



Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room, 112 East State Street
August 3, 2023
3:00 p.m.
MINUTES

August 3, 2023 Savannah Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kristopher Monroe, Chair
Lisa Watson, Vice Chair
Eileen Baker
Nicholas Henry
Catherine Kostilnik
Sean Mannion

STAFF PRESENT: Pamela Everett, Assistant Director
Leah G. Michalak, Director of Historic Preservation
Caitlin Chamberlain, Senior Planner
Bri Morgan, Administrative Assistant
Hind Patel, IT Assistant

I. Call to Order and Welcome

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

[1. Approve the July 13, 2023 HSMC Meeting Minutes](#)

Motion

The Historic Site and Monument Commission motioned to approve the July 13, 2023 HSMC Meeting Minutes as presented.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Eileen Baker

Second: Sean Mannion

Kristopher Monroe - Abstain

Sean Mannion - Aye

Lisa D. Watson - Aye

Eileen Baker - Aye

Catherine D. Kostilnik, PhD - Aye

Nicolas Henry - Not Present

III. Regular Agenda[2. Petition of Savannah Bee Company, Emma Smith | 23-003651-PA | 313 Stiles Avenue | Mural](#)

Ms. Caitlin Chamberlain presented the petitioner's request of approval for an installation of a mural on the property located at 313 Stiles Avenue. The mural is proposed to wrap around the southwest corner of the building. It will be approximately 18 feet tall and 70 feet wide and painted with high quality exterior paints. The mural title is "Honey Bees, the Role Model for Living."

Staff recommends approval of the mural at 313 Stiles Avenue as requested because the public art project meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

Mr. Mannion asked if the business name will be in the mural. **Ms. Chamberlain** responded it will not be, there is no wording to be in the mural.

PETITIONER COMMENTS:

Mr. Ted Denner, petitioner, stated he is excited to be in the area.

Ms. Watson asked if the honey bees in the garden by the mural will scare the native bees away; will that be addressed. **Ms. Denner** stated that he believes they all live and work together. He has not seen the detrimental effects as stated.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There was no public comment.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Mr. Mannion stated he likes the mural.

Motion

The Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby approve the request to install a mural at 313 Stiles Avenue as requested because the public art project meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Eileen Baker

Kristopher Monroe	- Abstain
Sean Mannion	- Aye
Lisa D. Watson	- Aye
Eileen Baker	- Aye
Catherine D. Kostilnik, PhD	- Aye
Nicolas Henry	- Not Present

[3. Petition of City of Savannah | 23-003803- HM | Intersection of Abercorn Street and East Wayne Street | Historical Marker for Square](#)

Ms. Caitlin Chamberlain presented the petitioner's request for approval of a granite ground marker in a landscaped bed within the public square located at Abercorn and Wayne

Streets. The purpose is to identify and commemorate the history of this public square including its establishment, former name of Calhoun Square, and the new name. The proposed marker will provide a brief history of the establishment and naming of the square.

Mr. Monroe asked if there are other plaques in the square. **Ms. Chamberlain** responded no.

PETITIONER COMMENTS:

Ms. Spracher stated it will be a granite marker. There was previously a plaque in the ground. The new marker will replace and be more visible.

Mr. Mannion asked if there will signs in the walkway. **Ms. Spracher** stated it only have the upright sign.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Pat Gunn stated all four directional signs should be in the ground as well as the pole sign.

Mr. Shearouse stated the sign will be erected as all the others; it will have the names of the square over the years. It will be off to the side; the new name will be more prominent. The inset plaques in the walkways have not been discussed; confident will be displayed as on the other squares.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Mr. Mannion stated Park & Tree has no say on monuments.

Motion

The Historic Site and Monument Commission recommend approval to Savannah City Council for the application to install a granite ground marker in the public square located at Abercorn and Wayne Streets as requested because the project meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Catherine D. Kostilnik, PhD

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Kristopher Monroe | - Abstain |
| Sean Mannion | - Aye |
| Lisa D. Watson | - Aye |
| Eileen Baker | - Aye |
| Catherine D. Kostilnik, PhD | - Aye |
| Nicolas Henry | - Aye |

[4. Petition of Angel Brayboy | 23-003634-PA | Intersection of Abercorn Street and East Wayne Street | Square Naming - Creek Square](#)

Ms. Caitlin Chamberlain presented the petitioner's request for approval to name the currently unnamed public square at the intersection of Abercorn Street and Wayne Street to the name Creek Square.

PETITIONER COMMENTS:

Ms. Angela Brayboy, petitioner, stated the Native American history is underrepresented. It

should be given to the Creek Indians; they are not represented in the middle of the City.
The past of Savannah makes the area unattractive to Native Americans.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There was no public comment.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

The Commission commended the petitioner for her informational presentation.

5. Petition of Andrew Jones | 23-003635-PA | Intersection of Abercorn Street and East Wayne Street | Square Naming - Casey Square

Ms. Caitlin Chamberlain presented the petitioner's request for approval to name the currently unnamed public square at the intersection of Abercorn Street and Wayne Street to the name Casey Square.

