



Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission

Virtual Meeting
December 2, 2021 4:00 PM
MINUTES

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

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

Staff Present: Pamela Everett, Assistant Executive Director
Leah G. Michalak, Director of Historic Preservation
Bri Morgan, Administrative Assistant
Monica Gann, Planner
Julie Yawn, IT Support

I. Call to Order and Welcome

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

[1. Approval of the November 4, 2021 HSMC Meeting Minutes](#)

[📎 11.04.21 MEETING MINUTES.pdf](#)

Motion

Staff recommends that the Savannah & Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission recommend approval of the public art located on the 100 and 00 blocks of West Broughton Street and 00 block of East Broughton Street to the Savannah City Council as requested because the work meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Eileen Baker

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Kristopher Monroe - Abstain

Sean Mannion - Aye

Lisa D. Watson - Aye

Eileen Baker - Aye

Ashley Rainge - Not Present

III. Regular Agenda

[2. Petition of City of Savannah, Bridget Lidy | 21-000348-PA | 100 Block West, 00 Block West, and 00 Block East Broughton Street | Public Art Kiosks](#)

☞ [Staff Recommendation - 21-000348-PA.pdf](#)

☞ [Submittal Packet.pdf](#)

Ms. Leah Michalak presented the applicant's request of approval for Public Art information displays within kiosks on the 100 and 00 blocks of West Broughton Street and 00 block of East Broughton Street. The kiosks are part of a larger project, spanning six (6) blocks, from Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. to Drayton Street, to revitalize the Broughton streetscape; the project is currently under construction.

100 Block West North Kiosk:

This kiosk focuses on Broughton Street as a center for display of patriotism, civic and community pride. The images show a military parade in the 1910s and a St. Patrick's Day parade in the 1970s. The additional images include the Savannah High Scholl ROTC in a St. Patrick's Day parade (undated), a Savannah Model Cities float from the late 1960s, and a Women's Army Corps in a St. Patrick's Day parade from 1967.

100 Block West South Kiosk:

This kiosk focuses on weather and disasters that effected Broughton Street. Images include: a snowstorm between 1895-1914, a photo of the Hogan's Store fire in 1889, a newspaper story about the Hogan's Store, the Adler's Department Store fire in 1958, and Fire Station No. 1 from 1901.

00 Block West North Kiosk:

This kiosk focuses on skyscrapers and building technology. Images include: 19th century skyline, 20th century skyline, the 1895 Citizens and Southern Bank, the 1904 Germania Bank, and the Savannah Bank and Trust Company's headquarters building in 1911-1912.

00 Block West South Kiosk:

This kiosk focuses on the marches of Civil Rights Movement. All five images consist of the events of the Selma solidarity march in 1965.

00 Block East North Kiosk:

This kiosk focuses on electricity. Images include: a night view of the street circa 1900-1910, two images of lampposts and signs lining Broughton in 1910s, a rainy night view in the 1910s, and a postcard of the Avon Theater from the 1940s-1950s.

00 Block East South Kiosk:

This kiosk focuses on the sit-ins of the Civil Rights Movement. Images includes: a sit-in at McCrory's lunch counter, future Mayor Otis Johnson presenting the First for Freedom Awards for the lunch counter sit-ins, a NAACP lunch counter demonstration, a sit-down demonstrator at the Azalea Room restaurant, and picketing in front of Woolworth's.

At the February 4, 2021 HSMC Meeting, the Commission voted as follows:

The Savannah – Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission hereby recommends approval of the public art located on the 400 block of Broughton Street to the Savannah City Council, because otherwise it meets the standards set forth in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

AND

The Savannah – Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission does

herby continue the additional (5) five blocks of future proposed public art, to allow for the public art to be submitted to the Historic Site and Monument Commission at a future date, for review, when the City of Savannah has all required information ready.

