



TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2022

On Friday, October 21, 2022, the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) met in person at the Capitol Theatre in Greeneville, TN for its regularly scheduled autumn meeting. Virtual participation was provided via Webex (with technical difficulties.) All attachments referenced herein were sent to the Commission along with the agenda, prior to the meeting.

Members present were Chair, Derita Coleman Williams; Vice-Chair for Middle Tennessee, Beth Campbell; Vice-Chair for East Tennessee, Sam Elliott; Allen Carter; Dr. Kent Dollar; Brad Grantham; Loni Harris; Kem Hinton; Doris McMillan; Reggie Mudd; Dan Pomeroy; Don Roe; Ray Smith; Ann Toplovich; Hanes Torbett; Susan Williams; Kelly Wolfe and State Archaeologist Phil Hodge. Members attending virtually via Webex were Dr. Bill Kennedy and State Librarian and Archivist Jamie Ritter. Members who sent communication prior to the meeting explaining their absences were Jeremy Harrell; Dr. Bill Lyons; Beverly Robertson; Laura Todd; ex officio members Governor Lee's Representative Alec Richardson and Commissioner Salyers' Representative Gerald Parish. Absent without excuse were Dr. Keith Norman and State Historian Dr. Carroll Van West.

Staff members present in person were Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer Patrick McIntyre; Assistant Director for State Programs Linda Wynn; Historic Sites Program Director Dan Brown; Tennessee Heritage Protection Act and Outreach Coordinator Caty Dirksen; Cemetery Preservation Program Director Graham Perry; Administrative Secretary Ashlee Pierce; and Tennessee Wars Commission Director Nina Scall.

A. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Derita Coleman Williams called the meeting to order shortly after 9:00 A.M. E.D.T. She welcomed everyone to the first meeting in East Tennessee in three years and the first Commission meeting in Greeneville since 2011. She thanked Commission member Susan Williams, her sister-in-law Wilhelmina Williams, and Wilhelmina's husband, Beverly, for putting together and presenting a fantastic afternoon the day prior. She requested that Mrs. Susan Williams elaborate on who all participated in making the Commission's time in Greeneville so memorable. Mrs. Williams relayed that assisted by tour guides from the National Park Service, Jann Mirkov, Director of Main Street: Greeneville and staff guided a wonderful and enjoyable walking tour. The Dickson-Williams House hosted a lovely reception, followed by dinner and a short program at the General Morgan Inn. Ms. Pierce called the roll. As there was a physical quorum in the room a Determination of Necessity was not required for the meeting to proceed.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The September 16, 2022 special meeting minutes were presented for consideration.

Motion

Vice-Chair Elliott gave a correction to the minutes and then moved to approve. Mrs. Campbell seconded. Motion passed.

C. TENNESSEE HERITAGE PROTECTION ACT UPDATE

Sara Page from the TDEC Office of General Counsel updated the Commission on current cases concerning the Tennessee Heritage Protection Act. Mr. Elliott reminded members of the change in bylaws that added the April and August meetings and that the purpose in doing so was to accommodate the requirement in the Heritage Protection Act that they consider waiver petitions at regularly scheduled meetings. He pointed out that the current visit to Greeneville was a demonstration of what the Commission can do when THPA hearings are not on the agenda. He continued that the Commission effectively acts as a court when they hear THPA cases, and when that is the case, that the Commission should have a right to control their docket.

Motion

Mr. Elliott motioned that the Commission limits its hearings of Heritage Protection Act cases to the February, April, and August meetings. This would allow the June and October meetings to be held in other cities besides Nashville, which is the way the meetings were traditionally held and a valuable aspect for the Commission and for others across the state that are interested in history. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Ms. Toplovich asked if that runs the Commission into any issues regarding deadlines for hearings. Mr. Elliott said it did not, and that he had consulted with Ms. Page on the matter. Ms. Page said that any issues could be taken up if they do come along, and that there is flexibility. Motion carried.

D. FINANCE COMMITTEE

Allen Carter, Finance Committee Chair, gave the financial report (*Attachment D.1.*) Questions and discussion ensued, including a breakdown of the real estate transfer taxes that go into each fund. Mr. Torbett questioned the staff salaries not changing from one year to the next, despite inflation. Mr. McIntyre relayed that working with TDEC Human Resources at the initiative of State Archaeologist Phil Hodge, the Historic Preservationist position classification and equivalent archaeological positions in his office were reclassified this year as TDEC Cultural Resource Consultants, which brought with it an increase in the salary for most as part of the reclassification. Most of the preservation professionals on the THC staff are now in this new classification. He recognized that there is still an issue for staff members (in other classifications) and that they will continue to work on that.

