

# METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY



Metropolitan Historical Commission  
Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission  
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## METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC) MINUTES October 21, 2024

The Metropolitan Historical Commission held its regular meeting at the Howard Office Building, Sonny West Conference Center on October 21, 2024, with Chair Linda Wynn presiding.

### Attendance

Commissioners: Menié Bell, John Bridges, Dr. Don Cusic, Dr. Erica Hayden, Dr. Jane Landers, Dr. Bill McKee, Sandra Parham, Dr. Marisa Richmond, Vice Chair Laura Rost, and Chair Linda Wynn were **present**.

Dr. Clay Bailey, Dr. Celso Castilho, Jim Hoobler, 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 not present.

Guest: Jennifer C. Core, Tennessee Historical Society

- I. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND WELCOME – Chair Linda Wynn**  
Chair Linda Wynn called the meeting to order at approximately 12:02 p.m. and verified that a quorum was present after a roll call of attendance. One commissioner arrived after Roll Call.
- II. **REVIEW OF SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES – Chair Linda Wynn**  
Chair Wynn presented the September 2024 meeting minutes for approval. Commissioner Richmond moved to accept the September 2024 minutes and Commissioner Cusic provided a second. The commission unanimously approved the September 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. GUEST SPEAKER:

*Jennifer C. Core, Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Society*

Jennifer C. Core provided an overview of the history, accomplishments, and current programs of the Tennessee Historical Society (THS). As Executive Director, she is one of two staff members at the organization. Her colleague, Nikki Ward, is the Director of Membership and Programs. In that role, Ms. Ward is the State Coordinator for Tennessee History Day. The MHC has a close connection with Tennessee History Day. Several commissioners and MHC staff have served as History Day judges at the various levels of competition, from school to state, and the Nashville Conference on African American History and Culture sponsors the “Best Project in African American History” award, presented at the annual Tennessee History Day contest. [Prize of \$125 to the best project in the Junior Division and in the Senior Division on a topic in African American History.]

The Tennessee Historical Society was founded 1849. It is a statewide, membership-based, 501(c)(3) organization. Membership benefits include an annual subscription to the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, which the THS has published since 1942. Collections of the THS are on loan to the Tennessee State Museum and the Tennessee State Library and Archives. Notable items include the plans for the Tennessee State Capitol, the constitution for the State of Frankland, and portraits of Tennessee’s governors. The THS also holds an annual membership meeting/lecture and hosts symposia and online lectures throughout the year. While some online programs are available only to members, the “Tennessee 101” lecture series, which has focused on topics such as Pre-Contact to 1850, the Civil War Years in Tennessee, Reconstruction to the Present, Tennessee Women in the Progressive Era, History of Tennessee Music, and History of Tennessee Arts and Crafts, are available to the public on-demand through the THS website, expanding the organization’s reach worldwide.

Tennessee History Day is the THS’s largest public program. Each year, around 7,500 students participate in this statewide program. The year-round curriculum helps teach students how to be historians, helping them learn how to form a thesis statement and conduct research using diverse sources. Sixty-five students from Tennessee participated in National History Day this summer. Ms. Core encouraged everyone to follow the THS on social media.

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

Jessica Reeves presented the following historical markers for approval:

