



TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Special Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2025

The Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) met virtually on MS TEAMS for a special call meeting. Appointed members present were Chair Sam Elliott, Ambassador Victor Ashe, Beth Campbell, Dr. Warren Dockter, James Kay, Jr., Loni Harris, Doris McMillan, Reggie Mudd, Dan Pomeroy, Ray Smith, Dr. Tim Smith, Laura Todd, and Susan Williams. Ex-Officio members present were State Archeologist Phil Hodge, Hobart Akin. Members absent included Beverly Robertson and Kelley Wolfe. Ex-Officio members absent included State Historian, Dr. Carroll Van West, State Archivist Jamie Ritter, Governor's Representative Ben Silverman.

Staff present were Executive Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Patrick McIntyre; Senior Associate Counsel and State Historic Preservation Officer, Miranda Montgomery; Assistant Director for Federal Programs & Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Holly Barnett; Historic Sites Program Coordinator, Bobby Cooley; Tennessee Wars Commission Program Director, Nina Scall; Tennessee Heritage Protection Act (THPA) and Outreach Coordinator, Caty Dirksen; Cemetery Preservation Program Director, Graham Perry, Historic Preservation Specialist, Dr. Ethan Holden; Fiscal Officer and Grants Administrator, Laura Ragan; and Administrative Secretary Barbara Grissom.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Elliott called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. Ms. Grissom called the roll. A quorum was deemed present.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Elliott informed the Commission there was a written public comment received. Miranda Montgomery, Senior Associate Counsel and State Historic Preservation Officer, stated the comment did not have to be read into record but noted as received. Ms. Caty Dirksen, Tennessee Heritage Protection Act (THPA) and Outreach Coordinator, stated there was one person to sign up for public comments, Ms. Lyn Anyea. Ms. Anyea brought public greetings from Mudd Island, near Beale St. in Memphis, TN and informed the committee she respected the work of the Historical Commission. The Chairman thanked her for her comments.

C. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Election of Selection Committee

Chairman Elliott proceeded with discussion. He stated the Committee was aware of the forthcoming resignation of the Executive Director, Mr. Patrick McIntyre, effective November 15, 2025. Under the by-laws, a Selection Committee must be elected to conduct a search for qualified candidates for the Executive Director position. The Chair reminded the membership that, per the by-laws, the Chair does not appoint that Committee; rather, the Committee is to be elected by the membership at large.

As previously communicated, the Chair recommends that the selection committee consist of one member from each Grand Division—West Tennessee, Middle Tennessee, and East Tennessee—and two at-large members. He then opened the floor for volunteers. Volunteers for the Executive Director Selection Committee were: West Tennessee: Mrs. Loni Harris; Middle Tennessee: Mrs. Beth Campbell and Mr. Dan Pomeroy; East Tennessee: Dr. Warren Dockter and Mr. Ray Smith. Chairman Elliott asked whether there were further nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming.

Motion

Beth Campbell motioned to elect the following persons to serve on the Executive Director Selection Committee with one member from each Grand Division and two at-large members, as follows: West Tennessee: Mrs. Loni Harris; Middle Tennessee: Mrs. Beth Campbell and Mr. Dan Pomeroy; East Tennessee: Dr. Warren Dockter and Mr. Ray Smith. Loni Harris seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously. Yeas: Ashe, Campbell, Kay, Dockter, Elliott, Harris, Mudd, Pomeroy, R. Smith, T. Smith, Williams.

It is the consensus of the Commission that Dr. Warren Dockter serve as Chair of the Executive Director Selection Committee. Dr. Dockter accepted the nomination and will act in that capacity. Chairman Elliott will serve as an ex-officio member of the Committee; the Commission also reserves the right to participate in an ex-officio manner.

General Discussion of Interim Matters

Chairman Elliott proceeded with discussion of interim matters.

Mr. Ashe voiced his objection to a written public comment notice urging the appointment of Miranda Montgomery as Interim Executive Director. He noted that the memo was unsigned and therefore should be disregarded. Ms. Dirksen responded that the letter was submitted prior to the deadline as a public comment, and that she forwarded it along with the other written comments to the Commission. She added that the comments reflected the views of the staff who authored the letter. Nina Scall, Historic Preservation Specialist & Program Director, disclosed that she was one of the staff members who submitted the letter. Discussion ensued. Ms. Montgomery stated

that in her role right now there has not been a conflict of interest and that she was technically employed through TDEC and the Office of General Counsel. She stated that if she is interim director she would have another TDEC attorney present in the meetings. Mr. McIntyre stated that he did not have a comment on the conflict of interest but that Ms. Montgomery was in the THC budget and in the monthly staffing pattern and is an employee of the Tennessee Historical Commission. Chairman Elliott observed that he did not perceive a conflict of interest and noted that the issue of the interim director appointment has been placed on the agenda for the October 10 meeting. Dr. Warren Dockter requested that the Commission be provided with an organizational flow chart illustrating reporting relationships and responsibilities, as well as a current job description for the Executive Director role.

2. Future Meeting Sites

Chairman Elliott indicated a desire to return to the Commission's traditional meeting rotation. He proposed that the Middle Tennessee session be held at Clover Bottom, the Historical Commission headquarters, and that the familiar rotation of West Tennessee in June and East Tennessee in October be reinstated, with the caveat that June's meeting will need rescheduling due to a national holiday. In discussion, Pickwick Landing State Park, in Counce, TN was suggested as the West Tennessee location, and Oak Ridge, Tennessee was put forward for East Tennessee.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman Elliott thanked everyone for their time and adjourned the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 a.m.

E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr.
Executive Director

Sam D. Elliott
Chairman