Madam Chair Williams noted that at the June meeting portions of the budget for the State Historic Sites and The Wars Commission were approved, and that at the current October Meeting, the full budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, in the amount of \$13,760,200, needed to be approved.

Motion

Mr. Elliott motioned to approve the budget for the FY 2022-2023. Mrs. Williams seconded. Motion carried.

Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer Patrick McIntyre noted that next year's budget planning was under way, but first wanted to acknowledge staff that were present.

Following staff acknowledgement, he reviewed the upcoming budget and noted that they were asking for an increase in publications grants.

Madam Chair Williams expressed that she appreciated the efforts of the Commission members of all the committees to be active and engaged.

E. PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Ann Toplovich, Chair of the Publications Committee, reviewed the publications grants and the Tennessee History Book Award, along with some history on both (*Attachment E*). She noted the significant decrease over the past few years in submissions, which has been linked to the possibility of the low prize amount of \$1000. Ms. Toplovich reviewed the increase of \$1,000 the Tennessee Historical Commission gave towards their portion of the prize amount about 3 years ago and was informed that the Tennessee Library Association unfortunately stopped applying for their grant. Despite the grant increase, the Library Association determined that the cost of completing the grant paperwork was more than the benefit to them. As a result of this, the Publications Committee reached out to the Tennessee Historical Society, as the Society had shown interest in a history book award, to see if they could be a potential new partner. The THS replied that they were very excited and interested. They passed a resolution at their August board meeting to request to become a partner in administering and selecting the Tennessee History Book Award. Pending approval of the THC, they will contribute an additional \$1,000 to match the THC's \$1,000. Their partnership (if approved) will provide administrative support, help in garnering the nominations and double the prize amount from \$1,000 to \$2,000. After a discussion with the recently retired State Librarian and Archivist Chuck Sherrill, it was determined that the Tennessee Library Association will be invited to continue as a partner if they are willing to match the \$1,000 the other partners are individually providing.

Motion

Ms. Toplovich motioned to partner with the Tennessee Historical Society in the annual Tennessee History Book Award and accept their offer for administration and addition of \$1,000 to the prize amount. As this would be requested in May, this would push the award from May to June the next year. In addition to the monetary prize, the winning author would be asked to speak at the annual meeting of the THS. Ms. Williams seconded. Motion carried. Ms. Toplovich reviewed the criteria for the award and the possible addition of E-Books in the future.

F. HISTORIC SITES COMMITTEE

Program Director Dan Brown recognized the site representatives present at the meeting and reviewed his report (*Attachment F.1.*). Mr. Brown commended the Executive Director of Marble Springs, Kyle Dickson, for his technical abilities as he was the first of the sites to make a 3D virtual tour of his site and has also led the other sites in creating Facebook pages to assist with awareness of the sites. Executive Director of the Heritage Alliance Ann Mason, with Chester Inn State Historic Site; President of Sam Houston Memorial Association, Bill Cabbage, representing the Sam Houston Historic Schoolhouse State Historic Site; and Executive Director of Burra Burra Mine State Historic Site, Mitchell Hicks all gave commentary on their management of these THC sites. Mr. Brown reviewed how construction has been affected by the supply shortage on materials needed, along with issues with the economy and increasing prices. Mr. McIntyre commented on this being a "golden era" of funding for the THC Historic Sites program. McIntyre recalled that when he was with the Tennessee Preservation Trust, the State Historic Sites were listed on the "Ten in Tennessee" most endangered list for lack of maintenance and funding. In the years since,

the annual maintenance budget has doubled, and are over \$30 million worth of projects under way just at present. He noted that there is not a site in the system that has not benefited greatly in the last few years due to the commitment of Mr. Brown; the State of Tennessee Real Estate Asset Management (STREAM) Division of the Department of General Services; the General Assembly; Governor Lee; Governor Haslam; and Governor Bredesen who did what he could, given the recession that occurred. Historic Sites Committee member Dan Pomeroy gave a review of the latest meeting where the possibility of online 3D tours of the historic sites was discussed along with a brochure of the Historic Sites. In addition, branding, and how the THC is recognized at each of the historic sites was discussed. The management agreement was reviewed, and there seemed to be some inconsistent statements on how these historic sites might recognize the Commission. Madam Chair Williams agreed to speak with a state attorney on how to make that message more consistent.

