



TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2023

On Friday, June 16, 2023, the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) met in person at the Morton Museum of Collierville History in Collierville, for its regularly scheduled summer meeting. All attachments referenced herein were sent to the Commission along with the agenda, prior to the meeting.

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

Staff members present were Patrick McIntyre, Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer; Justin Heske, Federal Programs Supervisor and Historic Tax Credit Reviewer; Miranda Christy, Senior Historic Preservation Attorney; Dan Brown, Historic Sites Program Director; Caty Dirksen, Tennessee Heritage Protection Act (THPA) and Outreach Coordinator; Graham Perry, Cemetery Preservation Program Director; Ashlee Pierce, Administrative Secretary; Nina Scall, Tennessee Wars Commission Director; Philip Staffelli-Suel, Technical Preservation Coordinator, CLG (West TN); and Dr. Lane Tillner, Technical Preservation Coordinator, CLG (East TN). Sara Page, Associate Counsel, TDEC Office of General Counsel, was also present and assisting Ms. Christy as counsel for the THC.

A. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Madam Chair Derita Coleman Williams called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M. C.D.T. and welcomed everyone. She commended Laura Todd for a wonderful tour of Collierville. Mrs. Todd relayed it was an honor to host the Commission for their meeting and introduced the mayor of Collierville, Mayor Stan Joyner; the vice-mayor of Collierville, Maureen Fraser; Alderman Missy Marshall; and Shelby County Commissioner David Bradford. Mayor Joyner and Mr. Bradford provided a few words of welcome. Ms. Campbell expressed appreciation for Mrs. Todd's hospitality. Madam Chair Williams thanked Mrs. Robertson for the Memphis Area Transit Authority buses donated for the Memphis tour. She also acknowledged Shelby County Historian, James Rout III for hosting the dinner and the Shelby County Historical Commission for assisting. Also, recognized was Walk Ownership Team for making available the Hunt-Phelan House for the

evening which involved much preparation for the shuttered and closed historic property. Madam Chair recognized Ashley Howell, Executive Director of the Tennessee State Museum for her willingness to discuss objects in their collection from the Hunt and Phelan families. Ms. Howell said a few words about the Hunt-Phelan House and the objects in the State Museum collection from the historic property. Madam Chair Williams acknowledged Justin Heskew for his assistance on the tour providing facts and history on buildings assisted by the Federal Tax Incentive Program through the Commission on the Memphis bus tour. Mr. Heskew gave a brief review of the highlights of his tour. Madam Chair Williams expressed appreciation to Main Street Collierville for providing coffee and water at the meeting. She then asked Executive Director McIntyre to introduce his staff.

Mr. McIntyre noted this was the first time since 2012 that the Commission had met in Collierville, and that it was held in the same wonderful location as the last time. He expressed his gratitude for the museum hosting the meeting again. Mr. McIntyre stated that he “gets to work every day with some of the most fantastic staff you can imagine,” that are very inspiring to him. He then recognized and thanked all staff, including the two newest staff members, Philip Staffelli-Suel and Dr. Lane Tillner, who each work half the state for the Certified Local Government program. Madam Chair Williams acknowledged Representative Kevin Vaughan for his welcome in Memphis. She noted other attendees at the reception at the Hunt-Phelan House including Secretary of State Tre Hargett; Senator Brent Taylor; and Representative Dwayne Thompson. Madam Chair Williams stated that funds for the Commission come from the General Assembly and encouraged building those relationships as much as possible when we have meetings across the state. Madam Chair Williams recognized Ashlee Pierce, Administrative Secretary, stating she wanted to make sure Ms. Pierce got the recognition she deserved for her behind the scenes work putting together the meetings. Ms. Pierce called the roll. 20 members were present and 9 were absent.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The February 17, 2023 meeting minutes were presented for consideration.

Motion

Mr. Mudd moved to approve, and Mrs. Williams seconded. Motion passed.

