



Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission

Arthur A. Memdonsa Hearing Room
February 7, 2019 4:00 p.m.
MINUTES

FEBRUARY 7, 2019 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
Sean Mannion

MPC Staff Present: Ellen Harris, Director of Urban Planning and Historic Preservation
Bri Finau, Administrative Assistant

I. Call to Order and Welcome

1. Call to Order

Dr. Henry called the February 7, 2019 Historic Site and Monument Commission meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Gensheimer motioned to move the Petition of Sandy Battise for the Crusader Club to become the last item of the agenda.

The motion was seconded by **Ms. Blakely**. The motion was approved by all.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

2. Approve December 6, 2018 Meeting Minutes

📎 [December 6, 2018 Minutes.pdf](#)

Motion

The Savannah-Chatham County Historic District Site and Monument Commission does hereby approve December 6, 2018 Meeting Minutes.

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
Sean Mannion	- Aye

III. Regular Agenda

[3. Petition of Glynda M. Jones | 18-006782-HM | Honorary Street Designation- Clifton & Ernestine Jones Street | Stuyvesant Street](#)

- [18-006782-HM Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)
- [Application and Information for Clifton and Ernestine Jones Street- Honorary Street Designation 18-006782-HM\(003\).pdf](#)
- [AERIAL MAP 18-006782-HM.pdf](#)
- [Wilcox comment.pdf](#)

Ms. Harris presented the petitioner's request for an honorary street designation in recognition of Clifton and Ernestine J. Jones. The petition is for a temporary designation, lasting five years. It is to be located on a portion of Stuyvesant Avenue, between Liberty Parkway East to Harvest Avenue. The established criteria has been met. Fifty-one percent of the adjacent property owners have to endorse the petition, with additional endorsement by a city council member. Dr. Shabazz has presented her endorsement. Mr. and Mrs. Jones' biographies were briefly presented.

Mr. Karatassos highlighted his appreciation of Mr. Jones' contribution to the community. He motioned to approve the petitioned request, to read as Clifton and Ernestine J. Jones.

Ms. Shabazz expressed her appreciation of the Jones' and her support of the petition.

Mr. Jones thanked all for the petition and recognized the support of J. P. Jones.

Mr. Tony Thomas expressed his positive thoughts and appreciation for Mr. Jones help in the start of his (Thomas) political career. Mr. Thomas stated the honor is well-deserved for the Jones.

Motion

The Savannah-Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby recommends approval to City Council for the honorary street designation of Stuyvesant Street from Liberty Parkway east to Harvest Avenue to "Clifton & Ernestine J. Jones Street" because the criteria are met.

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

Sean Mannion - Aye

[4. Petition of Enmark Stations Inc. | 19-000203-PA | 405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. | Mural](#)

- [19-000203-PA Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)

☉ [Submittal Packet - 405 MLK Jr. Blvd 19-000203-PA.pdf](#)

☉ [Application - 405 MLK Jr. Blvd 19-0002003-PA .pdf](#)

☉ [AERIAL MAP 19-000203-PA.pdf](#)

Ms. Harris presented the petitioner's request for the mural at 405 MLK, Jr. Boulevard. The proposed images were visually presented to the Board, which included 'Savannah' highlights and botanicals. The mural policy distinguishes between murals, signs, and graffiti. The language on the mural presents as advertising, therefore can be considered a sign because of the replication of the business logo and color within the mural. Staff is requesting to eliminate "enrich Life" from the mural.

Mr. Karatassos stated it appears to be a sign within the mural. If it is a sign, it needs to be applied as such and be subject to the sign ordinance.

Ms. Harris stated the petitioner has the right to do so, but not have signage in the mural.

Mr. Monroe stated the letters and colors does replicate the brand logo. He suggested removing the "en" from the mural.

Ms. Harris explained the mural would be on the side and back of the building, which would be a visual asset as there is limited glass use available. The language would be on West Jones, visible to MLK, Jr. Boulevard traffic.

Mr. Doug Carol, petitioner, stated the color was changed so that it would not be advertent advertising, but wanted to propose a positive message. He asked if the color of the "en" was changed.

Mr. Monroe stated the font would still be the same. He suggests making them all capital as the others so it does not related to the brand.

Mr. Karatassos stated it is still related to the branding. Change the word itself so that murals don't get into advertising. "enrich Life" is part of EnMark's logo.

Mr. Carol stated 'Fresh choices, Friendly faces' is their tag line. The "enrich Life" is an advertising line, but not in their signage.

Ms. Regina Brannan, citizen, stated the mural does not indicate Savannah. The lighthouse, the flowers, etc., does not depict Savannah as we are presented.

Motion

The Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby approve the mural request with the condition that the text on the north mural is eliminated. The Commission further determined that if alterations are proposed to the mural design, which do not include text, they may be reviewed at staff level.

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

Sean Mannion

- Aye

[5. Petition of the City of Savannah | 19-000374-HM | Naming Request | 425 Pennsylvania Avenue](#)

[19-000374-HM Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)

[Submittal Packet.pdf](#)

[AERIAL MAP 19-000374-HM.pdf](#)

Ms. Harris presented the petition and stated it meets all of the renaming conditions (The Pennsylvania Avenue Resource Center).

