

**CHATHAM COUNTY- SAVANNAH HISTORIC SITE AND MONUMENT COMMISSION
MEETING**

MINUTES

This Agenda can be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.thempc.org>

April 11, 2006

4:00 P.M.

Members Present:

**Walter Wright, Chairman
Gordon Smith**

Members Excused:

Laverne Ricks-Brown

Members Absent:

Frank Lang

Staff Present:

**Beth Reiter, Preservation Officer
Ellen Harris, Preservation Planner
Sarah Ward, Preservation Planner**

Others:

Pam Walck, Savannah Morning News

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Wright called the meeting to order at 4:00, noting the Commission did not have a quorum.

INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Wright introduced Gordon Smith, the newest member. Ms. Harris introduced herself as the Staff person to the Commission and reported that Laverne Ricks-Brown had called to say she was sick.

BY-LAWS

Ms. Harris reviewed the draft by-laws with the Commission, noting the City Attorney's or City Manager's suggestions.

- Article IV.1, the attorney recommends removal of the language requiring members to have an interest in preservation, as that restriction is not specifically in the enabling legislation. He also recommends removal of the language involving the ex-officio "voting" member (for the same reason) and change "shall be" to "serves as".

- Article IV.2, the attorney notes that terms cannot be limited as it's not in the enabling legislation.
- Article IV.3, the attorney and City Manager note change "City Preservation Officer" to "Design Administrator." The Design Administrator will be the City Manager or his appointee. Mrs. Reiter suggested that Staff draft a letter from Tom Thomson to Michael Brown requesting a letter from him appointing the Design Administrator to be the Executive Director of the MPC. The enabling legislation calls for a Secretary to be elected from the membership, so the Design Administrator would change to be the Assistant Secretary. Ms. Harris pointed out that currently we only have a Chairman. A Vice-Chairman and Secretary need to be elected. Walter Wright appointed Mr. Smith as Vice-Chairman. Any further action on officer appointments will be deferred until after the Mayor and Aldermen have appointed the remaining members.
- Mr. Smith suggested that instead of eliminating the language in Article IV.1 requiring members to have an interest in historic preservation, that the wording change to: "it is hoped that the members have an interest in historic preservation" to help ensure the quality of the appointees to the board.
- Article IV.5, the City Manager will approve pay requests.
- Article IV.6 the City Council is changed to Mayor and Aldermen.
- Article IV.6 the City Manager evaluates and submits to the Mayor requests for monument erection or restoration.
- Article IV.7 the enabling legislation dictates that the commission should meet once every 60 days (not quarterly). Ms. Harris recommended that regular meetings be scheduled but the Chairman may cancel them if there is nothing to review.
- Mr. Smith noted that on Article IV.7.C.2, Roberts should have an apostrophe before the 's'.
- Mr. Smith noted that on Article IV.7.C.4 "member" should be plural.
- Ms. Harris said that the attorney recommended a change in the wording on Article IV.7.C.5 to read "may be forwarded" rather than "may be replaced" as a board can't dictate what the Mayor and Aldermen will do. "Commission members are expected to attend all meetings" was added.
- "City Ordinance" replaced "Chatham County Code of Ethics in Article IV.7.C. 6.
- Ms. Harris noted that a tenth position is proposed to be added to the current Technical Advisory Committee- the City of Savannah Director of Cultural Affairs. Mrs. Reiter asked the Commission can revise the Technical Advisory Committee membership or did that need to be done through the Mayor and Aldermen. Ms. Harris replied that the City Attorney said that the Commission could request new appointments from the organizations without the Mayor and Aldermen so it could be assumed that the Commission could revise the membership. It was decided to postpone voting on the bylaws until after the Mayor and Aldermen appoint the remaining members.

OTHER BUSINESS

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE- Membership Update: Ms. Harris noted that there are three appointments that need to be made to the Technical Advisory Committee. The current representative from Armstrong Atlantic (Dr. Strozier) is retired and was an English teacher. The representative from SCAD (Manfred Thoms) is no longer associated with SCAD. And the new position- the Director of Cultural Affairs. Ms.

Harris distributed packets of information containing resumes from Learotha Williams (from Armstrong Atlantic) and Vilas Tonape (from SCAD). Staff was directed to draft a letter from the Chairman to each of these institutions requesting that these persons be appointed. Staff will also draft letters to Dr. Strozier and Manfred Thoms thanking them for their service and dedication and in order to comply with the City's policy, it was necessary to replace them representatives of the various institutions. Staff was also directed to draft a letter notifying the Director of Cultural Affairs of his appointment to the Technical Advisory Committee once the bylaws have been adopted.

MONUMENT MASTER PLAN STATUS- Update: Ms. Harris reported that a six month moratorium had been installed on February 16, 2006 and that Staff is currently drafting an RFP for a consultant to do a master plan. There will likely be the need for an extension before the master plan is complete. Mr. Wright inquired about the type of consultant who would be interested in this sort of project. Ms. Harris replied that it would likely be an Urban Planner with a background in design. Mrs. Reiter recommended that the RFP be sent to national organizations. Grants for funding are also being researched.

Mr. Smith asked if the three Jasper Springs Monuments were within our jurisdiction. Mrs. Reiter replied yes. Mr. Smith noted that they are not listed in the Monument Survey. He stated that they were paid for with federal dollars. Ms. Harris said she would make sure they are added. Mrs. Reiter mentioned that there is a plaque on the corner of Whitaker and Liberty that she did not know about before and that should be on the Plaque Survey.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: This item was postponed for discussion until a full quorum is present.

MEETING SCHEDULE: It was determined that the next meeting would be held on June 1st at 4pm and that the Commission would meet the first Thursday of every other month thereafter.

APPLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW: The six month moratorium would not apply to the WWII monument but nothing new has been received from them. Ms. Harris stated that someone had inquired about a site on Oglethorpe Avenue and MLK, a strip of land between the sidewalk and street, for a monument to the Workers using a piece of the World Trade Center. Staff will keep them informed as the procedures are refined.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:45 PM

LOCATION: Metropolitan Planning Commission, 112 East State Street, Savannah

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