PETITIONER COMMENTS:

Mr. Andrew Jones, petitioner, believes based on criteria, Casey Square is the best selection. Nothing in the City is named after Casey. He is worthy of recognition for his medical contributions. He possibly had a personal connection to everyone in the burial grounds. He was an ethnic minority as an Irish American. The Georgia Infirmary he founded is still under operation through St Joe/Candler.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jennifer Craig, spoke in opposition to the Casey naming.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

There were 16 letters of support for the Casey naming.

6. Petition of Tony Center | 23-003636-PA | Intersection of Abercorn Street and East Wayne Street | Square Naming - Center Square

Ms. Caitlin Chamberlain presented the petitioner's request for approval to name the currently unnamed public square at the intersection of Abercorn Street and Wayne Street to the name Center Square.

PETITIONER COMMENTS:

Mr. Tony Center, son of Leo Center, stated every one of the applicants is deserving of recognition. He spoke of the passion his father had for the city of Savannah.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There was no public comment.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

The Board appreciated the passion of the petitioner.

7. Petition of Martha Keber | 23-003637-PA | Intersection of Abercorn Street and East Wayne Street | Square Naming - Abbott Square

Ms. Caitlin Chamberlain presented the petitioner's request to name the currently unnamed public square at the intersection of Abercorn Street and Wayne Street to the name Abbott Square.

PETITIONER COMMENTS:

Ms. Martha Keber, petitioner, gave a history of the Robert Abbott and his work to liberate African Americans.

3:00 p.m.
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PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There was no public comment.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

There were seven letters of support for this petition.

[8. Petition of Jon Ternstrom | 23-003639-PA | Intersection of Abercorn Street and East Wayne Street | Square Naming - Carpenter Square](#)

Ms. Caitlin Chamberlain presented the petitioner's request for approval to name the currently unnamed public square at the intersection of Abercorn Street and Wayne Street to the name Carpenter Square.

PETITIONER COMMENTS:

Mr. Josh Scott, spoke on half of his friend. He read the Nightstalker creed, which he said Major Clayton Carpenter embodied.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. John Ternstrom stated Major Carpenter is from this century, and not memorialized elsewhere. This is an opportunity to create a history together.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

There were 27 letters of support for this petition.

[9. Petition of Leroy Pace, Jr. | 23-003640-PA | Intersection of Abercorn Street and East Wayne Street | Square Naming - Liele Square](#)

Ms. Caitlin Chamberlain presented the petitioner's request of approval to name the currently unnamed public square at the intersection of Abercorn Street and Wayne Street to the name Liele Square.

PETITIONER COMMENTS:

Mr. Leroy Pace, Jr. stated George Liele was born a slave. None of the squares in the City are named after an African American slave, male or female for their contributions to the City. He founded First African Baptist Church in 1859 and it is still in existence and use now.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

The Commission appreciated the history presented in support of this petition. There were four letters of support for this petition.

[10. Petition of Albert Oetgen | 23-003641-PA | Intersection of Abercorn Street and East Wayne Street | Square Naming - Law Square](#)

Ms. Caitlin Chamberlain presented the petitioner's request for approval to name the currently unnamed public square at the intersection of Abercorn Street and Wayne Street to the name Law Square.

PETITIONER COMMENTS:

Mr. Oetgen shared his experience with Mr. W.W. Law. Stated Mr. Law positively affected Savannah more than any other individual.

3:00 p.m.
MINUTES

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There was no public comment.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

There were seven letters of support for this petition.

[11. Petition of Sandy Keck Everette | 23-003642-PA | Intersection of Abercorn Street and East Wayne Street | Square Naming - Seven Sisters Square](#)

****Mr. Henry left the meeting at this time.*

Ms. Caitlin Chamberlain presented the petitioner's request for approval to name the currently unnamed public square at the intersection of Abercorn Street and Wayne Street to the name Seven Sisters Square. Their names are:

- Anna Colquitt Hunter (1892-1985)
- Katherine Judkins Clark (1897-1993)
- Elinor Adler Dillard (1903-1992)
- Lucy Barrow McIntire (1886-1967)
- Dorothy Ripley Roebling (1904-1977)
- Nola McEvoy Roos (1895-1980)
- Jane Adair Wright (1901- 1991)

PETITIONER COMMENTS:

Ms. Sandy Everette presented the history of the Seven Sisters, who helped preserve the Oglethorpe Plan. They have no public recognition; and they started the historic restoration movement in Savannah.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Catherine Varnedoe appreciated the efforts of the ladies to save the Davenport House. They implemented cataloging and began the first historic districts.

Ms. Meg Welch appreciated the unity and their vision to see beauty and potential in Savannah's historic structures.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

There were eight letters of support for this petition.