G. MONUMENTS AND MARKERS COMMITTEE

In the committee Chair's absence, Mr. Elliott presented the report (*Attachment G.1.*).

Motion

Mr. Elliott motioned to approve all four recommended markers presented. Mr. Wolfe seconded. Linda Wynn updated members on the increase in marker pricing and noted that the Metro Historical Commission's markers went up as well. She also reminded members that the sponsors pay for their own markers. Ms. Wynn informed that there is a large back up on getting markers made and placed due to the pandemic-related material delays and production issues. She also stated there is one manufacturer for nearly every state in the nation, so she would not recommend requesting refurbishments or repairs at this time. Discussion on various marker-related topics ensued. Mrs. Harris noted some further corrections to two of the markers. Mr. Elliott amended his motion to include the two additional corrections. Mr. Wolfe seconded the amended motion. Motion carried.

A five-minute break was taken.

H. WARS COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Nina Scall, Program Director of the Wars Commission presented her report (*Attachment H.1.*). She relayed that last month 8 easement signs were installed in Chattanooga, so now all signs have been placed. She informed members that a subscription had been purchased to Upstream Tech Lens, which will assist her monitoring the easements across the state.

I. CEMETERY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Graham Perry, Cemetery Preservation Program Director presented his report (*Attachment I. 1.*) which included the historic cemetery registry, desecrations, and grave marker cleaning workshops. Mr. Perry also acknowledged the members of the Cemetery Preservation Committee.

J. FEDERAL PROGRAMS REPORT

Executive Director Patrick McIntyre reviewed the Federal Programs Report (*Attachment J.1.*).

K. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Jeremy Harrell was not able to attend the meeting, so in his place Ms. Toplovich presented the slate. The following were nominated: Derita Coleman for Chair; Doris McMillan for Vice-Chair of Middle Tennessee; and Dr. Bill Kennedy for Vice Chair of East Tennessee. The election will take place at the February meeting.

L. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Report from State Librarian

State Librarian Jamie Ritter had technical difficulties and was unable to give his report.

2. Report from State Archaeologist

State Archaeologist Phil Hodge gave an update on the activities at the Tennessee Division of Archaeology. He elaborated on the position re-classifications in the Archaeology and Historical Commission divisions mentioned by Mr. McIntyre.

3. Audit Committee

Madam Chair Williams reviewed the members of the Audit Committee and noted that they planned to meet at Clover Bottom Mansion on November 1st.

4. Foundation Committee

Recently appointed Chair of the Tennessee Historic Commission Foundation Committee, Dan Pomeroy, gave a brief review of the Committee's background and relayed that he was looking into the foundation's status and future.

5. Certificate of Merit Awards 2022 Applications

Madam Chair Williams expressed that she would really like some quality nominations for the Certificate of Merit Awards. She also relayed that she had reached out to some members to ask them to be on the Certificate of Merit Awards committee and that she would also take volunteers.

6. February Meeting

Madam Chair Williams shared that in expectation of a final THPA hearing for the statue in Centennial Park and the Forest Hills street name issue, the February meeting would be a longer meeting than this one. She relayed that meeting would be in Nashville on Friday, February 17, 2023. Madam Chair Williams added that on the day prior members would visit the Clover Bottom mansion where the Commission's offices are located.

7. Public Comments

No one signed up for public comments.

M. ADJOURNMENT

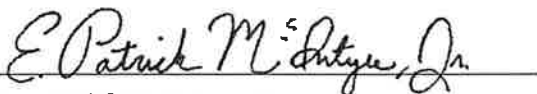
Mr. Carter recognized that the state of Tennessee recently lost one of the greatest law enforcement officers, former TBI director Larry Wallace.

Motion

Mr. Mudd moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Harris seconded. Motion passed.

Madam Chair Williams announced a ten-minute break and asked that all members of the public leave the room so the Commission could go into Executive Session.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. E.D.T..



E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr.
Executive Director



Derita Coleman Williams
Chair

