



## METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

Metropolitan Historical Commission  
Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission  
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### METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC) MINUTES July 15, 2024

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting at the Howard Office Building, Sonny West Conference Center on July 15, 2024, with Vice Chair Laura Rost presiding.

#### Attendance

Commissioners: Dr. Clay Bailey, Menié Bell, Dr. Celso Castilho, Dr. Erica Hayden, Jim Hoobler, Dr. Bill McKee, Sandra Parham, Dr. Marisa Richmond, Laura Rost, and Tom Wood were **present**.

John Bridges, Dr. Don Cusic, Dr. Jane Landers, Larry Woods, and Linda Wynn were **not present**.

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

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

Guests: Albert Bender and Loraine Segovia Paz, Indigenous Peoples Coalition (Ms. Segovia Paz is also with the Nashville Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation); Michael Briggs, Office of the Mayor

#### I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND WELCOME – *Vice Chair Laura Rost*

In the absence of Chair Linda Wynn, Vice Chair Laura Rost called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m. and verified that a quorum was present after a roll call of attendance. One commissioner arrived after Roll Call.

#### II. REVIEW OF JUNE MEETING MINUTES – *Vice Chair Laura Rost*

Vice Chair Rost presented the June 2024 meeting minutes for approval. Commissioner McKee made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Hoobler

provided a second. The commission unanimously approved the June 2024 meeting minutes.

### III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – *Vice Chair Laura Rost*

Vice Chair Rost opened the floor for Public Comment. Albert Bender and Loraine Segovia Paz spoke on behalf of the Indigenous Peoples Coalition about the organization’s campaign asking Metro Board of Parks and Recreation to rename Cumberland Park to Wasioto Park. “Wasioto” is the Shawnee name for the Cumberland River and is historically appropriate. As early as the 1670s, the Shawnees had several villages located within the immediate vicinity of the Cumberland River, which was once called “River of the Shawnees.” The Indigenous Peoples Coalition met with Director Walker several weeks ago about this issue and would appreciate the Metro Historical Commission’s support of this renaming effort. “Cumberland” is used in so many names; “Wasioto” will bring recognition of the indigenous peoples present here, encouraging pride in background and identity and building connections. The proposed name change is a major agenda item for the August 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation.

### IV. GUEST SPEAKER:

*Michael Briggs, Director of Transportation Planning, Office of the Mayor*

Mr. Briggs presented *Choose How You Move: An All-Access Pass to Sidewalks, Signals, Service, and Safety*, Nashville’s Transportation Improvement Plan. The ballot language is scheduled for third reading at Metro Council on Tuesday [7/16]. If approved, the plan will be on the November 5<sup>th</sup> ballot for a county-wide referendum election on the plan. Highlights include:

- 86 miles of sidewalk improvements. When combined with annual capital spending, this will complete the entire WalkNBike Nashville priority sidewalk network.
- 54 miles of upgraded corridors to provide faster, safer, and more reliable transit options.
- A transit system that runs 24/7/365, doubling the frequent service and adding nearly double the number of crosstown routes. Plans also include the addition of new express routes for faster service to popular locations.
- 12 community transit centers will connect to each other, so riders don’t have to go downtown just to get to some other part of the city.
- 17 new park and ride facilities.
- 35 miles of upgraded and new bicycle facilities
- upgrades to traffic signals at almost 600 intersections – two of every three signalized intersections in Nashville. This will help people moving around the city whether they’re walking, rolling, biking, taking transit, or driving.
- Upgrades to 285 bus stops and redesigned intersections to improve safety and reduce injuries and fatalities.

Choose How You Move is based on over 66,000 ideas and 70 transportation plans submitted and developed over the past decade. The ½ cent sales tax surcharge is estimated to cost most households about \$6 per month, but it is estimated that 60% will be paid by visitors to the county. The surcharge will align sales tax in Davidson County with most of the surrounding counties. Service improvements will begin within the first year while capital projects will come later (and will involve community engagement for design, etc.). The plan has the potential to unlock as much as \$1.4 billion in state and federal funding throughout the life of the program. Learn more at [Nashville.gov/transit](https://Nashville.gov/transit)

Commissioners asked about community engagement to increase bus ridership, engagement with surrounding counties, and park and ride costs and management.

