



Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room
November 2, 2017 4:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

NOVEMBER 2, 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

Member Absent: 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 4:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. He outlined the role of the Historic Site and Monument Commission.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

[2. Amend October 5, 2017 Minutes](#)

☞ [October 5, 2017 Minutes.pdf](#)

☞ [Neighborhood Residents Petition in Opposition - 611 Habersham Street 17-004849-PA.pdf](#)

Motion

The Savannah -Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission does hereby amend the minutes of October 5, 2017 to show that three motions were made instead of two for petition 17-004849-PA. 1st motion was to approve the mural for 6 months - failed, second motion was to approve the mural for four months - failed, and the third motion was for denial. Also the signed petition submitted by the neighborhood residents in opposition to the mural is attached.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Thomas Gensheimer

Second: Dolores Engle

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

III. Regular Agenda

[3. Petition of Charlene Koskela | 17-005726-PA | 522 Martin Luther King, Jr Blvd | Mural](#)

☞ [Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)

☞ [Mural Renderings.pdf](#)

☞ [Submittal Package.pdf](#)

☞ [AERIAL MAP.pdf](#)

Mr. Donald Tazier and Michael Shortt were present on behalf of the petition.

Ms. Sara Farr-Newman gave the staff report. The applicant is requesting approval for two murals at 322 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, which is currently under construction. The murals will be located on the north and south sides of the building and installed onto the building once complete. The building was approved by the HDBR with two designated mural walls, which are being used for this project. The murals are named "Trois Grandes Annees" (Mural 1) and "Le Train Qui M'a Amene a la Maison" (Mural 2).

Ms. Farr-Newman explained that Mural 1 is an homage to the Great Savannah Races which took place in Savannah between 1908-1911 (1908, 1910, 1911). They are a part of the heritage of motorsports in America. Mural 2 features the iconic, although demolished, Union Station, which sat on the exact same site as the building where the mural will hang. The murals overall are "a brief history of human mass transportation from the age of the Iron Horse, to the modern streamliner, to the speed of a commercial airliner."

Ms. Farr-Newman reported that staff recommends approval of the murals because they meet the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

Motion

The Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site and Commission does hereby approve the murals because they meet the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Dr. Nicholas Henry

Second: Thomas Gensheimer

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

IV. Other Business

4. Naming and Renaming of Public Property, Facilities, and Streets

📎 [Ordinance.pdf](#)

📎 [Naming Policy.pdf](#)

Ms. Farr-Newman reported that City Council is in the process of approving an ordinance on the naming and renaming of public property, facilities, and streets. This process will include the HSMC. The policy is attached to the agenda.

5. Master Plan and Guidelines Revisions

Ms. Farr-Newman reported that the HSMC has previously discussed the mural policy. It has been brought to staff's attention the confusion regarding the definition of the word "object." Ms. Farr-Newman asked the HSMC that in terms of the murals, should they be included with public art or continue to have them as separate items? Should there be a maximum size? She asked the HSMC if they had anything that they want the staff to put together in draft form to be included in the mural policy.

Dr. Henry stated that he saw the word "gardens." Does this mean planting?

Ms. Farr-Newman answered that the policy does say "planting." But she has not seen a planting mural. She believes this is in the context of an overall monument such as someone adding a garden.

Mr. Karatassos said he realizes that the Historic District Board of Review has been hands on in terms of the exterior, materials, etc. The HSMC has talked about material that is painted on a building. He said if the HSMC has ideas about this, bring this to staff's attention.

Ms. Harris explained that Ms. Farr-Newman is bringing this to the HSMC because it is time for them to update the policy with some housekeeping data, such as updating the maps, incorporating the city's policy that is being adopted regarding the renaming of public property, facilities, and streets. If there are other things that the HSMC wants the staff to work on, let them know so that they can bring the information back to the HSMC. She explained that the staff was not asking them to vote on anything today.

Mr. Karatassos said it would be helpful for the HSMC to have a workshop and go through the guidelines.

6. Commissioner Items

Mr. Karatassos said presently they do not know if the HSMC will have a meeting in December. Therefore, a nominating committee needs to be appointed today to bring the recommended names to serve as officers for 2018. He appointed Ms. Blakely, Dr. Henry, and Mr. Gensheimer to serve as the nominating committee. Three officers are needed: Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary.

Mr. Karatassos said he has spoken with City Council and asked about the number of people on this Commission. The law that setup the HSMC states that they will have five members. Some years later, City Council adopted that the chairperson of the Park & Tree Commission shall serve on the Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission. Earlier this year, he asked City Council to consider appointing six members and still have the person from Park & Tree which then would make this be a seven member Commission.

The consensus from the HSMC was that a letter will be sent to City Council, signed by all members of the HSMC, respectfully requesting that the HSMC become a seven member Commission as stated above.

[7. Next Meeting - Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 4:00 pm 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 HSMC, Mr. Karatassos adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Harris
Director of Urban Planning and Historic Preservation

EIH: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.