C. TENNESSEE HERITAGE PROTECTION ACT

1. Crockett County/Crockett County Veterans Memorial Association Petition

The next item on the agenda was the joint petition filed by Crockett County and the Crockett County Veterans Memorial Association filed pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §4-1-412(h) of the Heritage Protection Act. This provision provides for the transfer of ownership and/or relocation of a memorial by consent in lieu of the waiver process. Members were previously provided a copy of T.C.A. §4-1-412(h). Madam Chair Williams also read it aloud for the record, which states, “Notwithstanding any provision of this section, in lieu of a waiver, a historic organization may petition the commission to transfer ownership of, relocate, or both transfer ownership of and relocate, a memorial to the historic organization with the consent of the public entity exercising control over the memorial. The petition must be filed with a copy of a resolution, ordinance, or order from the governing body of the public entity consenting to the transfer, relocation, or both transfer and relocation. The petition must include an assessment of costs associated with the transfer, relocation, or both transfer and relocation, and identify who will be responsible for the

costs. If the petition includes relocation, a description or map of the proposed location must be submitted with the petition. A memorial may be relocated only to an accessible and suitable location within this state as determined by the commission. The commission may approve a petition upon a majority vote of the entire membership of the commission.”

She continued “for this case, the Crockett County Veterans Memorial Association is the historic organization and Crockett County is the public entity. If granted, the Tennessee Historical Commission historical marker 4D 38 honoring Robert H. “Bob” White, currently located on the Southwestern corner of the Crockett County courthouse lawn in Alamo, will be relocated to the Northwestern corner of the Crockett County courthouse lawn in order to permit Petitioner to erect “Gold Star” and “Blue Star” markers, which honor American soldiers and their families who are from Crockett County, Tennessee.” Commission members were provided with a copy of the petition in advance, along with a proposed order.

Motion

Mr. Elliott moved to approve the petition. Ms. Toplovich seconded. Lindy Avery Register, with the Crockett County Veterans Memorial Association and Crockett County Veterans Service Office, gave a brief description on what was being planned and requested to do. Ms. Pierce performed a roll call vote. Motion passed.

D. FINANCE COMMITTEE

Next on the agenda was the financial statement. With Allen Carter, Finance Committee Chair, absent, Mr. Mudd gave the report relaying the Commission was over budget in terms of revenues and under budget in that of expenses (*Attachment D.1.*). There was a surplus due to real estate transfer taxes, and a plan was needed to utilize that. Discussion and questions ensued.

Motion

Mr. Mudd moved to approve the financial statement. Mrs. Campbell seconded. Motion passed.

Executive Director Mr. Patrick McIntyre gave an update on the budget for the next fiscal year. He stated there were several requests made by the Commission the past year that did not get approved for funding, one being an increase for publication grants.

Next, TDEC attorney Sara Page presented on conflicts of interest. She told Commission members to be thinking of organizations they serve on the boards of and/or volunteer for and for when it is time to vote on grants to be thinking whether they should vote on an item. She urged members to recuse themselves if they have a direct conflict or if something could be perceived as a conflict.

E. PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

David Gwinn, Director of the West Tennessee Historical Society commented. Ms. Ann Toplovich, Chair of the Publications Committee reviewed National History Day and relayed that top placing winners were from Tennessee. She then gave an overview of the report (*Attachment E*) from the Publications Committee.

Motion

Ms. Toplovich moved to approve the annual publication grants for the FY 2023-2024 cycle. Mr. Ritter seconded. Motion passed.

Motion

Ms. Toplovich moved to approve the Presidential Papers grants. Mr. Ritter seconded. Motion passed.

Ms. Toplovich relayed that the winner for the 2022 Tennessee History Book Award was *Title IX, Pat Summitt, and Tennessee Trailblazers: 50 Years, 50 Stories* by Mary Ellen Pethel.

