



# Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission

Virtual Meeting  
September 2, 2021 4:00 PM  
MINUTES

## September 2, 2021 Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission

### I. Call to Order and Welcome

### II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

#### [1. Approve the August 5, 2021 Historic Site and Monument Commission Meeting Minutes](#)

[📎 08.05.21 MEETING MINUTES.pdf](#)

#### **Motion**

Approve the August 5, 2021 HSMC Minutes as presented.

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

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Thomas Gensheimer

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 City of Savannah | 21-004599-HM | Atlantic Avenue and East 66th Street | Park Naming](#)

[📎 Staff Recommendation 21-004599-HM.pdf](#)

[📎 Submittal Packet.pdf](#)

[📎 Neighborhood Association Support Letter.pdf](#)

[📎 AERIAL MAP 21-004599-HM.pdf](#)

**Ms. Leah Michalak** presented the applicant's request for approval to name an unnamed park located at Atlantic Avenue and East 66th Street directly south of East 65th Lane. The previously unnamed park, in the Ridgewood Extension subdivision, has existed since the late 1940's but no record of a naming action has been identified in the City's official record. The park is proposed to be named "Ridgewood Park".

The "Ridgewood Park" name will help to strengthen neighborhood identity since the original name of the subdivision extension is "Ridgewood". All Master Plan and Guideline standards are met and no restrictions apply.

Staff received a letter of support from the Habersham Village Neighborhood Association and a letter of support from Councilman Palumbo.

**PETITIONER COMMENTS:**

**Mr. Joseph Shearouse**, petitioner, stated this is one of the few remaining unnamed parks. The name is derived from the area neighborhood. He stated this request will go before the Park and Tree Commission before going to City Council.

**Councilman Nic Palumbo**, alderman, stated the park had several informal names. The neighborhood was historically named 'Ridgewood', which was a poplar grove ("wood") and there was a topical map that indicated the lowest end of the neighborhood was on a ridge ("ridge"). This action helps preserve the identity of the neighborhood.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Mr. Ethan Waters**, resident citizen, asked if suggestions are being accepted. **Mr. Monroe** responded this forum is for consideration of the submitted name. **Mr. Shearouse** stated suggestions can be sent to the City Manager's office. Support or opposition for this petition can be expressed here or before City Council, when presented.

**Mr. Matthew Hallett**, representative of the neighborhood association, supported the petition.

**BOARD DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Mannion commended Alderman Palumbo for his outreach.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

**The Historic Site and Monument Commission recommends approval to City Council to name an unnamed park located at Atlantic Avenue and East 66th Street directly south of East 65th Lane to "Ridgewood Park" because the proposal meets the Master Plan and Guidelines.**

**Motion**

The Historic Site and Monument Commission motioned to recommend approval to City Council to name an unnamed park located at Atlantic Avenue and East 66th Street directly south of East 65th Lane to "Ridgewood Park"; because the proposal meets the Master Plan and Guidelines.

**Vote Results ( Approved )**

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Thomas Gensheimer

Thomas Gensheimer	- Aye
Kristopher Monroe	- Abstain
Sean Mannion	- Aye
Lisa D. Watson	- Aye
Eileen Baker	- Aye
Ashley Rainge	- Aye

☞ [Staff Recommendation 21-004745-COA.pdf](#)

☞ [Submittal Packet.pdf](#)

☞ [AERIAL MAP 21-004745-HM.pdf](#)

**Ms. Leah Michalak** presented the applicant's request for approval to name an unnamed building complex located at 14 Interchange Court. The new construction complex, owned by the City of Savannah, is proposed to be named the "Floyd Adams Jr. City Services Complex".

The Master Plan and Guideline standards are met. Floyd Adams Jr. was the Mayor of Savannah from 1996-2003 and is, therefore, a noteworthy person associated with the City of Savannah. He passed away in 2014. Adams resided in Savannah for more than 5 years.

In regard to the restriction: "*Names assigned to existing public property within the City or unincorporated Chatham County where duplication of the name is likely to lead to confusion;*" other parks with similar names include:

1. Floyd "Pressboy" Adams Park in the Cuyler-Brownville neighborhood. The Park is named for Floyd Adams, Jr.'s father; the park is widely called "Pressboy Park".
2. Adams Park in the Ardsley Park neighborhood. Staff could not locate for whom the park is named.

It is possible that the use of the name Adams in multiple locations will cause confusion. However, it is also important that a former mayor be memorialized.

No comments were received from the public as of the writing of this report.

**Mr. Mannion** asked if there would be an issue if there is a park and a building named after the same person. **Ms. Michalak** stated it applies to all public property. **Mr. Monroe** clarified that would prohibit two buildings being named after the same person. **Ms. Michalak** confirmed.

#### **PETITIONER COMMENTS:**

**Mr. Joe Shearouse**, petitioner, stated this is the new City facility, housing 14 city departments. It is a benefit for efficiency and public assistance. No debt was incurred; SPLOST funds were used.

**Mayor Van Johnson**, City of Savannah, stated this helps capture recent history for the first African American mayor in Savannah. This shows appreciation for his legacy. He recognized Alderwoman Wilder, Alderman Leggett, and Alderman Palumbo.

**Ms. Melanie Wilson**, MPC Executive Director, expressed her admiration for Mr. Adams and this naming petition.

#### **BOARD DISCUSSION:**

**Ms. Watson** spoke positively of Mr. Adam's accomplishments. **Mr. Mannion** supports the use of the complex and the petition.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

**Staff recommends that the Historic Site and Monument Commission recommend approval City Council to name an unnamed building complex located at 14 Interchange Court. The new construction complex, owned by the City of Savannah, is proposed to be named the "Floyd Adams Jr. City Services Complex" as requested because the proposal meets the Master Plan and Guidelines.**

**Motion**

The Historic Site and Monument Commission motioned to recommend approval City Council to name an unnamed building complex located at 14 Interchange Court. The new construction complex, owned by the City of Savannah, is proposed to be named the "Floyd Adams Jr. City Services Complex" as requested because the proposal meets the Master Plan and Guidelines.

**Vote Results ( Approved )**

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Thomas Gensheimer

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Kristopher Monroe - Abstain

Sean Mannion - Aye

Lisa D. Watson - Aye

Eileen Baker - Aye

Ashley Rainge - Aye

**IV. Other Business**

**V. Adjournment**

[4. Next HSMC Regular Meeting - October 7, 2021 at 4pm](#)

[5. Adjourn](#)

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

Staff Present: Melanie Wilson, Executive Director  
Leah G. Michalak, Director of Historic Preservation  
Bri Morgan, Administrative Assistant  
Julie Yawn, IT Support

***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.***