



Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room
September 6, 2018 4:00 P.M.
Meeting Minutes

SEPTEMBER 6, 2018 SAVANNAH - CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORIC SITE & MONUMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

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

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

I. Call to Order and Welcome

[1. Order And Welcome](#)

Dr. Henry 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. Approve July 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes](#)

[July 5, 2018 Minutes.pdf](#)

Motion

The Savannah-Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission does hereby approve July 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Eli Karatassos

Second: Kristopher Monroe

Thomas Gensheimer

- Aye

Dr. Nicholas Henry

- Abstain

Eli Karatassos

- Aye

Kristopher Monroe

- Aye

Alicia Blakely

- Not Present

Ron Melander

- Aye

III. Regular Agenda

[3. Petition of Mark Thomas, Thunderbird Inn | 18-004088-PA | 611 West Oglethorpe Avenue | Mural](#)

📎 [18-004088-PA Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)

📎 [Application - 611 West Oglethorpe Avenue 18-004088-PA.pdf](#)

📎 [Submittal Packet - 611 West Oglethorpe Avenue 18-004088-PA.pdf](#)

📎 [VICINITY MAP.pdf](#)

📎 [AERIAL MAP.pdf](#)

Mr. Mark Thomas was present on behalf of the petition.

Ms. Ellen Harris gave the staff presentation. The applicant is requesting approval for a 17 x 9 foot mural located at 611 West Oglethorpe Avenue. The mural is proposed to be located on the west façade of the building and is proposed to read “Welcome to Savannah, Georgia” in a vintage postcard design. The mural will be highly visible from Oglethorpe Avenue which serves as a gateway into the City in this area. The artist is Kyle Millsap. He graduated from SCAD in 2006 and has worked throughout the Southeast on large scale projects, including a mural on Carlstedt’s in Savannah.

Ms. Harris informed the Commission since this request is in the Historic District, a Certificate of Appropriateness for a color change has been approved. She explained that as required in the Master Plan and Guidelines, written notice was sent to all property owners within 200 feet of the subject property and the neighborhood association. A sign was posted on the property fifteen days prior to the meeting. No comments were received from the public.

Ms. Harris reported that staff recommends approval of the mural at 611 West Oglethorpe Avenue, because it meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

PETITIONER COMMENTS

Mr. Thomas, the general manager, thanked the Commission for hearing their petition. He explained that they were trying to create something attractive for the public to see as they come into the city.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

Motion

The Savannah-Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission does hereby approve the mural at 611 West Oglethorpe Avenue, because it meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Eli Karatassos

Second: Thomas Gensheimer

Thomas Gensheimer	- Aye
Dr. Nicholas Henry	- Abstain
Eli Karatassos	- Aye
Kristopher Monroe	- Aye
Alicia Blakely	- Aye
Ron Melander	- Aye

4. Petition of City of Savannah | 18-004315-HM | 201 Montgomery Street | Building Name

📎 [18-004315-COA Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)

📎 [Application - 201 Montgomery St. Renaming Cultural Arts Center 18-004315-HM.pdf](#)

📎 [VICINITY MAP.pdf](#)

📎 [AERIAL MAP.pdf](#)

Mr. Joseph Shearouse, Jr. of the City of Savannah was present on behalf of the petition.

Ms. Ellen Harris gave the staff report. The applicant is requesting approval to name a building located at 201 Montgomery Street. This building, which is a new cultural arts center, is proposed to be named the 'Savannah Cultural Arts Center'. The building is presently under construction.

Ms. Harris explained that as required in the Master Plan and Guidelines, written notice was sent to all property owners within 200 feet of the subject property and the neighborhood association. A sign was posted on the property fifteen days prior to the meeting. No comments were received from the public.

Ms. Harris reported that staff recommends approval to City Council to name the new cultural arts center at 201 Montgomery Street the 'Savannah Cultural Arts Center', because the name meets the standards.

PETITIONER COMMENTS

Mr. Shearouse came forward and stated that due to the new policy it is more rigorous to rename a building than to name a building that has no name. Therefore, if a petition from the public came to the Commission and City Council to try to name the building, it would not have as many restrictions if it is approved by both agencies (Commission and City Council) if the name is already established. The rigorous process is to protect the integrity of the previous naming. The petition comes to the Historic Site & Monument Commission for a recommendation and then goes to City Council for final approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

Motion

The Savannah-Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission does hereby recommend approval to City Council to name the new cultural arts center at 201 Montgomery Street the Savannah Cultural Arts Center, because the name meets the standards.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Eli Karatassos

Second: Alicia Blakely

Thomas Gensheimer	- Aye
Dr. Nicholas Henry	- Abstain
Eli Karatassos	- Aye
Kristopher Monroe	- Aye
Alicia Blakely	- Aye
Ron Melander	- Aye

IV. Other Business

5. Commissioner Items

The Commission discussed the possibilities of better recognizing and identifying the Weeping Time marker. Ms. Blakely discussed that it is not at its original site. The original site is owned by the Housing Authority, but she was recently informed that the property has been sold. Ms. Blakely said an agency called Ivory Bay Corporation is looking into doing a lot of things in the West Savannah area. The Commission talked about possibly putting a plaque by the African American Monument on River Street informing the public about the Weeping Time Marker as this marker needs more visibility.

Ms. Harris informed the Commission that there are numerous options that they can undertake regarding this matter. She believes that the Georgia Historical Society put the marker on Augusta Avenue to increase the visibility.

Ms. Blakely said a directional sign needs to be put on Augusta Avenue letting the public know that the marker is there. Also, something needs to be placed on the site.

Mr. Karatassos said the Commission approved a marker at the old Candler Hospital on Drayton Street. A sign and map are there that give information about the oak tree. May be the Georgia Historical Society could do something like this.

Mr. Monroe believed that Ms. Blakely and Mr. Karatassos were making good points that something needs to be placed near the marker alerting the citizens and visitors that a marker is there.

The Commission asked the staff to come back with recommendations on the various options they might take to remedy the situation.

6. Next Meeting - Thursday, October 4, 2018 at 4:00 pm in the Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room, MPC, 112 E State Street

V. Adjournment

7. Adjourned

There being no further business to come before the Savannah Historic Site and Monument Commission, Dr. Henry adjourned the meeting at 4: 40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Harris, Director
Urban Planning and Historic Preservation

EIH:men

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.