F. HISTORIC SITES COMMITTEE

Historic Sites Committee Chair, Beverly Robertson, commended Dan Brown, Director of the Historic Sites program, for his lone work with all State-owned historic sites. Mr. Brown reviewed his report (*Attachment F.1.*). He noted that the second position for the program had been posted and should hopefully be filled by the end of July, if not before. Madam Chair Williams commented that she hoped future meetings might be held at historic sites so that it would bring awareness and recognition of them to the Commission members.

Motion

Mrs. Robertson motioned to approve the operating grants to the state historic sites for FY 23-24 (*Attachment F.2.*). Mrs. Campbell seconded. Motion passed.

A five-minute break was taken.

G. MONUMENTS AND MARKERS COMMITTEE

Mr. Elliott presented the report (*Attachment G.1.*). He went through each recommended text individually and referred to Mr. Hinton and Mr. Pomeroy's submitted recommendations. The first marker, Piedmont/Fleet Building, was reviewed.

Motion

Mr. Elliott moved to accept Mr. Pomeroy's recommendation. Mrs. Toplovich seconded. Motion passed.

The next marker reviewed was Aaittafama' Archaeological Park.

Motion

Mr. Elliott moved to accept Mr. Hinton's recommendation. Dr. West seconded. Motion passed.

The next marker reviewed was Col. Robert Henry Dyer.

Motion

Mr. Elliott moved to accept Mr. Pomeroy's recommendation. Mrs. Harris seconded. Motion passed.

The next marker reviewed was Missionary Robert Mooney.

Motion

Mr. Elliott moved to accept the marker as presented. Mr. Pomeroy interjected that he had many questions on this marker text. Mr. Elliott withdrew his motion and said it would be deferred back to the committee for the next meeting. Dr. West offered to research the subject and relay his findings to the committee. Mrs. Robertson suggested that the parameters of the application for markers be reviewed and possibly updated to aid in less issues editing texts. Mr. Elliott moved to defer the marker to the committee pending Dr. West's research until the next meeting. Mrs. Todd seconded. Motion passed.

The next marker reviewed was WWII Mid-Air Collision.

Motion

Mr. Elliott moved to accept Mr. Pomeroy's recommendation. Mrs. Todd seconded. Motion passed.

The next marker reviewed was Chickamauga Mound.

Motion

Mr. Elliott moved to defer due to Mr. Pomeroy's submitted questions. Mrs. Robertson seconded. Motion passed.

The next marker reviewed was Line Springs Hotel 1910-1948.

Motion

Mr. Elliott moved to accept Mr. Pomeroy's recommendation. Mrs. Williams seconded. Motion passed.

The next marker reviewed was Cordell Hull Powerhouse 50th Anniversary. Dr. West suggested adding the word "Dam" in the title, following the word "Hull", so that it would read, "Cordell Hull Dam Powerhouse 50th Anniversary. Mr. Pomeroy offered some suggestions. Ms. Toplovich added that "West" in front of the word "Cookeville" should be stricken as there is no such city.

Motion

Mr. Elliott moved to change the title of the marker to Cordell Hull Dam and Powerhouse; the last sentence on the first side to include the word, "ceremoniously" before the word "performed"; and to remove the word "West" from the last sentence on the second side. Dr. West seconded. Motion passed.

The final marker reviewed was Moye Green Boarding House c. 1890-1945. Mr. Elliott noted that while it did not have a submitted recommendation for an edit, he had noticed that the address number was incorrect. He said he would need to research it again to find the correct number.

Motion

Mr. Elliott moved to accept the marker with the correct address number. Mrs. Williams seconded. Motion passed.

H. WARS COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Ms. Nina Scall, Director of the Wars Commission, presented her report (*Attachment H.1.*). Madam Chair Williams commended Ms. Scall and Mr. McIntyre for the Wars Commission recently being awarded the Brian C. Pohanka Preservation Organization Award by the American Battlefield Trust, for efforts in advancing the study of military history in Tennessee. Ms. Scall then presented the Wars Commission budget for FY 2022-2023.

