



TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2021

On Friday, October 8, 2021, the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) met in person at the William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower in Nashville, TN, with virtual Webex available for its regularly scheduled meeting. The meeting took place with video participation by some members due to the coronavirus pandemic and to offer those who could not make the trip to Nashville a chance to be a part of the meeting and fulfill their duties. *The attachments referenced herein were sent to the Commission along with the agenda, prior to the original and postponed meeting dates.*

Members present in person were Madam Chair Derita Coleman Williams; Vice-Chair for Middle Tennessee, Beth Campbell; Vice-Chair for East Tennessee, Sam Elliott; Dr. Kent Dollar; Loni Harris; Kem Hinton; Ray Smith; Ann Toplovich; and ex officio member Phil Hodge, State Archaeologist. Staff present in person were Patrick McIntyre, Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer; Linda Wynn, Assistant Director for State Programs; Dan Brown, Historic Sites Program Director; and Ashlee Pierce, Administrative Secretary.

Members attending virtually via Webex included Allen Carter; Dr. Doug Cupples (*informed post meeting that he was present throughout the meeting but had technical difficulties and was unable to vote*); Jeremy Harrell; Cato Johnson (arrived late, just prior to section J on Bylaws); Dr. Bill Kennedy; Dr. Bill Lyons; Doris McMillan; Dr. Keith Norman (*was only present for his Committee's report in section F*); Don Roe; Joseph Swann (*informed he was also present, yet could not vote due to technical difficulties as well*); Hanes Torbett; ex officio members Alec Richardson, Governor Lee's new Representative; and State Historian, Dr. Carroll Van West. Joanne Cullom Moore was present via telephone.

Communication explaining absences was received prior to the meeting for Robert Hicks, Kelly Wolfe; and State Librarian and Archivist, Chuck Sherrill. Gerald Parish, Commissioner Salyers' Representative's absence was received post meeting.

Beverly Robertson and Frank Stevenson were absent without excuse.

Staff members present and participating via Webex were Susan McClamroch, Tennessee Heritage Protection Act (THPA) and Outreach Coordinator; Graham Perry, Cemetery Preservation Program Director; and Nina Scall, Tennessee Wars Commission Program Director.

Madam Chair Williams called the meeting to order and informed that all votes would be conducted by roll call. The roll was called, and a quorum was present.

A. Announcements

Madam Chair Derita Coleman Williams welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained some housekeeping rules for the hybrid meeting which included both the virtual and physical presence of Tennessee Historical Commission members, staff, and the public. Madam Chair Williams also welcomed the newest ex-officio member of the Commission, Alec Richardson, who replaced Don Johnson as Governor Bill Lee's representative. Mr. Richardson serves as the Deputy Chief of Staff to the governor. Ms. Pierce called the roll and determined there was a quorum.

Motion

As there was not a physical quorum and the date of the meeting was rescheduled, a Determination of Necessity was required. Mr. McIntyre read the Determination. Vice Chair Elliott moved to approve the Determination of Necessity and Vice Chair Campbell seconded. A roll call vote was conducted. The motion was moved and properly seconded. Motion passed.

B. Approval of Minutes from June 18th and August 18th, 2021 Meeting

Madam Chair Williams informed the Commission that minutes from the previous regular and special meetings were both included in the packet emailed and mailed out to members. First, the minutes from the regular summer meeting that convened on June 18, 2021 were considered for any additions or corrections.

Motion

Mr. Elliott made a motion to approve the minutes and Dr. Dollar seconded. A roll call vote was conducted. Motion carried.

The minutes from the August 19, 2021 special meeting were also considered.

Motion

Mr. Elliott motioned to approve the minutes and Mrs. Campbell seconded. A roll call vote was conducted. Motion carried.

C. Finance Committee

Madam Chair Williams turned the meeting over to Finance Chair, Mr. Allen Carter, to present for the committee. He reviewed the financial statement (*Attachment C1*). Vice Chair Elliott motioned to approve, and Dr. Dollar seconded. Mrs. Moore requested clarification on the markers and historic sites finances, which Mrs. Wynn then provided.

Motion

Mrs. Campbell motioned to approve the financial statement. Vice Chair seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion Carried.

