



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

Metropolitan Historical Commission
Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission
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METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC) MINUTES August 19, 2024

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting at the Howard Office Building, Sonny West Conference Center on August 19, 2024, with Chair Linda Wynn presiding.

Attendance

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

Menié Bell, Dr. Celso Castilho, Dr. Bill McKee, Dr. Marisa Richmond, Tom Wood, and Larry Woods were **not present**.

Staff Members: Tim Walker, Caroline Eller, 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 **present**.

Guest Speaker: Nina Scall, Director of Program, Tennessee Wars Commission

- I. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND WELCOME – Chair Linda Wynn**
Chair Linda Wynn called the meeting to order at approximately 12:03 p.m. and verified that a quorum was present after a roll call of attendance. One commissioner arrived after Roll Call.
- II. **REVIEW OF JULY MEETING MINUTES – Chair Linda Wynn**
Chair Wynn presented the July 2024 meeting minutes for approval. Vice Chair Rost made a motion to accept the July 2024 minutes, and Commissioner Hoobler provided a second. The commission unanimously approved the July 2024 meeting minutes.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – *Chair Linda Wynn*

Chair Wynn opened the floor for Public Comment. No members of the public in attendance requested time to address the commission.

IV. GUEST SPEAKER:

Nina Scall, Director of Programs, Tennessee Wars Commission

Chair Wynn introduced her colleague at the Tennessee Historical Commission, Nina Scall, Director of Programs for the Tennessee Wars Commission (TWC). The TWC is the Tennessee Historical Commission division responsible for preserving the state's significant military history. Ms. Scall provided an overview of the origins and accomplishments of the TWC. Enacted by legislation in 1994, the TWC was formed to address the fast-disappearing war-related sites in the Tennessee, relative to nationwide concerns about the increasing loss of Civil War sites across the nation. With its establishment, the TWC was given the authority and responsibility to preserve and coordinate the planning, preservation, and promotion of sites and battlefields from the French and Indian War through the Civil War era. The TWC accomplishes its mission primarily through a four-pronged approach: Funding Grants, specifically the Wars Commission Grant Fund and the Civil War Sites Preservation Grant Fund; Conservation Efforts; Civic and Government Engagement; and Education and Interpretation. Since 1994, the Wars Commission Grant Fund (WCGF) has funded approximately 124 different projects, including several recent projects in Davidson County. Since its establishment in 2013, the Civil War Sites Preservation Fund (CWSPF) has preserved approximately 1000 acres of hallowed ground in 9 counties, including acreage associated with the Battle of Nashville and Fort Negley. Conservation efforts include Conservation Easements, Battlefield Reclamation and Restoration, Landscape Reunification, Historic Structure Protection and Restoration, and Creation of Battlefield Parks. Ms. Scall also highlighted several projects involving civic and government engagement as well as heritage tourism, education, and interpretation.

In 2023, American Battlefield Trust recognized the TWC with its Brian C. Pohanka Preservation Organization Award for the Wars Commission's leadership and dedication in helping advance the study of military history, battlefield preservation, and interpretation efforts in Tennessee.

Learn more at <https://www.tn.gov/historicalcommission/state-programs/tennessee-wars-commission.html>

V. HISTORICAL MARKERS – *Jessica Reeves*

- Pearl Sanders Creswell/Creswell House – This is one of the markers funded by Participatory Budget Grant Funds. Three of the six markers funded for North Nashville have been approved and ordered. The marker will be placed at the home's location at 910 17th Avenue North. The house accompanies the Nashville Sites architecture tour, so one side features

information about the house. As part of her research, intern Virginia was able to visit the home, which is still owned by the Crewsell family, to interview Carol Creswell, daughter of Pearl and I.T. Creswell. Vice Chair Rost expressed that she loves this marker and loves the work of Robert Anderson. She inquired about the choice to refer to Pearl by her first name. Ms. Reeves explained that this is not typical but was done to avoid repetition of “She” and confusion with I.T. Creswell. Commissioner Bridges made a motion to approve the marker. Vice Chair Rost provided a second. The commission voted unanimously to approve the Pearl Sanders Creswell/Creswell House historical marker.

- Compton-Burton House and Farm – This marker will be placed along Burton Hills Boulevard in Green Hills. Marsha Fagnani and Fletch Coke researched and prepared the marker text. Funds are being raised for this privately funded marker. The marker will be placed near the home’s former location, which is now the Burton Hills subdivision. It features an image of the house on one side, with a very long caption underneath. Ms. Reeves noted that “and Farm” was added to the title after the proposed text was sent to commissioners. Also, Ms. Fagnani and Mrs. Coke asked about adding “and never rebuilt” to the end of the text on side one. This is significant because there were plans to relocate the house, but it was never done. Commissioners discussed options for rewording. There is not enough room to add the words without removing text elsewhere, such as “to the property” in the second sentence. Commissioner Hoobler made a motion to delete “to the property” and add “and never rebuilt.” Commissioner Bailey provided a second. The MHC unanimously approved the changes to the marker text. Commissioner Cusic made a motion to approve the marker, and Commissioner Bridges provided a second. The commission voted unanimously to approve the marker for Compton-Burton House and Farm.

