



Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission

Virtual Meeting
February 3, 2022
4:00 PM
DECISIONS

February 3, 2022 Historic Savannah Site & Monument Commission Meeting

Members Present: Kristopher Monroe, Chairman
Lisa Watson, Secretary
Eileen Baker
Sean Mannion

Staff Present: Pamela Everett, Assistant Executive Director
Leah G. Michalak, Director of Historic Preservation
Monica Gann, Assistant Planner
Bri Morgan, Administrative Assistant
Julie Yawn, Systems Analyst

I. Call to Order and Welcome

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

[1. Approve the January 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes](#)

Motion

Approve the January 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Eileen Baker

Second: Sean Mannion

Thomas Gensheimer - Not Present

Kristopher Monroe - Aye

Sean Mannion - Aye

Lisa D. Watson - Aye

Eileen Baker - Aye

Ashley Rainge - Not Present

III. Regular Agenda

[2. Petition of John Trussell, Sons of American Revolution | 22-000107-HM | Memorial Bench, Johnson Square](#)

Ms. Monica Gann presented the petitioner's request of approval for a memorial bench in Johnson Square. She informed there was support of this project from Alderman Leggett, via e-mail.

Ms. Watson asked about the foundation.

DECISIONS

Mr. Mannion asked how many benches are in Johnson Square. Ms. Gann stated only one (Johnny Mercer), the others are tall markers.

PETITIONER COMMENTS:

Mr. Trussell, petitioner, stated the bench is a reminder of accomplished history. He stated there will be brick under the bench to match the sidewalk and make ADA compatible.

Mr. Robert Billiard, area resident, spoke in favor of the petition. He stated there will be no problems with underground utilities; Staff cannot confirm that. He stated the petitioner will forward pictures of the 'flags' indicating utility check.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There was no public comment.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

There was concern about grass trampling because of small size of brick foundation. Mr. Trussell stated it will be 6 x 6.

Motion

The Historic Site and Monument Commission motioned to APPROVE RECOMMENDATION to the Savannah City Council to install a granite memorial bench within Johnson Square on corner of Bull and East Congress Streets, with the following conditions to be submitted to staff for final approval before the item can be docketed on a City Council agenda because the proposed work otherwise meets the Master Plan and Guidelines:

- 1) Provide a determination that existing utilities will not be affected.
- 2) Provide the text heights. Except the marker title, the marker text cannot be more than 1"; in height, and not less than 1/2";.
- 3) Contact the Mayor and Aldermen, or their designee, to determine the appropriate Escrow Payment.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Lisa D. Watson

Thomas Gensheimer	- Not Present
Kristopher Monroe	- Abstain
Sean Mannion	- Aye
Lisa D. Watson	- Aye
Eileen Baker	- Aye
Ashley Rainge	- Not Present

IV. Other Business

[3. Nominating Committee to Announce Nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary - Commission to Vote](#)

Mr. Mannion presented the Nominating Committee's nominations as:

Kristopher Monroe: Chair

Ashley Rainge: Vice Chair

Lisa Watson: Secretary

Ms. Rainge was absent from this meeting, therefore could not accept the nomination. The Board Chair and Secretary. Vice Chair will be voted upon at the next HSMC meeting.

Motion

Kristopher Monroe - Chair

Lisa Watson - Secretary

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Eileen Baker

Thomas Gensheimer - Not Present

Kristopher Monroe - Abstain

Sean Mannion - Aye

Lisa D. Watson - Aye

Eileen Baker - Aye

Ashley Rainge - Not Present

4. Discuss Mural at Waters and Victory

Ms. Leah Michalak stated the original approved mural was painted on the building. It was painted over, then the mural reappeared on a board, attached to the building. Mr. Mannion stated it was gone for approximately six to eight months, then reappeared with changes from the approval.

Ms. Everett stated if something different was painted after approval, it is a new mural.

Mr. Mannion stated since it does not meet the requirements, it needs to be applied for.

Ms. Watson stated they don't want to become mural cops, particularly if the public is not complaining. **Mr. Mannion** asked how to fill in the mural gap in the process. **Mr. Monroe** stated he could understand a petitioner thinking if they received an approval, it could be switched out.

Ms. Michalak suggested to make mural amendments/changes as a staff review. Will present at next HSMC meeting.

V. Adjournment

5. Next meeting: March 3, 2022 at 4pm - Location TBD

No applications at this time.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

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.