



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
January 7, 2016 4:00 P.M.
Meeting Minutes

JANUARY 7, 2016 HISTORIC SITE AND MONUMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

HDRB Members Present: Eli Karatassos, Chair
Walt Harper, Secretary
Thomas Gensheimer
Ryan Madson
Kristopher Monroe

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 recognized Ms. Uliana Postrygan in attendance. Mr. Karatassos outlined the purpose and role of the Historic Site and Monument Commission.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

2. [Approval of December 3, 2015 Meeting Minutes](#)

Attachment: [December 3, 2015 Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

Board Action:

The Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby approve the meeting Minutes of December - PASS 3, 2015.

Vote Results

Motion: Ryan Madson	
Second: Walt Harper	
Thomas Gensheimer	- Aye
Walt Harper	- Aye
Eli Karatassos	- Aye
Ryan Madson	- Aye
Kristopher Monroe	- Aye

III. Regular Agenda

3. [Petition of C. Harrison Chandler for the Welmont Gallery | 15-005512-PA | 1930 Montgomery Street | Rotating Mural](#)

Attachment: [AERIAL MAP.pdf](#)
Attachment: [Mural Application 2.pdf](#)
Attachment: [HSMC Application.pdf](#)
Attachment: [Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)
Attachment: [Mural Application 1.pdf](#)

Mr. C. Harrison Chandler was present on behalf of the petition.

Ms. Sara Farr gave the staff report. The petitioner is requesting approval for a rotating mural at 1930 Montgomery Street. The mural will be located on the north face of the building, which houses Welmont Gallery. This building is not located in a local historic district. The mural will be sided 40 feet wide by 25 feet tall with paint as the primary material. The mural will be changed two times per year (6 months each) with sketches submitted for each mural. The exact design of the first mural has not been determined, but it is planned to be an abstract mural similar to the images provided.

Ms. Farr stated that the mural will be located on private property. Therefore, an escrow payment is not required. Public notices were sent to property owners within 200 feet of the property and to the neighborhood groups. Public notice signs were posted on the property fifteen days prior to the meeting. No comments were received from the public.

Ms. Farr reported that staff recommends approval of the mural with the following conditions:

1. The final design is provided for approval prior to installation with all subsequent mural designs to be approved by staff;
2. Paint and other materials are provided for approval prior to installations;
3. Details about the removal process are provided;
4. All artists meet the artist selection guidelines;

Because otherwise it meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

PETITIONER COMMENTS

Mr. Chandler said the theme of the mural is going to be changing and evolving bi-

annually. It will be an easily accessible blank canvas for artists in the community to create large-scale works. Their contributions will help to enhance cultural exposure within the neighborhood. The mural will help to enhance and complement the area that it is featured between 35th and 36th Streets along the Montgomery corridor. As far as context, this area is growing and with events being held by Savannah Development and Renewal Authority and the Savannah College of Art and Design, many opportunities will be there for them to reach out to the community and build the artistic character of the neighborhood.

Mr. Chandler said the mural will allow artists to portray ideas that can help the community appreciate the space where the mural is located, as well as giving historic and socio-cultural context in the Wells Park District. The purpose of the mural wall is to aid in the revitalization and renewal of our immediate area; in the past, public art projects such as murals have proven effective in helping to eradicate graffiti. The Welmont will foster creativity in the community and help showcase artists' talents on numerous levels. Artists will be local artists as well as other nationally and internationally recognized artists. They will work with organizations such as the SDRA and SCAD to bring fresh ideas and works to the wall and build relationships with other local organizations. The artists will be selected by Charlie Crosby and Harrison Chandler. The selection process will be based on local interest in the mural as well as a call to action by the Welmont for local artists and student artists from Savannah. Mr. Chandler said they will have an application process available to help streamline the selection of those interested. They will look at established muralists such as Atlanta native Alex Brewer. Alex has work with some of the staff at the Welmont in the past for similar projects in Columbus and Atlanta Georgia. Examples of his work were provided. He said the works selected will usually be abstract.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION

The Commission discussed whether or not they were comfortable allowing staff to approve the murals that will come to this site. The majority of the Commission members felt the murals should come before the Commission. The Commission also discussed the possibility of making changes to the mural policy, including loosening the requirements to come before the board for all murals.

Board Action:

The Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby approve the site location and concept of the - PASS rotating mural.

