

CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

**REGULAR MEETING
110 EAST STATE STREET**

ARTHUR A. MENDONSA HEARING ROOM

October 7, 2009

2:00 P.M.

MINUTES

CCHPC Members Present:

**George Cohen, Chairman
Vaughnette Goode-Walker, Vice-Chairman
Jane A. Feiler
William Haynes
Stephen T. Lindell
Pamela G. Lossing
Daves Rossell
Lisa L. White**

CCHPC/MPC Staff Members Present:

**Ellen Harris, Historic Preservation Planner
Julie Yawn, Systems Analyst
Janine Person, Historic Preservation Admin. Asst.**

I. WELCOME

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

II. NEW AGENDA FORMAT

Ms. Harris gave a brief description of the agenda subtitle changes noting that they are now consistent with the Procedural Manual.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – July 1, 2009

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

IV. POSTING

There were none.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

There were none.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

- A. Petition of Minnie Wingster
COA 20090915-07-1
9917 Pin Point Avenue
New Construction (Carport)
Staff recommends approval**

Ms. Harris gave the Staff report.

NATURE OF REQUEST:

The applicant requests approval of an 18-foot by 21-foot steel carport.

FINDINGS:

The following standards apply: Pin Point Historic District Design Standards for New Construction.

Standard	Proposed	Comment
Accessory buildings and structures shall be situated in the side or rear yard.	The carport will be located to the rear of the principle structure.	This standard is met.
The maximum height of new construction shall be 36 feet above grade or the 100 year base flood elevation; whichever is higher...	The carport will be less than 10 feet tall.	This standard is met.
Aluminum and steel siding may be permitted, provided it is a minimum of 0.029” thick and has a smooth finish.	The roof will be 29-gauge steel.	The standard was intended to apply to siding, rather than a roof, but meets the thickness criteria.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.

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

Ms. White asked Ms. Harris what kind of petitions staff can review and what needs to be brought to the Commission. She asked if the petitioner had to wait to get approval since the Commission is only meeting quarterly.

Ms. Harris stated that it is defined in the Bylaws. She said that the things that come before the Commission are new construction, such as this petition; additions over 500 square feet; and the demolition of any contributing structure. Everything else can be done at Staff Review level. If something is on a Staff Review level and doesn't meet the standards then she would bring it forward for the Commission to decide. There is a category on the new agenda format called "Staff Reviews" where Staff will let the Commission know of an approved fence, sign, etc. If the Commission wants to change the regulations they would need to amend the Bylaws to change the authority.

Ms. White asked how long the petitioner's waiting period was.

Ms. Harris stated that the petitioner contacted her approximately one month ago. The Commission is reserving the first Wednesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. to review any applications that come in. She said that the petitioner missed the deadline for the September meeting and it pushed it back to October, which was a 30-day wait. The State Historic Preservation Act says that if an application is not acted on within 45 days, it is automatically approved and would have been relevant in this case.

Ms. Feiler stated that she thought if Staff recommended approval that it would come under the Consent Agenda.

Ms. Harris stated that it could but she didn't feel 100 percent confident putting it under the Consent Agenda because it is the first application coming forward, so she placed it on the Regular Agenda. She said that if there are no issues at all or any discussion, then she could place any item under the Consent Agenda. The Commission can move it to the regular agenda if it needed to be discussed further.

Ms. Feiler asked if there were any comments from the neighbor behind the property where the carport would be.

Ms. Harris stated that no one had contacted her.

Mr. Haynes stated that there was a road there and then it goes across to a trailer court so there is nobody that is really behind those lots.

B. Guest Speaker: Marianne Heimes, "Growing Up On The Island"

Mr. Cohen introduced Ms. Marianne Heimes to talk about her book, "Growing Up On The Island".

Ms. Heimes stated that she didn't grow up on the island but moved there in 1978 and has been fairly active on the island. She said that in 2002 she wrote articles for the Savannah Morning News about history on the islands, and then the next year Ms. Elizabeth Piechocinski came out with the book "Once Upon An Island." She said it is an interesting book and is really about the history that took place on the islands, but that her book deals more with the 1940s through the 1960s. She discussed some of the

interesting topics in the book such as the Oglethorpe Hotel, the first swing bridge that came to the islands in 1923, and the approximately 200 families who lived, grew up, and still live there.