Executive Director of the Commission, Mr. Patrick McIntyre, reviewed the FY 2021-2022 (*Attachment C2*) and the new requests that are being put forward in staffing and that approval is being sought for a second position for the Historic Sites program. He also stated that a request has been made for a full-time attorney for the Commission, as the Tennessee Heritage Protection Act has and continues to require a lot more attention as time passes.

D. Publications Committee

Ms. Ann Toplovich, Chair of the Publications Committee reviewed the report (*Attachment D*) and relayed the deadline for the Tennessee History Book Award.

E. Historic Sites Committee

Madam Chair Williams spoke about the virtual Historic Sites Committee meeting and then handed the meeting over to Mr. Dan Brown, Program Director for Historic Sites, to relay his report. He acknowledged the historic sites attending the meeting virtually, and then Mr. Richard Griffin, Site Manager from the Alex Haley State Historic Site, said a few words. He informed that the site is, as others, still slowly recovering from COVID-19, and that recently on August 13th, they did a “re-launch” of the home of Alex Haley as it became 100 years old in 2019. Mr. Haley’s grandson was present as well as Sen. Lamar Alexander and Director McIntyre and Dan Brown. The following day the site celebrated what would have been Mr. Haley’s 100th birthday. Madam Chair Williams noted that on Channel 5 they did a great feature on Alex Haley’s site, and that he recognized the THC for their assistance. Mr. McIntyre expressed his appreciation for the August 2019 re-dedication event. Mr. Brown reviewed the report from the packet. *(Attachment E2)* He stated there was around \$18 million in capital projects that were budgeted right now that are either in design or under construction. All historic sites have all survived and returned to their regular schedules for the most part, and are accepting groups, holding events, and some even had their summer camps again. He described the dedication of the newly restored historic garden on the state portion of the James K. Polk Home that took place and Ms. Rachel Helvering, the new Director of the James K. Polk Home & Museum, interjected and explained who the volunteer group, the “Young Hickories” are and what they do. They discussed the work done to encourage younger people to take interest in historic preservation. Mr. Brown continued and spoke of the arson that took place by a fire inspector at the Kefauver House in Madisonville. Rehabilitation efforts will begin at the Carter House on the farm office, smoke house, and the slave cabin in the next few months. The Carter House farm office is one of the most battle-damaged buildings that still exists in the United States, and the brick smokehouse as well has hundreds of scars from weapons that were fired. One of the most intense battles in the Civil War was fought there. Mr. Brown thanked the sites for all their work and partnership that they have with them. Mrs. Campbell asked about delays due to the pandemic in bids and the issues with supply chains. Mr. Brown explained they have had to allow an extension in timelines in the bids in order to even have any, due to shortages in available workers and supplies. However, they are able to manage with this adjustment fairly well due to there not typically being a solid deadline a project is usually needing at the sites, and that everyone is already able to be and are open for business right now despite any planned or current projects. Madam Chair Williams thanked all the sites that attended the meeting and Mr. Hinton commended Mr. Brown on his thoroughness and utilizing Centric Architects.

F. Monuments and Markers Committee

Madam Chair Williams acknowledged that Dr. Keith Norman, head of the Markers and Monument Committee, had joined the meeting virtually to give the report. He acknowledged there were nineteen markers put forth before the committee and approved. Dr. Norman thanked Ms. Toplovich and Dr. Dollar also for their edits which included punctuation and grammar. *(Attachment F)*

Motion

Dr. Norman motioned for approval of the nineteen presented markers with the aforementioned edits. Mr. Elliott seconded. A roll call vote took place and the motion passed unanimously.

Madam Chair Williams recognized Mrs. Linda Wynn for her dedication and hard work over such a long time working with the Monuments and Markers program as Assistant Director for State Programs.

G. Tennessee Wars Commission Committee

Madam Chair Williams turned the meeting over to Dr. Dollar, Chair of the Tennessee Wars Commission Committee, for the TWC's report. Dr. Dollar mentioned the committee met a few days earlier, and then requested Ms. Nina Scall, Director of Programs, and sole staff member of the TWC, to give her report. (*Attachment G*) The Battle of Nashville Trust is working with the Civil Wars Trails staff to create and install two Civil War Trails markers that will highlight the valor of African American soldiers at the Battle of Nashville. Historic Castalian Springs will disseminate the civilian's story during the War of 1812, The Mexican-American War and Civil War, at both Cragfont and Wynnewood State Historic Sites. This will be accomplished through the historic clothing worn by African American slaves, and the people that enslaved them. Dr. Dollar relayed that Ms. Toplovich suggested that the THC inform state legislators of approved grants in their districts, which would allow them to comment publicly. Madam Chair Williams drew attention to the addendum provided for the TWC report and acknowledged its usefulness.

