



## Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission

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Virtual Meeting  
June 3, 2021 4:00 PM  
MINUTES

### June 3, 2021 Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission Meeting

Members Present: Kristopher Monroe, Chairman  
Thomas Gensheimer, Vice - Chairman  
Lisa Watson, Secretary  
Eileen Baker  
Sean Mannion  
Ashley Rainge

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Leah Michalak, Director of Historic Preservation  
Kiakala Ntemo, Development Services Planner  
Bri Morgan, Administrative Assistant  
Melanie Wilson, Executive Director  
Pam Everett, Assistant Executive Director  
Olivia Arfuso, Historic Preservation Assistant

Planner

Aislinn Droski, Historic Preservation Assistant

Planner

Staff Absent:

#### I. Call to Order and Welcome

#### II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

##### [1. Approve the May 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes](#)

[📎 05.06.21 MEETING MINUTES.pdf](#)

#### **Motion**

Approve

#### **Vote Results ( Approved )**

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Eileen Baker	
Thomas Gensheimer	- Aye
Kristopher Monroe	- Abstain
Sean Mannion	- Aye
Lisa D. Watson	- Not Present
Eileen Baker	- Aye
Ashley Rainge	- Aye

### III. Regular Agenda

#### [2. Petition of Elyse Rush | 21-002578-PA | 5201 Waters Avenue | Mural](#)

📎 [5201 Waters Avenue Application Packet.pdf](#)

📎 [5201 Waters Ave visuals.pdf](#)

📎 [Staff Recommendation - 21-002578-PA.pdf](#)

**Mr. Kiakala Ntemo**, planner, presented the petitioner's request for approval for the installation of a mural at 2501 Waters Avenue, the proposed site for a children's dance studio.

The subject property is located on the southwest corner where Waters Avenue and East 66th Street intersect in the Medical Arts neighborhood and is zoned B-N, Neighborhood Business. The applicant is proposing to use the subject property to house a dance studio oriented towards children and families. The mural is proposed to be located on the front of the building within the internal gable roof and end wall and will depict a large floral pattern, either in black and white grey scale or full color (the applicant has not made a final determination on the color scheme).

The theme of the mural is respectful to the socio-cultural, historic and context of the community. The mural complies with the Georgia obscenity laws and does not contain or advertise any lewd imagery or messages. The mural does not advertise any illegal activities under the law of Georgia or the United States. The mural will not cover the entire façade of the building; it is proposed to be painted on the inner most gable wall.

The mural will complement and enhance the character of the community. The black and white grey scale color scheme may be a better fit for this location since it matches the theme of the surrounding buildings. A full colored mural at this location at this location may serve as a distraction to drivers; particularly being so close to the front of the road right-of-way. The subject property is located in the Neighborhood Business zoning district, a district established to permit small-scale, neighborhood-oriented nonresidential uses and upper story residences. This immediate portion of Waters Avenue consists of restaurants and office uses. The subject property is near Memorial Health University. A residential neighborhood is located 2 blocks east of the subject property.

According to the applicant, there has been support from other businesses and her existing client base. Also, notification for the mural request has been mailed to residents within 200 feet and to the relative neighborhood association of the community. A sign was posted on the property fifteen days prior to the meeting. There was no opposition received in regard to the project.

To Staff's knowledge, there are no other murals in the immediate vicinity and the mural will

not be placed or painted on historic materials. The scale and design of the original mural are appropriate for this location.

The artist of the mural, Steven Teller, is experienced and has completed numerous projects of similar size and scale. Evidence of his work has been submitted via his website, <https://steventellerarts.com>. According to the applicant, the estimated cost of the work is \$6,000.

**PETITIONER COMMENTS:**

**Ms. Elyse Rush**, petitioner, stated they have not determined if the mural will be color or black and white; wanted to have approval if they could have the color. The mural will be on wood paneling. The color determination will be in harmony with the team colors of black, white, and red.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

**BOARD DISCUSSION:**

The Board preferred color rather than black and white.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Staff recommends approval of the mural at 5201 Waters Avenue with the following conditions to be submitted to staff for final review and approval because otherwise, it meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art:**

- 1. That the black and white color scheme be utilized.**
- 2. That paint utilized is of superior quality and intended for exterior use.**
- 3. That the mural has a weatherproof and vandalism-resistant coating.**

**Motion**

The HSMC approves the petition of the mural at 5201 Waters Avenue with the following conditions to be submitted to staff for final review and approval because otherwise, it meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

1. That paint utilized is of superior quality and intended for exterior use.
2. That the mural has a weatherproof and vandalism-resistant coating.

**Vote Results ( Approved )**

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Ashley Rainge

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Kristopher Monroe - Abstain

Sean Mannion - Aye

Lisa D. Watson - Aye

Eileen Baker - Aye

#### IV. Other Business

##### 3. Civil War Memorial Task Force Discussion

☞ [Confederate Memorial Final Report.pdf](#)

☞ [CivilWarMemorialTaskForce\\_FinalReport\\_2020-10-01.pdf](#)

☞ [Ardis Wood Comment - Civil War Memorial.pdf](#)

**Mr. Monroe** referred to the recommendations of the two tasks forces. Other areas have taken action and would like for Savannah to take action as well. He suggested all reading the reports.

**Ms. Michalak** stated there was public comment from Ardis Wood agreeing with the Board direction and suggestions.

**Ms. Wilson** reminded that there is a cost to move the statues, therefore it takes time to do so in order to raise the needed funds. She made an appointment with the City Attorney to discuss the process to proceed forward.

#### V. Adjournment

4. Next HSMC Regular Meeting - July 1, 2021 at 4pm

5. Adjourn

***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.***