At the July 1, 2021 HSMC Meeting, the Commission voted as follows:

The Savannah – Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission hereby approve the public art located on the 200 and 300 blocks of West Broughton Street with the following condition because it meets the standards set forth in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art:

1. The remaining three blocks of kiosks (0 West, 100 West, and 0 East blocks) are to return a future HSMC Meeting for review and approval by the Commission.

The installation of the public art is to be integrated onto kiosks previously approved by the Historic District Board of Review (18-001061-COA); therefore, the addition of the public art onto the kiosks will not cause overcrowding, nor will it damage or disturb existing vegetation or utilities. The kiosks are being constructed with the inclusion of the public art in mind, therefore the site is large enough for the objects.

The kiosks are located a large, redesigned sidewalk area along the north and south sides of Broughton Street. Broughton Street is known as a festival zone, often playing host to parades and other large group gatherings; Broughton Street is also known for frequent automobile accidents occurring on the street itself. Although known for festivities and accidents, the kiosks are to be located within a well-designed buffer zone between the sidewalk and the street, allowing for the kiosks to not become detrimental to the festivities nor prone to possible damage from automobiles. The kiosks and proposed public art will be included on the sidewalks along Broughton Street and will be easily accessible and will have adequate nearby on-street parking.

The public art proposed is included in a larger project to revitalize the Broughton Street corridor and will add to the enhancement of the neighborhood. The installation of the public art is included in the already approved and ongoing Broughton Street revitalization project the above will not be affected. The public art proposed is included in a larger project to revitalize the Broughton Street corridor and will add to the enhancement of the site. The public art is part of an overall enhancement of the site. The site will not play host to memorial services. The inclusion of public art onto the already approved kiosks being installed along Broughton Street respects the Oglethorpe Plan. The proposed public art will be photographic in nature and is a commissioned work. The proposed public art is to be a permanent part of the approved kiosks. The public art will be of superior materials with the intention of being vandalism resistant. The proposed public art is to be designed with materials of a superior quality, will not pose any danger to pedestrians and will be within a newly maintained and landscaped area. The majority of the public art will utilize historical images of Savannah and other documents from the City Archives. These documents, although not original works, will be utilized in a unique and original way to present them to the public. These images and documents are part of the community and respectful to the community. The proposed work will be of an appropriate scale and will be within a maintained and landscaped portion of the revitalization of Broughton Street. The artist/designer/fabricator is the City of Savannah and associated contractors and have demonstrated their ability to create said public art and meet proposed timeframes.

All funding is part of Phase 1 of the Broughton Street Streetscape Improvement Project. As part of Phase 1 of the Broughton Street Streetscape Improvement Project, the kiosks and public art will be maintained as part of operations of various City departments.

PETITIONER COMMENTS:

Ms. Bridget Lidy, City of Savannah, stated this is part of the Broughton Street Improvement Project; this is the final petition of the series. In this petition, there are a total of six kiosks relating to the history of Savannah.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

BOARD COMMENT:

The Board asked about the completion date; Ms. Lidy stated approximately June 2022. The Board stated that they appreciate the thoroughness of the presentation and project.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Savannah – Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission recommend approval of the public art located on the 100 and 00 blocks of West Broughton Street and 00 block of East Broughton Street to the Savannah City Council as requested because the work meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

Motion

The Savannah Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission approve the public art located on the 100 and 00 blocks of West Broughton Street and 00 block of East Broughton Street to the Savannah City Council as requested because the work meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

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

Ashley Rainge - Aye

IV. Other Business

[3. Chairman to Appoint a 3-Person Nominating Committee for 2022 Chair and Vice-Chair](#)

The Chairman appointed Tom Gensheimer, Lisa Watson, and Sean Mannion as the Nominating Committee.

V. Adjournment

[4. Next Meeting: January 6, 2022 at 4pm, 112 East State Street](#)

[5. Adjourn](#)

There being no further information to present before the Board, the December 2, 2021 Historic Site and Monument Commission meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Respectfully,

Leah G. Michalak
Director, Historic Preservation

/bm

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.