H. History Cemetery Program

Mr. Graham Perry reviewed his report. (*Attachment H*) He noted he was very impressed with a recent visit to the cemetery in the Lonesome Historic District in Dickson County, as they are including educational programming and it is tied specifically to the Tennessee Standards. This heavily increases their chances of being used for school field trips in the future by the State. Mr. Perry informed that he and Mr. McIntyre went to Murfreesboro and met with Rutherford County officials, and Representative Mike Sparks to discuss legislative solutions for "commonly encountered disrespectful cemetery relocation issues." There have been issues where people are adhering to what they should be doing in relocating cemeteries, but there is nothing that tells them what to do with headstones, crypts, etc., so there have been instances where they were just scattered or thrown out. He reviewed the National Gravestone Preservation Workshop Tour stop at the Greenwood Cemetery with John Appell's 48 State Tour, where he teaches how to clean and perform the most common gravestone and monument repairs. Nashville was his last stop, and it was very well attended. Mr. Perry recognized and thanked the Committee members and named them.

A five-minute break was held.

I. Federal Program Report

Mr. McIntyre remarked on another visit he and Mr. Perry made to the THC site of Camp Blount in Fayetteville and then introduced the staff present, along with the newest staff member, Ellen Dement Hurd, who recently assumed the position of Certified Local Government Program Coordinator. He then reviewed the report (*Attachment I*)

J. Proposed Bylaws Revision

Madam Chair Williams recognized Mr. Joseph Sanders and Will Kirby, Legal Counsel from TDEC, and referred to article 4, section 1 of the THC bylaws. She reviewed the changes discussed previously to the bylaws and opened the floor to discussion. Mr. Sanders explained the reason for changing the wording as it regards to additional meetings and the Tennessee Heritage Protection Act (THPA) with its necessity to hear contested cases. Mr. Elliott explained for those

that were not in the Executive Committee meeting where this topic was initially discussed that he opposed the language change, as he did not see calling a meeting a regular meeting unless it has been scheduled at a set time far in advance. He further explained that his understanding of the newest language change, however, sets the regularly scheduled meetings at four meetings instead of three, with the allowance that the fourth meeting can be cancelled at any time should an additional meeting not be deemed necessary. Madam Chair Williams agreed and added that the THPA cases have taken a rather excessive amount of time and attention from the Commission and its normal business, requiring a total of seventeen meetings since October 2019, when only three meetings a year were previously typical. Article 4, Section 1 was read in its proposed language by Madam Chair Williams. She stated “Regular meetings will normally be held on the third Friday of the month in February, April, June, August, and October. The Commission may, by a majority vote of those present at any meeting reschedule or cancel its next regular meeting.” Madam Chair Williams noted again that the proposed language adds an April and August meeting.

Motion

Mrs. Campbell made a motion to adopt the new language for Article 4, Section 1 of the THC bylaws. Mr. Johnson seconded. Discussion ensued. Ms. Toplovich remarked that although it is stated in the new language that additional meetings in April and August have been added, it was critical to note that at a preceding meeting the Commission can cancel its next meeting, and that this is only meant to allow extra business such as THPA cases that come before the Commission to be discussed in a timelier manner and without having to schedule special meetings so often as has been occurring. Mr. Elliott agreed and added that this is essentially due to the THPA hearings having to occur during regularly scheduled meetings, and this gives a better chance they can be heard aside from when other normal business is being reviewed. Roll call voting was conducted, and the motion to update the THC bylaws to add two additional regular meetings in April and August and include the ability to cancel one of these meetings if unnecessary passed unanimously.

K. Policies and Procedures

The next order of business concerned the THC policies and procedures. Mr. Sanders explained that what is being presented is not anything extraordinary, but that they are intended to move the hearing process along. He has participated in a lot of administrative law hearings, and stated it is not at all uncommon to have these sorts of requirements.

Motion

Mr. Elliott commended Mr. Sanders on his handling of updating the policies and procedures for the THPA cases and motioned to approve the changes provided to the Commission in their packets. Ms. Toplovich seconded. Mrs. Moore raised some questions and discussion ensued. A roll call vote was completed, and all voted in favor of the change, with the exception of Mrs. Moore who voted no.

