



C H A T H A M C O U N T Y
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room
January 6, 2010 - 2:00 P.M.
Final Agenda

January 6, 2010 Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

CCHPC MEMBERS PRESENT: Vaughnette Goode-Walker, Chairman Lisa L. White, Vice Chairman, George Cohen, Jane A. Feiler, Stephen Lindell, Pamela G. Lossing CCPHC MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: William Haynes, Daves Rossell
CCHPC/MPC STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Ellen Harris, Historic Preservation Planner, Julie Yawn, System Analyst, Mary E. Mitchell, Board Assistant

I. Call to Order and Welcome

1. [Introductions](#)

Chairman Goode-Walker asked everyone to introduce themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

2. [October 7, 2009 Meeting Minutes](#)

Attachment: [Minutes 10-07-09.pdf](#)

Board Action:

Approval of October 7, 2009 Meeting Minutes. -

Vote Results

Motion: Stephen T. Lindell

Second: George Cohen

III. Posting

IV. Consent Agenda

V. Regular Agenda

3. [Documenting People and Property through Local Government Records- Luciana Spracher](#)

Ms. Harris introduced the guest speaker, **Ms. Luciana Spracher, Archivist, City of Savannah Research Library.**

Ms. Spracher thanked Ms. Harris for inviting her and introduced the City of Savannah's Research Library Director, Ms. Glenda Anderson. Ms. Spracher informed the Commission that the Research Library & Municipal Archives was established by the late Arthur A. (Don) Mendonsa, City Manager. It serves the library information needs of City of Savannah employees, by maintaining collections of professional and technical publications related to City government functions and by performing reference and research services related to City information needs. The Library Archives also responds to reference requests from researchers and the general public which relate to archival and historical City records under its administration in the City Records Center.

She explained that the **City of Savannah, Georgia Records** (1790-1979) includes over 1,000 cubic feet of the City's oldest extant archival records, most of the 19th and mid-20th century vintage. The **City Council Meeting Papers** (1817-1957) includes almost 470 cubic feet of records representing the work of City Council prior to the adoption of the council-manager form of government in 1957. The **Savannah Area Local Government Documents Collection** (1905-present; bulk 1970s-present) includes almost 190 cubic feet of archival, reference (non-circulating) local documents published by and for units of City government and those of other non-city local governmental entities. The collection also includes publications of state and federal governmental agencies, when those documents have projects in the Savannah area. The **Engineering Department Retrospective Maps Collection** (1752-1982; bulk 1870-1939) includes almost 3,300 maps documenting the urban development of Savannah, including land subdivision, street openings, water and sewer lines, and right-of-ways. The **Engineering Department Retrospective Plans & Designs Collection** (1902-1978) includes 417 plans and designs of City properties and buildings, including City Hall and the municipal abattoir, airport, auditorium, jail, stadium, and wharf. The **Public Development Bureau Retrospective Plans Collection** (1889-1985; bulk 1960s-1980s) includes over 200 plans of community development projects, including Savannah Revolutionary Battlefield Park, Urban Renewal projects, and square renovations.

A brief question and answer period was held. Chairman Goode-Walker, on behalf of the Commission, thanked Ms. Spracher for her presentation.

VI. Request for Extensions

VII. Staff Reviews

4. [COA20091216-08-1 Rear Porch Addition, Fred Scott](#)

Attachment: [9958 Pin Point Ave Application and documents.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Decision letter.pdf](#)

Ms. Goode-Walker reported that this item was approved by the staff. No vote is required by the Commission.

Board Action:

No vote needed by Commission.

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Vote Results

Motion:

Second:

VIII. Other Business

New Business

5. Upcoming Requests

Ms. Goode-Walker asked Ms. Harris if there were any upcoming new requests for the Commission's agenda.

Ms. Harris answered that prior to the holidays, she spoke with Mr. Herbert Kemp, President of the Sandfly Neighborhood Association, who gave her an update on Sandfly's intention to submit an application to become a local historic district. She believes they have enough signatures in the Luten Hill area to go forward with a limited district with the idea of expanding this at a later time. Mr. Kemp liked the idea and suggested that they meet after the holidays with the neighborhood and discuss this further.

She reported that she also received a call from the Isle of Hope Baptist Church which is located in Sandfly and the pastor of the church was inquiring about their national register nomination. She contacted the state's Historic Preservation office and was told that they needed some additional information from the church. Ms. Harris said she informed the pastor of this and also informed him that we have a local program within the Chatham County Register of Historic Places that he might be of interest to him. She gave the pastor some preliminary information and he sounded very interested and wants to meet with her after the holidays.

Ms. Harris believes that both of these are very viable and that the Commission will hear about them later.

Ms. Goode-Walker stated that prior to the meeting today, she called Ms. Harris to get some information on the property that Bethesda owns on the Southside across from Kroger on Ferguson Avenue and Diamond Causeway. Approximately 40 acres of property has been cleared, but she understands that presently nothing has been proposed for the property.

Ms. Harris said that several weeks ago, an article was in the Savannah Morning News informing the area residents that the land would be cleared, they were not going to put up a building, but were just clearing the land for timber and would replant timber. She will find the news article and send it to the Commission members. A buffer was supposed to be left between the road and the property.

Ms. Goode-Walker stated that with the leaves off the trees, the buffer is weak and it is scary with that much land cleared in a space that could cause problems with drainage and flooding. She lives down the street from this property and her concern is what could happen.

Ms. Goode-Walker stated that she, too, is concerned about Sandfly because one historic structure was demolished to build a new structure across from Wal-Mart

that looks almost like Wal-Mart. Therefore, this year the Commission needs to focus on looking at the districts and try to do more educational awareness to bring them into the understanding that the National Register looks good on paper, but the local designation is great.

Ms. Feiler wanted to know whether it's the person who owns the property contacts the Commission or do the Commission contacts the individuals they feel might be interested in getting the designation.

Ms. Harris answered that when this Commission was initially formed, they developed a list of all the eligible properties and sent informational packets explaining the Commission's purpose and the benefits of individuals listing their property. Approximately a year later, they followed this up a series of letters and phone calls trying to arrange neighborhoods, etc. Ms. Harris believes that because of the informational packets, the Commission was able to get the two historic properties listed as well as Pinpoint. Subsequently, aside from articles in the newspaper and Historic Savannah Foundation's newsletter, there has not been a lot of personal outreach to the property owners. She believes that due to Dr. Rossell's initiative two years ago when he was chairman asked all the Commission members to personally try to contact property owners on the list. However, this has not generated any new applications.

Ms. Goode-Walker believes the Commission might want to try this again. She would be happy to go into the community and try to inform the individuals about the local designations.

Mr. Cohen asked that since the last effort did not materialize as they wanted, is there something they can do differently such as a public relations or press release campaign? He stated that maybe the Commission might be able to do get the local television stations to do a news article.

Ms. Goode-Walker said the County's program was effective and it is still running on the Government Channel 16.

IX. Notices, Proclamations and Acknowledgements

6. [Designation](#)

Ms. Harris reported that Chatham County has been designated as a Certified Local Government.

X. Adjournment

7. [Adjourn](#)

There being no further business to come before the Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission, Chairman Goode-Walker adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Harris,
Preservation Planner

EH:mem

The Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission provides meeting summary minutes which are adopted by the respective Board. Verbatim transcripts of minutes are the responsibility of the interested party.