Motion

Dr. Dollar moved for approval of the budget. Mrs. Toplovich seconded. Dr. West recused himself from voting. Motion passed.

L. AUDIT COMMITTEE

Dr. Bill Lyons, Audit Committee Chair gave brief comments.

I. CEMETERY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Graham Perry, Cemetery Preservation Program Director gave a brief review of his report (*Attachment I.1.*), including the Historic Cemetery Register and Statewide Map.

J. FEDERAL PROGRAMS REPORT

Mr. McIntyre reviewed the Federal Programs Report (*Attachment J.1.*). He noted that the Section 106 review process is entirely digital now, accelerated by the COVID pandemic, and the turn around time now for responses is about two days.

K. TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION FOUNDATION

Mr. Pomeroy gave some commentary on the Foundation. He stated it must be decided whether to reestablish or dismantle it, and then whether that is the responsibility of the staff or the Commission. Mr. Elliott noted that either would be painful, considering the steps required. Discussion ensued. Madam Chair Williams requested that the committee get together again for a discussion.

L. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Bylaws Study Committee Establishment

Madam Chair Williams informed she is establishing a committee for studying the bylaws. She noted Mr. Harrell agreed to be the Chair, and that Judge Haywood, Ms. Toplovich, and Dr. Lyons were all appointed to the committee by the Chairman. Mr. Elliott, Mrs. McMillan, Mr. Pomeroy, and Mrs. Campbell also volunteered. Madam Chair also suggested Ms. Christy be present at the committee meetings as well.

2. Report from State Librarian and Archivist

State Librarian and Archivist, Jamie Ritter reviewed his report. He noted he is closing in on his first full year and that he looked forward to hosting a Commission meeting at the Library and Archives in the future.

3. Report from State Historian

The State Historian Dr. Carroll Van West reviewed his report.

4. August and October Meetings

Madam Chair Williams stated that there is currently not a THPA legal matter that will need to come before the Commission prior to October. Therefore, a motion could be made to cancel the August meeting.

Motion

Mr. Elliott moved to cancel the August meeting. Mrs. Williams seconded. Motion passed.

Madam Chair Williams informed the group that the October meeting is set for Friday October 20th, at Rocky Mount Historic Site in Johnson City, with Hanes Torbett as host.

Motion

Madam Chair moved to accept Johnson City as the location for the October meeting. Mrs. McMillan seconded. Motion passed.

She also relayed that she had requested Mr. Mudd to host the February 2024 meeting in Sumner County. Planning further ahead, there was discussion about returning next summer to West Tennessee with Judge Haywood, Mrs. Harris, Mr. Grantham, and Mrs. Robertson as hosts.

5. Public Comments

One person signed up to comment, former Commission member Paul Matthews.

M. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Williams asked about Madam Chair Williams' activities lobbying with the Legislature. She noted that Ms. Toplovich; Mr. Pomeroy; Mr. Mudd; Mr. Harrell; Mr. Hinton; and Mrs. McMillan were with her for many committee meetings, along with Mr. McIntyre. She reviewed the bill to vacate and reconstitute the Commission and that it remains an active item of legislation. She

noted that she took the direction of the Executive Branch legislative liaison and the TDEC legislative liaison during the meetings. She asked Ms. Christy to review the passing of the Monuments and Memorials bill that was signed into law by the governor. Ms. Christy noted that the new Commission will meet some time in July, but that a date has not been set yet. Discussion ensued.

It was announced that Gerald Parish was retiring soon. He commented that he had learned a lot being on the Commission and that he would like his final act at a Commission meeting to be to motion to adjourn. There was no other business that needed to be addressed before the Commission.

Motion

Mr. Parish motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mrs. Williams seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m. C.D.T..

E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr.
Executive Director

Derita Coleman Williams
Chair