L. Resolutions

1. Memorial Resolution for Dr. Calvin Dickinson

Madam Chair Williams asked Dr. Dollar, who had worked with Dr. Dickinson, to say a few words in memory of him. Dr. Dollar introduced the resolution with some history on Dr. Dickinson.

Motion

Dr. Dollar motioned to approve the resolution for former Commission member, Dr. Calvin Dickinson, and Mr. Elliott seconded the motion. Ms. Toplovich noted she would “third” that if she could. She spoke about how she first met Dr. Dickinson when she worked on staff with the THC. Dr. Dollar and Madam Chair Williams also spoke of his late wife Charlene and her accompanying him to numerous meetings throughout his time on the Commission. A roll call vote provided a unanimous vote to approve the resolution. Motion passed.

2. Resolution for Claudette Stager

Madam Chair Williams recognized the resolution for Claudette Stager’s retirement after a long career in the historic preservation field, and with 37 years with the State. Mr. McIntyre spoke first of how he first met Ms. Stager on the back of a trolley bus in Memphis on the way to Graceland during a conference in 1997, some years before he moved to Tennessee. He worked with her for 14 years at the Commission and noted her strong work ethic and numerous accomplishments. Mrs. Wynn also spoke about Ms. Stager always being accessible and eager to assist when needed and stated she will be sorely missed. Dr. Kennedy and Dr. West also gave warm compliments for Ms. Stager. Dr. West moved to approve the resolution for Claudette Stager and Mr. Elliott seconded. A roll call vote was called, and a unanimous vote approved the motion. Motion passed.

M. Other Business

1. Report from the State Archaeologist

Madam Chair Williams announced that Ms. Toplovich, with her background in archaeology, had been added as the THC representative on the Tennessee Archaeological Advisory Council. Mr. Phil Hodge, State Archaeologist, gave a brief report of activities and projects, including changes created due to COVID and having to work safely around those muted, yet continued provisions. He recognized Archaeology staff for their ongoing hard work and dedication during the pandemic.

2. Report from the State Historian

Dr. Carroll Van West, State Historian, gave his report. In the historic Rutherford County Courthouse in Murfreesboro a new museum will be placed and will open at the very end of October or beginning of November. Mrs. Campbell asked if the Century Farm Program is under his purview and then if he would review it for everyone. He said it is under his purview and then explained its history and how it works. Dr. West credited Ms. Stager for assisting him in developing the program. He added he is a Century Farm owner himself. There is approximately 2,300 currently listed in the program.

3. Audit Committee

Madam Chair Williams stated that the Audit Committee will meet prior to the February meeting, with Dr. Lyons as Chair organizing it.

4. Certificate of Merit Awards 2022

Madam Chair Williams reviewed the members on the committee and gave the floor to Ms. Susan McClamroch, Outreach Coordinator, to address some details. She informed that the deadline for the Merit Awards is December 31st, and that the Committee will meet in January to review and discuss them. Winners will be announced

in February. She then spoke of how COVID interrupted plans for a ceremony as usual for the awards, and then reviewed the new website for the merit awards.

5. February Meeting

Madam Chair Williams reminded everyone that hearing on the Williamson County Seal is still planned to take place at the February 18th meeting, so the meeting will take place again at the Tennessee Tower. She asked that Commission members plan ahead because the THPA allows intervening parties to speak, so the meeting may be longer than most others. Mrs. Campbell urged more members to be in person at the February meeting for the camaraderie and hoped to see everyone on Webex in person next year.

6. Public Comments

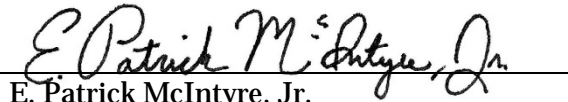
There were no public comments.

N. Adjournment

Mr. Hinton wanted it noted that the busts from the State Capitol had been removed and were now on exhibit at the State Museum. He thanked the museum, and all involved in making that happen, and encouraged everyone to go see them there.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Madam Chair Williams thanked everyone for their time and attention and Mr. Elliott motioned to adjourn. Dr. Dollar seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. C.D.T..



E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr.
Executive Director



Derita Coleman Williams
Chair