



S A V A N N A H - C H A T H A M C O U N T Y
HISTORIC SITE & MONUMENT COMMISSION

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room
June 4, 2015 4:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

JUNE 4, 2015 HISTORIC SITE AND MONUMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

HSMC Members Present: Eli Karatassos, Chair
Walt Harper, Secretary
Thomas Gensheimer
Kristopher Monroe

HSMC Members Not Present: Ryan Madson
Giselle Rahn

MPC Staff Present: Ellen Harris, Director of Urban Planning and Historic Preservation
Sara Farr, Historic Preservation Planner
Mary E. Mitchell, Administrative Assistant

I. Call to Order and Welcome

1. [Order and Welcome](#)

Mr. Karatassos called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. He introduced Ms. Uliana Postrygan to the HSMC. Ms. Postrygan is working as an intern at the Historic Savannah Foundation. She is pursuing a Ph.D in Architectural History.

Mr. Karatassos outlined the role of the Historic Site and Monument Commission.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

2. [Approve May 7, 2015 Meeting Minutes](#)

Attachment: [May 7, 2015 Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

Board Action:

The Savannah-Chatham County Historic Site and

Monument Commission does hereby approve the - PASS
Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2015

Vote Results

Motion: Thomas Gensheimer

Second: Kristopher Monroe

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Walt Harper - Aye

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Kristopher Monroe - Aye

III. Regular Agenda

3. [Petition of Erin Wessling for Judge Realty | 15-002195-PA | 347 Abercorn Street | Mural](#)

Attachment: [Image 1.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Image 2.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Image 3.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Submittal Package.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Project Example 1.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Project Example 2.pdf](#)

Ms. Erin Wessling was present on behalf of the petition.

Ms. Sara Farr gave the staff report. The petitioner is requesting a temporary mural at 347 Abercorn Street. Judge Realty is holding a contest for a temporary moss mural on their building. The mural will be completed with Art Rise Savannah to celebrate the community and the environment. The mural will take approximately five to seven days to install and grow. The final design will last nine to fifteen days before being removed from the building. The final design will incorporate a large image of a branch with other foliage surrounding it and a bird.

Ms. Farr stated that at the May 7, 2015 meeting, the mural was approved with the condition that it be removed in accordance with Preservation Brief 1 and that the final design be approved by the HSMC.

Ms. Farr reported that staff recommends approval of the mural with the condition it is removed in accordance with Preservation Brief 1, because otherwise it meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art

PETITIONER COMMENTS

Ms. Wessling thanked the HSMC for hearing their petition. As reported by Ms. Farr, the mural will take approximately five to seven days to install and grow. The final design will last nine to fifteen days before being removed from the building.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

BOARD DISCUSSION

Mr. Karatassos explained that at the May 7, 2015 meeting, HSMC member Kristopher Monroe recused from participating in this petition as he serves as the President of the Board of Art Rise Savannah. However, as the HSMC approved this petition conditionally at that meeting, the HSMC did not see the need for Mr. Monroe to abstain today.

Board Action:

The Savannah-Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby approve the mural with the condition it is removed in accordance with Preservation Brief 1, because - PASS otherwise it meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

Vote Results

Motion: Walt Harper

Second: Thomas Gensheimer

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Walt Harper - Aye

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Kristopher Monroe - Aye

IV. Other Business

4. [Commissioner Items- Municipal Auditorium Marker \(Walt Harper\)](#)

Attachment: [Municipal Auditorium Information.pdf](#)

Mr. Walt Harper informed the HSMC that after a recent Park and Tree Commission meeting, they visited what is known as the Barn off of Ogeechee Road in the Laurel Grove Cemetery area. Behind one of the buildings, they found in a ravine a marker showing "Municipal Auditorium A. D. 1916." Mr. Harper said he spoke with Joe Shearouse and Gordon Denny about the marker. They would like to place the marker between the two magnolias at the Civic Center.

Mr. Harper said they also thought about putting a marker or a plaque here displaying information about the Municipal Auditorium that was built in 1916 and was located on Orleans Square, fronting on Barnard Street, and bounded by Jefferson, Hull and Perry Streets. This is City property. The Municipal Auditorium was demolished in October 1971 to make room for the new Savannah Civic Center.

5. [Next Meeting - Thursday, July 2, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in the Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room, MPC,](#)

112 E. State Street

V. Adjournment

6. Adjourned

There being no further business to come before the HSMC, Mr. Karatassos adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Harris
Director of Urban Planning and Historic Preservation

EIH: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.