

CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

**REGULAR MEETING
110 EAST STATE STREET**

ARTHUR A. MENDONSA HEARING ROOM

April 4, 2007

2:00 P.M.

MINUTES

CCHPC Members Present:

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

CCHPC/MPC Staff Members Present:

**Ellen Harris, Historic Preservation Planner
Janine N. Person, Administrative Assistant**

I. WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 2:08 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Rossell asked the Commission members and Staff to give brief introductions. Mr. Kirk Peterson introduced himself and said he was in Savannah for the Vernacular Architecture Forum.

III. UPDATES

- A. Contact with Communities/Individuals Interested in District or Property Nominations

Ms. Harris said she will be meeting with the Isle of Hope community Friday morning, and will give an overview of the Chatham County Historic Preservation Ordinance and what benefits it offers them. She currently in the process of preparing the application for designating Mrs. Fischer's property on Wilmington Island and an intern is assisting with the research. The Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission (CCHPC) received their first application from New Ogeechee Missionary Baptist Church, which she will be presenting to them at their next meeting.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

- B. **Richard Moe, President, National Trust for Historic Preservation
Subject: Tear-Downs in Historic Cities**

**Thursday, April 19, 11AM
Temple Mickve Israel**

Ms. Harris stated that Mr. Richard Moe will be speaking and asked the Commission to make every effort to attend.

C. Make Your Own Rain Barrel- Brown Bag Lunch- MPC- 11:30 AM, April 11

Ms. Harris invited the Commission members to attend the Brown Bag Lunch to learn how to make their own rain barrel. She said it will be free and open to the public.

D. Earth Day- April 21 Forsyth Park

Ms. Harris said there will be another demonstration at Earth Day, which will be celebrated on April 21 in Forsyth Park.

E. Historic Preservation Commission Training Opportunity - St. Mary's, GA, April 27-28, 2007

Ms. Harris stated that she, Dr. Rossell, and Mr. Cohen will be attending the training. There will be another one in the fall.

F. Reconvene Nominating Committee (Vice-Chairman Resigned)

Dr. Rossell stated that Mr. Alexander Luten, the Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission's Vice-Chairman formally resigned due to a scheduling conflict with the Board of Education. He said the Commission needs to elect a new Vice-Chairman, and he proposed that the original nominating committee of himself, Mr. Cohen, and Mr. Sottile reconvene to recommend a new Vice-Chairman.

Ms. White asked if the County will appoint another member.

Ms. Harris stated Mr. Luten gave a letter of resignation to the County Commissioners and recommended they appoint Mr. Herbert Kemp of the Sandfly Betterment Association as his replacement. However, the County Commissioners had not appointed anyone yet.

Mr. Cohen asked about the reappointments for the three one-year members.

Ms. Harris stated that Mr. Lindell was reappointed, but she had not received an official notice. She will follow up.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 11, 2006

February 7, 2007

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

VI. Site Visit to New Ogeechee Missionary Baptist Church (751 Chevis Road)

Ms. Harris stated she has arranged a site visit to New Ogeechee Missionary Baptist Church on Chevis Road, and that she and Ms. Person would be escorting them.

Dr. Rossell announced that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, May 2, 2007, at 2:00 P.M. in the Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room. He said he was looking forward to seeing everyone at the church, and at the next meeting.

Mr. Lindell asked if there was information about the church before they go.

Ms. Harris said the church was listed on the National Register, was constructed in 1893, and was a break off church from First Bethel Baptist Church on Ogeechee Road. It serves the Burroughs community, an African-American community that developed lands that were part of the Wild Heron Plantation. During the 1880's and 1890's, the plantation property was subdivided and members of the community were allowed to purchase the land they were living on. This is one of the three churches that served the Burroughs community, and the land was donated to the church by a member of the community in 1891 by Mr. Campbell. The church has been actively serving the community since that time. At its peak there were 75 to 80 members. She said Mrs. Sarah McClendon will be meeting them and she will have more specifics.

Mr. Lindell asked if the congregation still owns their own property and if they are active.

Ms. Harris answered they are active and own their own property.

Mr. Lindell asked if it is in an area with encroaching development.

Ms. Harris stated there is some encroaching development but she did not know of any specific threats to the immediate area.

The meeting was moved to the church for a site visit. The quorum was lost at approximately 3:15 p.m. The CCHPC arrived at the site at approximately 3:45 p.m. Pastor Joyce Frazier, the current pastor and Mrs. Sarah McClendon met the CCHPC at the church. They gave the CCHPC a tour of the church, provided historical background information, and answered questions.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Harris,
Preservation Planner

EH/jnp