- Kossie Gardner Sr. – funded by participatory budget allocation, this marker will be placed near the site of the funeral home at 1511 Jefferson Street. Commissioner Richmond asked if Gold Coast subdivision is in Bordeaux? Yes, it is one of the neighborhoods currently being surveyed as part of the Underrepresented Communities grant. Chair Wynn also mentioned that there is a state historical marker for Gold Coast. Commissioner McKee asked if the funeral home is still in business? No, it closed around 2020/2021. Upon motion of Commissioner Richmond, seconded by Vice Chair Rost, the historical marker for Kossie Gardner Sr. was approved.
- Islamic Center of Nashville – funded by participatory budget allocation, this marker will be placed at 2515 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, in front of the mosque. Upon motion of Commissioner Richmond, seconded by Vice Chair Rost, the historical marker for Islamic Center of Nashville was approved.
- Dr. RF Boyd – privately funded by Meharry Medical College, courtesy of Commissioner Parham, this marker will be placed on the school campus and will feature text and a photo. Chair Wynn recommended changing “born into slavery” to “born enslaved.” Commissioner Richmond also suggested re-wording the sentence about Dr. Boyd being nominated to the Tennessee General Assembly, and Ms. Reeves agreed. Commissioner Richmond moved to accept the marker with the proposed rewording. Seconded by Vice Chair Rost, the historical marker for Dr. RF Boyd with the proposed rewording was approved.
- Dr. George Whipple Hubbard/Dr. William J. Sneed – privately funded by Meharry Medical College, courtesy of Commissioner Parham, this marker will be placed on the school campus. The marker features this pair as they had fought on opposing sides of the Civil War but were eventually colleagues. “Snead” on the first line will be changed to “Sneed” for uniformity throughout the text. Commissioner McKee asked if the history of Hubbard Hospital should be included? Commissioner Parham noted that it is included on the historical marker for Meharry’s history and Ms. Reeves noted that it is mentioned on the marker at the Hubbard House. Chair Wynn noted that Dr. Hubbard is buried in Greenwood Cemetery. Vice Chair Rost asked if spring should be capitalized? After some discussion, Chair Wynn proposed Ms. Reeves could check Chicago Manual of Style for guidance, and discussion among commissioners affirmed this suggestion. Upon motion of Commissioner Richmond, seconded by Vice Chair Rost, the historical marker text for the Dr. George Whipple Hubbard, with clarification on capitalization for spring, was approved. Upon motion of Commissioner McKee, seconded by Commissioner Bridges, the historical marker text for Dr. William J. Sneed was approved.

Ms. Reeves updated the MHC on recent marker dedications and installations: Jackie Shane, Ed Temple, Yusef Harris, Callie Guy House and Prof. Bailey.

Upcoming marker dedications include Judge Robert E. Lillard (November 9 at noon) and Werthan Mill Bag Company (November 16, but subject to change). Ms. Reeves will provide additional details, including any advice on parking, prior to the events. Upon request, Ms. Reeves provided status updates on several replacement markers and explained how repairs and replacements are prioritized and funded, which is often a case-by-case basis.

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

Director Tim Walker noted that he continues to work with TennGreen Land Conservancy on the organization's potential purchase of the parcel adjacent to and south of Aittafama' Archaeological Park. In the proposed arrangement, TennGreen would lease the property back to Metro Government. A portion of the property is in Williamson County, so he is working on developing that relationship as well. The property is currently in appraisal.

MHC is hosting another community archaeology workday at Sevier Park on Saturday, October 26 from 9am to 2pm. Adam, Russell, and Tim plan to staff the event.

The Summer House and Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden at Sunnyside may require approval by the Metro Board of Parks and Recreation. If so, Dir. Walker will attend that meeting.

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

Historic Zoning Administrator Robin Zeigler updated the commission on potential new historic zoning overlays and overlays currently exploring revision to their design guidelines. All are still in relatively early stages. All commissioners are invited to the Citizen Historic Preservation Academy graduation social hour sponsored by Preservation Society of Nashville. The event will take place at Elliston Place Soda Shop on Wednesday, November 13, at 5:30pm. Please RSVP to her as soon as possible.

#### VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

None presented.

#### IX. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice Chair Rost announced the William Edmondson Arts and Culture Fest taking place on Saturday, October 26, 10am to 4pm, at 1450 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue South in Edgehill. Chair Wynn reported that planning is underway for the NCAAHC. Save the Date for Friday, February 14, 2025, at the downtown TSU campus. Commissioner Bell remarked that the Lantern Tours at the Nashville City Cemetery are fun and educational. Commissioner Bell also expressed that it was great to see the younger generation participate in the dedication ceremony for Professor Bailey, particularly their rendition of "Poor Wayfaring Stranger." Chair Wynn expressed appreciation for MHC staff.

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted Monday, November 18, 2024.  
Scarlett C. Miles