



Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room
July 6, 2017
Meeting Minutes

JULY 6, 2017 SAVANNAH-CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORIC SITE & MONUMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Members Present: Eli Karatassos, Chair
Thomas Gensheimer, Vice-Chair
Alicia Blakely
Dolores Engle
Dr. Nicholas Henry
Kristopher Monroe

MPC Staff Present: Ellen Harris, Director of Urban Planning and Historic Preservation
Sara Farr-Newman, Historic Preservation Planner
Mary E. Mitchell, Administrative Assistant

I. Call to Order and Welcome

[1. Order And Welcome](#)

Mr. Karatassos called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. He outlined the role of the Historic Site and Monument Commission. The Commission welcomed new member Alicia Blakely.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

[2. Approval of June 1, 2017 Meeting Minutes](#)

[June 1, 2017 Minutes.pdf](#)

Motion

The Savannah - Chatham Historic Site & Monument Commission does hereby approve the June 1, 2017 Meeting Minutes.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Thomas Gensheimer

Second: Kristopher Monroe

Dolores Engle - Aye

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Dr. Nicholas Henry	- Aye
Eli Karatassos	- Aye
Ryan Madson	- Not Present
Kristopher Monroe	- Aye

III. Regular Agenda

[3. Petition of Georgia Historical Society | 17-002062-HM | Atlantic Mall | Marker](#)

📎 [Staff Recommendation 2.pdf](#)

📎 [Maclean Rationale.pdf](#)

📎 [AERIAL MAP.pdf](#)

📎 [Site Pictures.pdf](#)

Ms. Elyse Butler was present on behalf of the Georgia Historical Society.

Ms. Sara Farr-Newman gave the staff report. The petitioner is requesting approval for a marker near the intersection of 45th Street and Atlantic Avenue in Atlantic Mall. The marker will be freestanding and will commemorate Mayor Malcom Maclean. The marker was continued at the June meeting to allow the Neighborhood Association to meet with the petitioner regarding the original proposed site, Guckenheimer Park.

Ms. Farr-Newman reported that the marker will read as follows:

Malcom R. Maclean (1919-2001)

Malcom R. Maclean served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and the Korean War, rising to the rank of commander. After Harvard Law, Maclean entered Savannah politics. His fellow aldermen selected Maclean as mayor in 1960 to fill an unexpired term. Elected with bi-racial support in 1962, Maclean sought to avoid the violence surrounding the Civil Rights movement that occurred elsewhere and responded with moderation to protests and a boycott of segregated businesses. Maclean negotiated with business and civil rights leaders, including W.W. Law and Eugene Gadsen, to accomplish the largely peaceful desegregation of Savannah before the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Voters rejected Maclean's reelection bid in 1966. Maclean also helped establish Memorial Health hospital and recruit Gulfstream Aerospace. Maclean lived nearby on E. 45th Street and is buried in Bonaventure Cemetery.

Erected by the Georgia Historical Society, Waters Foundation, and Hunter Maclean

PETITIONER COMMENTS

Ms. Butler said they met with the MPC staff, Traffic Engineer, and Park & Tree as well as the Chatham Crescent Ardsley Park Neighborhood Association. They looked at the location for the historical marker. She said they addressed the HSMC's concerns about accessibility with a sidewalk. The Atlantic Mall is actually closer to Mayor Maclean's home. Therefore, it makes better sense to relocate the marker to a more successful location. The proximity is closer.

Dr. Henry asked Ms. Butler that as he recalled, the neighborhood association had some concerns about the initial location.

Ms. Butler explained that the neighborhood association was unhappy with the Guckenheimer location because it would have brought people into the interior of the neighborhood.

Mr. Karatassos stated the neighborhood association was amenable to the marker being erected, but

they wanted to review the petition. This is why the petition was continued at the June, 2017 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

Motion

The Savannah - Chatham Historic Site & Monument Commission does hereby recommend approval to City Council with the condition the marker text is revised, because otherwise the marker meets the standards.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Dr. Nicholas Henry

Second: Alicia Blakely

Dolores Engle	- Aye
Thomas Gensheimer	- Aye
Dr. Nicholas Henry	- Aye
Eli Karatassos	- Aye
Ryan Madson	- Not Present
Kristopher Monroe	- Aye

IV. Other Business

4. Commissioner Items

Mr. Karatassos asked staff to please get a certificate of appreciation to be given to Ryan Madson in recognition of the years of service he rendered to the HSMC.

5. Next Meeting - Thursday, August 3, 2017 at 4:00 pm in the Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room, MPC, 112 E State Street

V. Adjournment

6. Adjourned

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Karatassos adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen I. Harris
Director of Urban Planning and Historic Preservation

EIH:mem

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.