#### V. HISTORICAL MARKERS – *Jessica Reeves*

- Primo Bartolini – Sponsored by The Università Degli Studi Di Padova (Padua, Italy), this marker will be placed at 511 Rep. John Lewis Way S; the marker for the Driver Home is located nearby. Bartolini's papers are at Metro Archives. We are looking to incorporate QRs codes on markers like this one to connect to resources like archives, etc. Commissioner Richmond asked about the caption on the second side, which Ms. Reeves agreed can be clarified. Commissioner Bell suggested a new Sister Cities connection could form through this international sponsorship. Commissioner Hoobler made a motion to approve the marker. Commissioner Bailey provided a second. The commission voted unanimously to approve the Primo Bartolini historical marker.

Ms. Reeves shared photos from recent marker dedications, including Warehouse 28, Sir Cecil Creape, and Peter Bashaw. Sewah is now sending photo proofs to better prevent typos/errors, such as the misspelling on the Bashaw marker. Also, we currently have several damaged markers down, including the John Lewis marker.

#### VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EVALUATION – *HR/Budget Committee*

Commissioner Bell, who chairs the MHC's HR/Budget Committee, updated the commission on the committee's process for completing Executive Director Tim Walker's annual performance evaluation. Commissioners Bell, Richmond, and Rost comprise the committee with Chair Wynn as ex officio.

The committee is recommending a 3% merit (open range) salary increase for Director Walker based on his annual performance evaluation.

#### VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 3% MERIT SALARY INCREASE – *HR/Budget Committee*

The HR/Budget Committee recommended a 3% merit (open range) salary increase for Executive Director Tim Walker. The 3% merit salary increase shall be retroactive to July 1, 2024, the start of the fiscal year.

Upon motion of Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Richmond, the 3% open range salary increase, retroactive to July 1, 2024, was unanimously approved for Executive Director Tim Walker.

#### VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT– *Tim Walker*

Director Walker provided brief updates on Sunnyside. We are extending the opening of the office (to walk-ins and regular staffing schedule) to July 29, or later, as punch list items are completed, furniture continues to arrive, and we finish reorganizing the libraries and offices. Trevor Porter is taking the lead on organization of the libraries, which includes software for cataloging our collection. Director Walker and Metro Parks staff met with potential vendors for the carriage house today. The wellhouse folly should be in place within the next two months and we will have a ribbon cutting for that structure. Adam, Russell, and Jessica continue to work on interpretation for the log outbuilding. We've also acquired stone panels from the Commerce Union Bank once located on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue North behind Christ Church Cathedral. They are too large and heavy to display inside the office, so we are considering placing them in Sevier Park with information about Nashville's banking history.

Commissioner Bailey inquired about the former fire hall on Charlotte Avenue as he spoke with CM Gadd about it at a recent marker dedication. Dir. Walker said the demolition is currently on hold and he will follow up with CM Gadd about the property. Vice Chair Rost commented on the impressive amount education and outreach by staff.

#### VII. HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – *Robin Zeigler*

Historic Zoning Administrator Robin Zeigler noted that the application period for the Citizen Historic Preservation Academy is open, and we are collecting promotional items for participants (i.e., Nashville Sites, MHCF). Rock Block and Hubbard House designations are underway. Richland-West End has revised its design guidelines. The neighborhood put in a lot of effort to help it go smoothly.

#### VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Wood asked to place discussion about the location of a historical marker regarding the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the disappearance and murder of Marsha Trimble on the agenda for August.

Vice Chair Rost advised any commissioners in need of a nametag to contact Dustin Summers.

Commissioner Richmond asked if the MHC needs to vote regarding the proposed name change of Cumberland Park. Director Walker noted that the

Board of Parks and Recreation meets before the next MHC meeting. Parks Director Monique Odom requested a letter from him regarding the appropriateness of the name Wasioto (it is appropriate). He also mentioned to the Indigenous Peoples Coalition that they may also want to reach out to Metro Planning and the East Bank redevelopment team. Commissioner Bailey asked if any marker dedications are scheduled. Ms. Reeves commented that we are working with MNPS about the Stratford marker and the Jackie Shane marker should arrive soon, but we will likely wait until the end of summer to avoid the August heat.

**IX. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Bailey mentioned that a friend's son and grandson found a pristine arrowhead in the creek near Sunnyside. He put them in touch with Adam and they are going to hand it over to him for the Sunnyside collection. Also, Brown's Diner staff and regular patrons are excited about the display of the wagon wheel at Sunnyside. Commissioner Richmond will be attending the Democratic National Convention in Chicago next month. Ms. Reeves introduced Clara, a high school intern who worked with the office this summer through the POWER Youth internship program.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Bell moved to adjourn; Commissioner Hoobler seconded. The meeting ended at approximately 1:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted Monday, August 19, 2024.  
Scarlett C. Miles