Ms. Reeves reminded the commissioners about the dedication of the Jackie Shane historical marker scheduled for 6:00 pm on Friday, September 20. Parking should be available near the site on Jefferson Street. The event will include remarks by the mayor and performances and coincides with the U.S. release of the documentary about Shane [*Any Other Way: The Jackie Shane Story*]. It has already premiered in Toronto, Canada, where there is another historical marker for her.

VI. MARSHA TRIMBLE HISTORICAL MARKER, POTENTIAL LOCATIONS – *Commissioner Tom Wood*

Commissioner Tom Wood was not present at the meeting. This item was not discussed.

VII. DIRECTOR’S REPORT– *Tim Walker*

Director Walker provided brief updates on a few items, including the historic fire hall on Charlotte Avenue, which unfortunately came down. Council Member Gadd had an early discussion with the owner and later held a community meeting, which Dir. Walker, Historic Zoning Administrator Robin Zeigler, and representatives from Historic Nashville, Inc. (HNI) and Preservation Society of Nashville (PSN) attended. There was good discussion at the meeting and there was hope leaving the meeting that the fire hall would not come down. But unfortunately, it did come down. CM Gadd tried to follow up with the owner after that meeting, but the owner would not get back with her and only did so when the fire hall was gone. CM Gadd was very sad that it played out that way. There were some options but in the end the CM did what she thought was best.

Commissioner Bailey asked if anything was salvaged from the building. Dir. Walker responded not to our knowledge. Commissioner Bridges inquired about the ownership. There was some discussion about what entity may (or may not) currently own the site, but nothing confirmed. Dir. Walker reported that he is now working with CM Gadd on preservation options for other historic resources along Charlotte, potentially creating a commercial district. Commissioner Bridges asked why we think a property owner would have an interest in a historical site. Dir. Walker responded that the owner owns adjacent property. Also, the CM was not willing to upzone the property. She and we hoped they would renovate the building as they said they would in the newspaper. We also have more incentives now, including the historic property tax abatement. The purpose of the 90-day hold is to educate property owners about preservation incentives and to document a property, if needed.

Commissioner Hoobler asked about the columns from the Beaman [Automotive] Show Room and if they were salvaged when the building was demolished. Dir. Walker reported that he spoke with Lee Beaman and helped arrange for Barry Walker of Marathon Village to salvage those features.

Dir. Walker reported that he met with the mayor last month. He noted that they discussed HDR, led by Michael Brink, studying the challenges that the department is facing and opportunities for improvement. The group has since completed interviews with Dir. Walker and Admin. Zeigler and will be reaching out to commissioners, property owners, and others in the community to get a better idea of how we function. Funding for this study is jointly being covered by the Codes and Planning Departments.

VII. HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – *Robin Zeigler*

Historic Zoning Administrator Robin Zeigler requested assistance promoting the Citizen Historic Preservation Academy, applications are now open. In July, Metro Council passed the designation of the Hubbard House as a Historic Landmark zoning overlay district. Designation of the Rock Block [Elliston Place] as a historic zoning district is still in process. Stephanie Dittens is interning with us for a few months. Admin. Zeigler recently presented to Compass Real Estate about historic zoning; she hopes to present additional sessions to realtors in the future.

Commissioner Hoobler asked what is coming down at Rock Block. Tony Giarratana has purchased most of the historic stretch [along Elliston Place]. There are two buildings on either edge that he does not own which are not included in the proposed district, yet (they can be added later). Due to building conditions, he had to demolish more than he planned but is planning to put it back and hopes to retain small businesses there. The current plan is for six stories behind it. Across the street, there are plans for a high-rise development that will help support the businesses because it will include public parking. Admin. Zeigler also added to the pervious conversation about the 90-day hold on demolitions noting that it also provides a chance to discuss salvage, to sell or donate. We also use the time to document the property. In the case of the Charlotte Avenue fire hall, the owner would not let us inside to document – the vast majority of owners do.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

None presented.

IX. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

No comments or announcements from commissioners. Dr. Bucy reported that she is trying to wrap up projects before she leaves the position of Davidson County Historian in August 2025.

Ms. Reeves added that the Stratford High School marker dedication is scheduled for September 27 at 5:30 pm prior to the homecoming football game.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted Monday, September 16, 2024.
Scarlett C. Miles