



## Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room  
September 7, 2017 4:00 P.M.  
Meeting Minutes

### SEPTEMBER 7, 2017 SAVANNAH-CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORIC SITE & MONUMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

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

Member Absent: Thomas Gensheimer, Vice-Chair

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 4:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. He outlined the role of the Historic Site and Monument Commission.

#### II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

##### 2. Approval of August 3, 2017 Meeting Minutes

📎 [August 3, 2017 Minutes.pdf](#)

##### **Motion**

The Savannah-Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission does hereby approve the Meeting Minutes of August 3, 2017.

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

Motion: Dr. Nicholas Henry

Second: Dolores Engle

Dolores Engle - Aye

Dr. Nicholas Henry - Aye

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Kristopher Monroe - Not Present

### III. Regular Agenda

#### [3. Petition of Host South | 17-004982-PA | 611 West Jones Street | Mural](#)

📎 [Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)

📎 [Submittal Package.pdf](#)

📎 [Pictures of Site.pdf](#)

📎 [AERIAL MAP.pdf](#)

📎 [Comment - Baxter.pdf](#)

**Ms. Colleen Reynolds** was present on behalf of the petition.

**Ms. Sara Farr-Newman** gave the staff report. The applicant is requesting approval for a mural at 611 West Jones Street. The mural will be designed by Vann-Ellison Seales of 13 Bricks and painted by middle school students. The mural will depict six train cars with music related activities on them. Letters of the mural petition were mailed to the property owners within 200 feet of the subject property.

**Ms. Farr-Newman** stated that as the HSMC knows, the Mayor and Aldermen do not fund new markers, monuments, or works of art. The applicant is fully responsible for funding the design, construction, installation, and any necessary landscaping, paving, or lighting involved with a new marker, monument, or work of art.

**Ms. Farr-Newman** reported that staff received one email in opposition of the mural. [See comments under "Public Comments"].

**Ms. Farr-Newman** reported that staff recommends approval of the mural with the condition that specifications are provided for the paint type and coating for staff approval and the color change is approved by the HDBR, because otherwise it meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

#### **PETITIONER COMMENTS**

**Ms. Reynolds** thanked the staff and the HSMC for reviewing their petition for a mural at 611 West Jones Street. The mural drawings will be done by Vann - Ellison Seales of 13 Bricks. The mural will be painted by 6th, 7th, and 8th grade visual art students. The project will be completed in approximately two months. Ms. Reynolds said they are in agreement with the staff's recommendation.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Ms. Sandra Baxter, Chief Executive Officer of Coastal Heritage Society**, sent an email to staff in opposition of the mural. Ms. Baxter wrote that the new auditorium for Esther E. Garrison School of Visual & Performing Arts has been designed with sensitivity to its historic neighbors. While the specific building in question is relatively new in comparison with many of its neighbors and was certainly not designed to be a contributing structure to this small district, she believes that the mural will exacerbate the presence of the non-historic building in the area.

#### **BOARD DISCUSSION**

The HSMC discussed the mural. Mr. Karatassos believed this was a good project.

#### **Motion**

Savannah-Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission does hereby approve the petition for a mural at 611 West Jones Street with the following conditions:

1. The specifications for the paint type and coating are provided to staff for approval.
2. The color change is approved by the HDBR.

Because otherwise it meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

**Vote Results ( Approved )**

Motion: Alicia Blakely

Second: Dolores Engle

Dolores Engle	- Aye
Dr. Nicholas Henry	- Aye
Eli Karatassos	- Aye
Kristopher Monroe	- Not Present
Alicia Blakely	- Aye

**IV. Other Business**

[4. Commissioner Items](#)

[5. Next Meeting - Thursday, October 5, 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 HSMC, Chair Karatassos adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen 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.***