She read an excerpt about Wilmington Island from an article she had collected and said that some of the people she interviewed for her book had found relics there. She displayed a map from 1735, mentioned that a hotel was built by Mr. Henry Walthour who was the aristocrat of the islands, and stated that he owned most of the south side of Wilmington Island. In 1948 Hurricane Number 8 came and was seeded with dry ice to send it out to sea, but it turned around and hit Savannah and flooded the islands. After the hurricane Ms. Joyce Fischer (Maridon) found 50 boats that had washed up in her yard.

The residents fondly remember the island as being such a wonderful childhood for them. There were no barriers because they could play all day, there were no roads, but the discipline was still there.

There were businesses on the islands like the Burns Market that was the grocery store, a drug store, a dry cleaner, a shooting range, and an air field called Bill Hobbs that is where the Island Wood subdivision is presently. Green's fishing camp was the main hang out for everybody and they had wonderful parties there on the weekends with the children and parents going together.

She is excited about her book and said that it is wonderful to realize there is a generation who grew up without zoning, cars, radio, television, and other modern things that we have today. Yet, they have had a wonderful life and she didn't think that they would have traded it for anything else.

Ms. Goode-Walker asked about the working title.

Ms. Heimes stated that it is going to be "Growing Up On Wilmington Island."

Ms. Lossing asked where Green's fishing camp was located.

Ms. Heimes showed her the location on the map on Walthour Road at the end of the island.

Dr. Rossell asked when Wilmington Island Park came in.

Ms. Heimes stated that Wilmington Island Park was built in the 1950s and until then it was just wilderness. She said that the only roads at that time were Johnny Mercer or the Old Tybee Road, Walthour Road, and the Wilmington Island Road that was a paved "S" curve, which is a reference point on the island today.

Dr. Rossell stated that the discussion about the subdivision of the island would be interesting because it is historic now and asked about the state of the islands.

Ms. Heimes stated that it is interesting and that it would be her next book because she has kept track of it. She said that Wilmington Park was the first one and Island Woods was the next one starting shortly after Wilmington Park in the 1950s.

Mr. Cohen stated that maybe someone could get a thought process started at Wilmington Park about becoming the second mid-century modern neighborhood in Savannah to be declared a historic district along with Fairway Oaks, which was declared a few months ago.

Ms. Heimes stated that it would be the first one out there.

Mr. Cohen stated that he has read many letters to the editor and that Ms. Heimes has been very involved in the community. He said that the Commission acknowledges service to the community and he thanked her.

VII. REQUEST FOR EXTENSIONS

There were none.

VIII. STAFF REVIEWS

There were none.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

A. New Business

i. Julie Yawn, Systems Analyst: Introduction to E-Agenda

Mr. Cohen introduced Ms. Julie Yawn.

Ms. Yawn thanked the Commission and stated that the MPC has begun implementing the E-agenda software package with the 13 boards that are presently being supported by the MPC. The MPC and Historic District Board of Review are already using the E-agenda system. The E-agenda system will manage all phases of the meeting process, is a web-based comprehensive meeting managing system, and will manage the process from agenda creation, to the approval and distribution process, and ending with the minutes generation. It provides other benefits like online access to agenda information including supporting documentation, helps to streamline the meeting and post-meeting documentation and activities, will reduce inquiries for agendas and minutes, as well as reduce the paper copies of agendas and minutes. At the next meeting the Commission members will receive an email notice with a link to the MPC website to view the meeting package. She gave a brief demonstration of how the E-agenda process will work using the monitor.

Ms. White asked if they would be doing electronic voting.

Ms. Yawn stated that because the Commission is only meeting quarterly that Staff would be entering all of the votes.

ii. Nominating Committee Report

Mr. Cohen asked for a member of the Nominating Committee to present their report.

Ms. Feiler stated that the Nominating Committee consisted of Lisa White, Vaughnette Goode-Walker, and herself. She said that there were several members of the Commission whose terms ended in April of this year and were not eligible to be nominated, and that the Chairman was not eligible to be renominated. In lieu of those facts the nomination is for Vaughnette Goode-Walker to be the Chairman and Lisa White as Vice-Chairman.

iii. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

CCHPC ACTION: Mr. Lindell made a motion that the Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission approve Vaughnette Goode-Walker as Chairman and Lisa White as Vice-Chairman. Dr. Rossell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Cohen stated that the new officers would reside at the January meeting.

X. NOTICES, PROCLAMATIONS, AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. Cohen acknowledged Mr. Gregori Anderson in being faithful by coming to each meeting and for giving moral support.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Harris,
Preservation Planner

EH/jnp