Mr. Thomas stated he represented Eastside District 3 as Alderman Hall is not present. The center is on the site of the Pennsylvania Avenue School that used to stand there, thus the name.

Motion

The Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby recommend approval to City Council to name the new building at 425 Pennsylvania Avenue, the 'Pennsylvania Avenue Resource Center', because the name meets the standards.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Eli Karatassos

Second: Sean Mannion

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Dr. Nicholas Henry - Abstain

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Kristopher Monroe - Aye

Alicia Blakely - Aye

Sean Mannion - Aye

[6. Petition of Sandy Battise for Crusader Club | 19-000018-HM | Four Historical Markers | Various Locations, Southside](#)

[19-000018-HM Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)

[Application - 745 White Bluff Road; 367 Coffee Bluff Villa Road; 616 Rose Dhu Road; W. Back Street 19-000018-HM.pdf](#)

[AERIAL MAP 19-000018-HM.pdf](#)

[Objections to Proposed Sign at Honeysuckle and Back Road.pdf](#)

Ms. Harris presented the petition before the Board. The four historical markers indicate access to the area from the waterways in public right-of-ways. They are to be two and half feet tall, by three and a half feet wide with green color and gold lettering on aluminum. The first and last sentence on each marker will be the same, as the center text of each will highlight a different feature. The project has been fully funded and public notice was provided. The City will maintain the markers.

Ms. Sandy Battise, petitioner, highlighted the need for recognizing the historical significance of the area and how the contribution of African-Americans decades past shaped the community for today.

Ms. Kathleen Campbell, area resident, stated one of the markers will be hazardous, based on the

accidents and automobile rollovers currently had in the area. There are no sidewalks and it will be dangerous for those stopping to read the signs. She requested not having a marker in that specific area due to the danger involved. Additionally, she stated some of the residents have varying history. Markers exclusive to one aspect of history is not just. Ms. Campbell also challenged the notice of the petition to the area residents.

Ms. Harris confirmed that it has to be approved by Traffic Engineering. There is a posted sign and mailings to those within 200 feet of the petitioned sight.

Ms. Gail Alexander, area resident, stated she lives within one hundred feet of one of the markers and did not receive a mailed notification. She agreed the other historical facts and areas should be represented.

Mr. Gensheimer stated the community has the responsibility to propose a historical commemoration, as it is a great thing outside of the Historic District. One must petition as the petitioner did; they are not initiated by the Board.

Ms. Blakely stated she will support staff is what was presented to the Board

Mr. Karatassos stated since the City has approved the placement of the signs, the traffic and property line issues are essential resolved. The areas outside the purview of the Board is moot.

Ms. Alexander stated if all were aware of the petition, it would have been an opportunity to include all historical factors, without numerous plaques. She stated she would like a reconsideration of the petition for inclusion.

Mr. Bill Stephens, area resident since 1940, supports the petition. He stated his mother was a part of the Crusaders Organization in 1954 and thanked the Board for their work for the community.

Mr. Chris Murphy, attorney representative of the Rose Dhu area, commends the content of the signs. He stated he is happy the city surveyor will observe. He wanted to know the exact placement of the markers. He was assured the current representation is accurate.

Mr. Joe Shearouse, City Manager's Office, showed the location of the sign; adjacent to the street sign on the right, to the left of it. Surveyors will mark the location. He stated Traffic Engineering will evaluate safety and will adjust location if necessary.

Ms. Amanda Kessler, representative of McCorkle & Johnson Law Firm, requested the coloring of the markers. Her client (the monastery) only has issue with location four.

Mr. Shearouse stated the signs are not Georgia Historical Society Markers, they will be white background with black lettering on aluminum with wood posts.

Mr. Tony Thomas, district alderman, requested recorded disclosure of the fact that the attorney, Mr. Murphy is the son of one of the residents living in the area. Mr. Thomas gave a brief history of the area. He stated Coffee Bluff/White Bluff/ Bull Street is the oldest road in the State. It runs directly north and south through City. He stated other markers are to come, there is much history in southside Savannah. Mr. Thomas stated he would pull at accident/incident reports for the last five years to study in relation to the markers.

Ms. Campbell stated the accidents have not been reported.

Ms. Karen Stephens, area resident, stated she supported the markers.

Ms. Mary Ann Poppell, area resident, stated she supported the markers and the work of Mr. Thomas. She recommended having signs to represent all of the varying histories of the area.

Mr. Karatassos stated the marker color will be verified by Ms. Harris.

Ms. Blakely suggested approving the markers and determine acceptable colors.

Ms. Battise stated the color sign was not an issue for her; she proposed what the sign company recommended.

Motion

The Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby recommend approval to City Council for the four markers in the White Bluff/Coffee Bluff area with the condition that the markers are only located on public right-of-way because the standards are met. Also, rectify any discrepancy with color before presenting to Council.

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
Sean Mannion	- Aye

IV. Other Business

V. Adjournment

[7. Adjournment](#)

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.