of the Open Streets program, but agreed they might explore this for a section of Jefferson Street.

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

Director Walker highlighted some items for the month. He mentioned the fire hall on Charlotte Avenue. He has been speaking with Council Member Gadd about the property. Codes incorrectly issued a demolition permit by not including our department in the review. Codes has revoked the demolition permit and we are currently operating under the 90-day delay for the permit. Director Walker and CM Gadd plan to meet with the owners at the fire hall tomorrow.

Mark your calendars for the ribbon cutting on Saturday, June 29. We will try to keep the program to 30 minutes or less with the house open for tours until 1pm. Speakers will include Mayor O'Connell and the two council members for the neighborhood, CMs Vo and Cash. Friends of Sevier Park will provide refreshments at the Carriage House.

Director Walker also reminded MHC members about the MHCF event on June 6 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. The event will provide an official sneak peek of the house.

VII. HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – *Robin Zeigler*

Historic Zoning Administrator Robin Zeigler reported that historic zoning districts are currently being discussed for Elliston Place and Douglas Corner. Additionally, the process is underway for designating Hubbard House as a Historic Landmark Overlay. MHZC member Cyril Stewart has been asked to present at the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions conference this summer. Also, the Preservation Society of Nashville will host a social hour for the Citizens Historic Preservation Academy members during the fall session to help promote networking among the group.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

None presented.

IX. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Richmond asked about a link to the Preservation Awards video. Dir. Walker reported that the link should be in the Director's Report [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5sxqzw7iQo>]. Chair Wynn and Commissioner Hoobler mentioned the Fisk Food and Jazz Music Festival happening in June.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hoobler moved to adjourn; Commissioner Landers seconded. The meeting ended at approximately 12:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted Monday, June 17, 2024.
Scarlett C. Miles