



Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room
October 5, 2017 4:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

OCTOBER 5, 2017 SAVANNAH - CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORIC SITE & MONUMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Members Present: Eli Karatassos, Chair
Thomas Gensheimer, Vice-Chair
Alicia Blakely
Dolores Engle
Dr. Nicholas Henry
Kristopher Monroe

MPC Staff Present: Ellen Harris, Director of Urban Planning and Historic Preservation
Sara Farr-Newman, 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 4:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. He outlined the role of the Historic Site and Monument Commission.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

[2. Approval of September 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes](#)

[September 7, 2017 Minutes.pdf](#)

Motion

The Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby approve September 7, 2017 Meeting minutes.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Dolores Engle

Second: Alicia Blakely

Dolores Engle - Aye

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Dr. Nicholas Henry - Aye

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Kristopher Monroe - Aye

Alicia Blakely - Aye

III. Regular Agenda

[3. Petition of Paul Susznsku | 17-004849-PA | 611 Habersham Street | Mural](#)

- [AERIAL MAP.pdf](#)
- [Submittal Package.pdf](#)
- [Comment - Barnard.pdf](#)
- [Comment - Beaman.pdf](#)
- [Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)
- [Comment - Mason.pdf](#)

Mr. Scott Stanton was present on behalf of the petition.

Ms. Sara Farr-Newman gave the staff report. The petitioner is requesting approval for a mural at 611 Habersham Street. The mural was previously reviewed for an after-the-fact approval at the August 3, 2017 meeting (17-003005-PA), but was not approved. The applicant removed the mural and is requesting approval to reinstall it. The mural will be the same and was approved by the HDBR on July 12, 2017 (17-003004-COA). Staff recommends approval of the mural with the condition a time frame is provided for its display and removal, because otherwise it meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

The following neighbors appeared and voiced opposition to the mural, Larry Tippins, Philip Perrone, Mary Beth Winslow, Tim Coy, and B. Trotter. They do not believe the mural is compatible with their residential neighborhood.

Motion

Approval of the mural at 611 Habersham Street with the condition that a three-month timeframe be provided for its display and removal as recommended by staff.

Vote Results (Rejected)

Motion: Kristopher Monroe

Second: Alicia Blakely

Dolores Engle	- Nay
Thomas Gensheimer	- Nay
Dr. Nicholas Henry	- Aye
Eli Karatassos	- Nay
Kristopher Monroe	- Aye
Alicia Blakely	- Aye

Motion

Denial of staff's recommendation that the mural be approved with the condition a timeframe is provided for the display and removal.

Vote Results (Rejected)

Motion: Eli Karatassos

Second: Dolores Engle	
Dolores Engle	- Aye
Thomas Gensheimer	- Aye
Dr. Nicholas Henry	- Nay
Eli Karatassos	- Aye
Kristopher Monroe	- Nay
Alicia Blakely	- Nay

IV. Other Business

4. Commissioner Items

The Commission discussed the difference between a mural and a poster. Ms. Harris showed the Commission the current definition for murals. Mr. Karatassos stated that evaluating the murals and the posters the same way is troublesome to him. Ms. Harris explained that the Commission might want to include in their evaluation process that a mural must be 1) integrated architecturally into whatever surface it is going to be painted on and 2) if it is intended to be temporary or utilizes materials that are not permanent, that there is a specific removal date with the decision.

Mr. Daniel Carey of the Historic Savannah Foundation (HSF) suggested that one of the criteria conditions would be the lag time between the murals. One mural could be put up and in another day, a new mural could go up. But, from an architectural point of view, should there be a lag time between them in order to let the building have its moment? May be the surface needs to breathe.

Ms. Dorothea Coy said the current definition for murals do not say that the art needs to be directly applied to the building structure. If something is painted directly on a board it would still be an object.

The staff will look at other alternatives pertaining to the murals and posters.

5. Next Meeting - Thursday, November 2, 2017 at 4:00 pm 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 Commission, Mr. Karatassos adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Harris
Director of Urban Planning and Historic Preservation

EH:mem

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