

CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

ARTHUR A. MENDONSA HEARING ROOM

May 3, 2006

2:00 P.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

**Daves Rossell
Vaughnette Goode-Walker
George Cohen
Lisa L. White
Stephen T. Lindell
Pamela G. Lossing
Mr. Alexander Luten
Christian Sottile
William Haynes**

MPC STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

**Harmit Bedi, Deputy Executive Director
Ellen Harris, Historic Preservation Planner
Janine N. Person, Administrative Assistant**

RE: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

RE: WELCOME

Ms. Harris welcomed the commission members.

RE: INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Harris asked the members not present at the last meeting to introduce themselves. Ms. Goode-Walker, Ms. White, and Mr. Haynes gave brief introductions.

RE: NOMINATING COMMITTEE

REPORT:

Ms. Harris asked the nominating committee to read the results of their report

ELECTION:

Mr. Sottile stated that the nominating committee met on April 28, 2006, to discuss the Chairman and Vice-Chairman positions. He stated that their proposal would be for Dave Rossell to be the Chairman, and Alexander Luten to be the Vice-Chairman. He stated that as dictated by the By-Laws of the Commission, that the Chairman will appoint the Parliamentarian, and the nominating committee recommended that Staff be appointed Parliamentarian.

Ms. Harris asked Mr. Rossell if he was willing to serve as Chairman.

Mr. Rossell answered yes.

Ms. Harris stated that she spoke with Mr. Luten who stated that he is willing to serve as Vice-Chairman. She asked if there was any discussion regarding the nominations.

CCHPC ACTION: Mr. Lindell made a motion that the Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission elect Mr. Daves Rossell as Chairman until December 31, 2006, and Mr. Alexander Luten as Vice-Chairman until December 31, 2006. Ms. Lossing seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Rossell took his position as Chairperson and extended his appreciation.

RE: APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARIAN

Mr. Rossell stated that as dictated by the By-Laws that the Chairman appoints a Parliamentarian. He appointed Ms. Harris as Parliamentarian for the Commission.

**RE: BY-LAWS AND PROCEDURAL MANUAL
REVIEW COUNTY ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

BY-LAWS:

Ms. Harris stated that Mr. Hart's only comment on the By-Laws was that language be incorporated to allow Staff, or a member of the Commission to serve as Parliamentarian, but that it was at the Chairman's discretion.

Ms. White asked if they we needed to vote on the change.

Ms. Harris stated that on the last meeting that there was a vote to accept the By-Laws as written, incorporating the Attorney's comments. She stated that if they would like to vote on them that it was fine, but there is not a legal reason to vote.

Ms. Harris reviewed the Procedural Manual as follows:

Page 3: Section I.A.4.a.: incorporation of language to address Mr. Hart's comments about public input: minimum amount of notice that one would give under the zoning procedures.

Page 4: Section I.A.5: incorporation of language to allow the Commission more time to review a proposed designation if they choose, and to remove the word value at the end of Section I.B.1.a.i.

Page 5: Section I.B.1.a.iii.: clarifies the factors for evaluation and removes the word value at the end of Section I.B.2.a.i.

Page 6: Section I.B.2.a.iii.: is the same change as was done in Section I.B.1.a.iii.

Page 7: Section I.C.: to address comment regarding the moratorium.

Ms. Harris stated that the only unincorporated comments from Mr. Hart dealt with signage. He would modify the section to “delete the term internally illuminated sign to read visibly illuminated sign. It is unclear the extent to which the HPC may have jurisdiction to impose regulations on the interior portion of a structure.” She stated that the term internally illuminated sign is an industry term, and that the sign is illuminated from the interior of the sign and not the interior of the building.

Mr. Sottile stated that it was fine and that his only suggestion otherwise would be to call it a backlit sign.

RE: FEE PROPOSAL FOR APPLICATIONS

Ms. Harris stated that the applications were ready and they have to determine an appropriate fee schedule. She stated that they had been researching comparable fees with other cities, and met with the County Revenue Department to review what was compiled. The next steps would be to write a staff report and an amendment to the County Revenue Ordinance to incorporate the Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission’s new fees. She stated that there would have to be a first and second reading, and that the Commission members should have a copy of the timeline with an update on the status of where we are.

PARKING PASSES:

Ms. Harris stated that she is still waiting for license plate numbers and that she cannot proceed without them.

CHATHAM COUNTY EARTH FAIR:

Ms. Harris referred to a flyer on the Chatham County Earth Fair, that it has a historical component to it, and that it is a countywide fair. She stated that it is something that the Commission should be involved in by having an information booth on historical resources in the County. She stated that if they have any ideas or wanted to be involved, she was looking for feedback and ideas.

*(Mr. Luten arrived at 2:25 p.m.)

RE: OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Rossell noted the passing of Mr. Luten’s sister-in-law and extended the Commission’s condolences.

Mr. Luten stated his appreciation and thanked the Commission for their thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Rossell asked there was any interest from the communities. He stated that he knew that they were not quite set up to accept applications.

Ms. Harris noted that the only point of interest was from the Sandfly community so far. She stated that they are in the process of applying for the National Register District nomination, that the consultant has contacted her and that the community wants to apply for the designation. She stated that she sent a copy of the draft application, informed the consultant that the Commission was not ready to receive anything yet, and that she would stay in contact to let the

consultant know when applications are ready to be received. She stated that it was the only official contact that has been received.

Mr. Rossell stated an item came up in the nomination meeting. It had to do with the ordinance regarding some questions about how conservative, innovative, or different the ordinance may be compared to other communities. He stated that an idea that he had was to let the staff members of the Georgia National Register Review Board look over the ordinance. He stated that it would further assure the Commission that it was a solid and conservative document that will hold up in the future.

Ms. Harris stated that it was a good idea and that she would be happy to send the ordinance to the Board. She stated that she worked with the staff of the Historic Preservation Division on a State level, and the Georgia Alliance of Preservation Commissions, in putting together the ordinance for the Commission.

Mr. Rossell stated he and Ms. White will be at the Georgia National Register Review Board meeting on next Friday, and that he would like to take a copy of the ordinance to be reviewed by Richard Cloues.

CCHPC ACTION: Mr. Cohen made a motion that the Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission approve the Historic Preservation Commission Ordinance be given to the Georgia National Register Review staff for an informal review. Mr. Luten seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

RE: MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes - April 13, 2006

CCHPC ACTION: Mr. Lindell made a motion that the Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission approve the minutes as presented. Ms. White seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Rossell announced the next meeting in June 7, 2006, at 2:00 P.M. in the Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room.

There being no further business to come before the Chatham County Historic Preservation commission the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Harris,
Preservation Planner

EH/jnp