

METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY



Metropolitan Historical Commission
Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission
Sunnyside in Sevier Park
1113 Kirkwood Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37204
Telephone: (615) 862-7970

METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC) MINUTES
September 16, 2024

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting at the Howard Office Building, Sonny West Conference Center on September 16, 2024, with Chair Linda Wynn presiding.

Attendance

Commissioners: Dr. Clay Bailey, Menié Bell, Dr. Don Cusic, Dr. Erica Hayden, Jim Hoobler, Dr. Jane Landers, Dr. Bill McKee, Sandra Parham, Dr. Marisa Richmond, Larry Woods, and Chair Linda Wynn were **present**.

John Bridges, Dr. Celso Castilho, Vice Chair Laura Rost, and Tom Wood were **not present**.

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

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

Guests: Dr. Lydia Simpson & Clélie Cottle Peacock, New South Associates

- I. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND WELCOME – Chair Linda Wynn**
Chair Linda Wynn 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 AUGUST MEETING MINUTES – Chair Linda Wynn**
Chair Wynn presented the August 2024 meeting minutes for approval. Commissioner Cusic moved to accept the August 2024 minutes and

Commissioner Hoobler provided a second. The commission unanimously approved the August 2024 meeting minutes.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – *Chair Linda Wynn*

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

IV. Davidson County Cemetery Survey, Phase III (Grant Project Update)

Dr. Lydia Simpson & Clélie Cottle Peacock, New South Associates, Inc.

Caroline Eller introduced Dr. Lydia Simpson (Senior Historian) and Clélie Cottle Peacock (Assistant Archaeologist) with New South Associates, Inc. Dr. Simpson and Ms. Peacock updated the MHC with findings from Phase III of the Davidson County Cemetery Survey (DCCS) grant project. Phase III surveyed cemeteries in subareas 3, 6, and 7 (Bordeaux/Whites Creek/Haynes-Trinity, Bellevue, and West Nashville communities). Dr. Simpson reviewed the purpose and deliverables of the survey, introduced the survey team (including MHC staff members Caroline Eller, Dr. Adam Fracchia, Bryan Gilley, and Jessica Reeves), and described the survey forms utilized. The team visited 102 of the 115 cemeteries attempted for study, verifying 98 total (4 were visited but not verified). Thirteen cemeteries were inaccessible. Through the survey, five new cemeteries were added to database, three of which were reported by landowners and/or community members. Earliest establishment date noted was 1816; 91 of the cemeteries are categorized as Vernacular/Folk/Informal. Ms. Peacock reviewed examples of the five cemetery types identified in this phase of the survey: Vernacular/Informal, Rural Garden, Lawn Park, Memorial Park, and Institutional, and highlighted case studies with some “preservation predicaments” (i.e., abandonment, lack of resources, and inappropriate/destructive efforts at beautification), noting that even cemeteries with recent establishment dates and burials are subject to these preservation concerns.

Commissioner McKee asked about the State of Tennessee’s obligation in caring for the Talbot Cemetery, which is located on West Trinity Lane at the off-ramp from I-65/24 and surveyed during Phase 1. Director Walker offered to discuss the matter after the meeting, potentially engaging the state representative for that area.

[A recording of this presentation is posted to the MetroNashvilleNetwork YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/live/2EOK0gz2KEA>]

V. Building Off of the Cemetery Survey: An Opportunity for International Collaboration - *Dr. Adam Fracchia*

Dr. Adam Fracchia recently travelled to Tanzania to participate in a three-day workshop organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the University of Dodoma, and the American Academy for Forensic Sciences. The

workshop focused on the management of unidentified human remains of migrants and included training focused on the potential of “stable isotope analysis.” The work has parallels to the MHC’s efforts to update the DCCS as well as Dr. Fracchia’s work leading a field school in archaeological and forensic techniques for Middle Tennessee State University in partnership with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

VI. DIRECTOR’S REPORT– *Tim Walker*

Chair Wynn asked if any commissioners had questions or comments about this month’s report. Hearing none, Chair Wynn moved to the next agenda item.

VII. HISTORIC ZONING REPORT – *Robin Zeigler*

Historic Zoning Administrator Robin Zeigler was not present for the meeting and MHZC Chair Bell did not have anything to report; commissioners may refer to the Director’s Report for items related to historic zoning. Chair Wynn asked Director Walker about applications for the Citizens Historic Preservation Academy. Applications closed Friday, September 13, and evaluation of the applicant pool will happen shortly.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

None presented.

IX. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jessica Reeves reminded commissioners about upcoming dedication ceremonies for several historical markers: Jackie Shane (Friday, 9/20, 6:00 pm), Stratford High School (Friday, 9/27, 5:30 pm), and Joseph "Yusef" Harris (Saturday, 9/28, 12:00 pm). Also, the historical marker for the Woodmont Christian Church was installed on Wednesday. Commissioner Bailey asked about the damaged marker recently mentioned in the news. Ms. Reeves confirmed that the USCT marker on Polk Avenue, which has been there for about one year, was found damaged. She learned about it through a phone call from WSMV. Sometimes markers break oddly, so it is not clear if the break was intentional. Heather Carver is covering the cost of the replacement.

Dr. Bucy reported that she is speaking at the Ohio Valley History Conference at Austin Peay State University next month. Commissioner McKee recognized Chair Wynn for her moving eulogy of Dick Tune, her longtime colleague at the Tennessee Historical Commission.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cusic moved to adjourn; Commissioner Hoobler seconded. The meeting ended at approximately 1:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted Monday, October 21, 2024.
Scarlett C. Miles