Vote Results

Motion: Ryan Madson

Second: Thomas Gensheimer

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Ryan Madson - Aye

Kristopher Monroe - Aye

Thomas Gensheimer	- Aye
Walt Harper	- Aye

Board Action:

The Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby approve that all murals at this site must come before the Commission for approval. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Thomas Gensheimer
Second: Walt Harper
Thomas Gensheimer - Aye
Walt Harper - Aye
Eli Karatassos - Aye
Ryan Madson - Nay
Kristopher Monroe - Aye

4. [Petition of Georgia Historical Society | 15-006148-HM | 201 East Broughton Street | Historical Marker](#)

Attachment: [Location.pdf](#)
Attachment: [Submittal Packet.pdf](#)
Attachment: [AERIAL MAP.pdf](#)
Attachment: [Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)

Ms. Christy Crisp of the Georgia Historical Society was present on behalf of the petition.

Ms. Sara Farr gave the staff report. The Georgia Historical Society, in collaboration with the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) is requesting to erect a historical marker on the Georgia Civil Rights Trail (CRT) at the Jen Library at 201 East Broughton Street commemorating the Savannah Protest Movement. The GHS staff consulted with SCAD and Mayor Edna Jackson to draft the text. The proposed site for the marker is on Lincoln opposite the Jen Library. It will face the Gutstein Gallery and be easily visible by pedestrians. It will be placed on the edge of the Kehoe House's parking lot near the hedges. The marker will be on a pole facing Lincoln Street.

Ms. Farr said the marker was continued at the December meeting in order to reconsider the location. It was originally proposed to be mounted on the building along Broughton Street. The Commission was concerned about the visibility of the marker in such a low location (below the windows).

Ms. Farr explained that as required in the Master Plan and Guidelines, written notice was sent to all property owners, and the neighborhood association, within 200 feet of the subject property. A sign was posted on the property fifteen days prior to the meeting. No comments were received from the public. The marker will not be located on public

property. The Georgia Historical Society, who administers the Georgia Historical Society Marker Program, is responsible for the repair and replacement of the marker.

Ms. Farr reported that staff recommends approval of the marker with the following conditions:

1. The final text has the sponsors names in a smaller font than the main text;
2. The proposed location is restudied and changed to be closer to the Jen Library;

because otherwise it meets the Historic Site and Monument Commission Guidelines.

PETITIONER COMMENTS

Ms. Crisp explained that the Georgia Historical Society and SCAD have been looking to find the most visible and accessible location for the maker. They want people to be able to see the marker. She believes that everyone is on the same page and appreciation for the content and the idea that they want the residents, tourists, and visitors to enjoy the marker.

Ms. Crisp stated that in their conversation with SCAD, the ideal came up about mounting the marker on the building along the bottom. However, a new idea is to put the marker at eye level by the entrance on Abercorn Street on the wall. The visibility is here as it is a highly traffic corner. Ms. Crisp said this is their preferred site now and SCAD is on board with this new idea.

Mr. Smith of SCAD stated that they want to be a part of this and are open to creative ideas and solutions.

Ms. Crisp reiterated that they want to put the marker in a location that is visible and accessible to traffic. They were concerned about putting the marker on Lincoln Street because they believe that nobody will see it.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION

The Commission's discussion centered around the proposed location. They believe this is something that staff needs to look at further and bring another recommendation to the Commission. They like this location better than Lincoln Street, but believes this needs to be looked at further. The Commission does not want to set a precedent. The Commission directed that the petitioner continue to look for suitable placement sites for the marker.

Ms. Harris said staff likes the idea of the marker being mounted on the building, but one standard states that the marker needs to be located as close as possible to the original location. She explained that the staff's recommendation is that the marker not be located on Broughton Street, but on Lincoln Street at the corner adjacent to where the Azalea Room was located. Ms. Harris said she believes that the only provision the Commission is referring to is not that it cannot be installed in the concrete, but not along Broughton Street.

Ms. Harris explained that Traffic Engineering, Parking & Enforcement and Tourism have been working on the streetscape plan for this area.

Board Action:

The Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby table the marker to restudy the sites and allow the petitioner to provide a selection of sites to present to the Commission at a future meeting. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Ryan Madson
Second: Thomas Gensheimer
Thomas Gensheimer - Aye
Walt Harper - Aye
Eli Karatassos - Aye
Ryan Madson - Aye
Kristopher Monroe - Aye

IV. Other Business

5. [Commissioner Items](#)

6. [January 12, 2016 | 10:00 AM -12:00 PM | Parliamentary Procedures to Improve your Meetings with Sarah Merkle | 112 East State Street](#)

Mr. Karatassos reminded the Commission that Ms. Sarah Merkle will be conducting parliamentary training at the MPC office, 112 East State Street on January 12, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. He asked the Commission to attend the training if their schedules permit them to do so.

7. [Next Meeting - Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room, MPC, 112 E. State Street](#)

V. Adjournment

8. [Adjourned](#)

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Karatassos adjourned the meeting at 4:50 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.