[12. Petition of Jack White | 23-003643-PA | Intersection of Abercorn Street and East Wayne Street | Square Naming - Mirault Square](#)

Ms. Caitlin Chamberlain presented the petitioner's request for approval to name the currently unnamed public square at the intersection of Abercorn Street and Wayne Street to the name Mirault Square, in honor of Aspasia Crubellier Mirault. a woman of color, who was a successful business owner who remained in Savannah during the Civil War.

Mr. Mannion stated the application for this naming did not meet the requirements.

PETITIONER COMMENTS:

The petitioner was not present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There was no public comment.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

There was no Commission discussion.

[13. Petition of Robert H. Fennell, Jr. | 23-003644-PA | Intersection of Abercorn Street and East Wayne Street | Square Naming - Hostess City of the South Square](#)

Ms. Caitlin Chamberlain presented the petitioner's request for approval to name the currently unnamed public square at the intersection of Abercorn Street and Wayne Street to the name Hostess City of the South Square.

PETITIONER COMMENTS:

Mr. Robert H. Fennell, Jr. stated that there is no landmark to display the recognition of the honor of the City of Savannah. This name will honor the past, present, and future of the City, giving no attention to any one individual. Each quadrant can provide four learning opportunities.

Ms. Watson stated she appreciated the focus of the petition on the community, not just people.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There was no public comment.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

The Commission appreciated the creativity of the naming request.

[14. Petition of Guinevere Waite | 23-003645-PA | Intersection of Abercorn Street and East Wayne Street | Square Naming - Musgrove Square](#)

Ms. Caitlin Chamberlain presented the petitioner's request for approval to name the currently unnamed public square at the intersection of Abercorn Street and Wayne Street to the name Musgrove Square.

PETITIONER COMMENTS:

The petitioner was not present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Andrew Jones stated there is several homages to her. He felt it was inappropriate to name after a person that took military action against the City.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

There were eight letters of support for this petition.

[15. Petition of Rita Fuller-Yates | 23-003646-PA | Intersection of Abercorn Street and East Wayne Street | Square Naming - Deveaux Square](#)

Ms. Caitlin Chamberlain presented the petitioner's request for approval to name the currently unnamed public square at the intersection of Abercorn Street and Wayne Street to the name DeVeaux Square.

PETITIONER COMMENTS:

The petitioner was not present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There was no public comment.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

There was one letter of support for this petition.

[16. Petition of Susie King Taylor Center for Jubilee, Inc. | 23-003647-PA | Intersection of Abercorn Street and East Wayne Street | Square Naming - Taylor Square](#)

Ms. Caitlin Chamberlain presented the petitioner's request for approval to name the currently unnamed public square at the intersection of Abercorn Street and Wayne Street to the name Susie King Taylor Square.

PETITIONER COMMENTS:

Ms. Pat Gunn stated there were no markers at Calhoun Square which was historically known as the "Negro Burial Ground". It should be a homage to freedom, not slavery. She gave credit to the neighbors for moving this forward.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Ann Thurstamarker, gave history of Taylor: helping slaves escape slavery, taught them to read, write, and to teach others.

Ms. Christiana Turner, area resident, worked to remove Calhoun's name from square.

Ms. Faith Parks, expressed her support for Taylor, her history tells a story of courage and citizenship and the values of Savannah.

Mr. Andrew Jones, apologized for previous word usage (opposite race). Believes Dr. Casey knew the names of those in the burial grounds; Taylor was not born until later.

Ms. Keisha Carter stated City Council was not aware of the marker petition, feels the process was divisive. The Jubilee has started this process.

Ms. Jennifer Craig supported the petition.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

There were 148-162 letters of support for this petition: the most of any of the petitions.

[17. Petition of Judy Bradley | 23-003649-PA | Intersection of Abercorn Street and East Wayne Street | Square Naming - Wesley Square](#)

Ms. Caitlin Chamberlain presented the petitioner's request for approval to name the currently unnamed public square at the intersection of Abercorn Street and Wayne Street to the name Wesley Square.

PETITIONER COMMENTS:

Mr. Ben Martin expressed appreciation of the history learned through the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Andrew Jones stated that Wesley Ward is within the area. There should not be two memorials to one person. Additionally, having a Wesley Square not in Wesley Ward may cause confusion.

Mr. Gibson stated that the process is confusing; asked what is the process. **Mr. Monroe**

explained what was stated at the outset of the meeting.

Ms. Spracher stated HSMC makes recommendations. The City takes the recommendation of HSMC and Park & Tree. The meeting will be open to the public. Tentatively on the August 24, 2023 agenda.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

There were 90 - 92 letters of support for this petition.

IV. Other Business

V. Adjournment

[18. Next Meeting: September 7, 2023 at 4 PM- 112 East State Street: Mendonsa Hearing Room](#)

[19. Adjourn](#)

There being no further business to present before the Commission, the August 3, 2023 Historic Site and Monument Commission meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leah G. Michalak
Director of 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.