



Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission

112 East State Street - Hearing Room
April 7, 2022
4:00 PM
DECISIONS

April 7, 2022 Historic Savannah Site & Monument Commission Meeting

Members Present: Kristopher Monroe, Chairman
Lisa Watson, Secretary
Eileen Baker
Catherine Kolstilnik
Sean Mannion
Ashley Rainge

Staff Present: Pamela Everett, Assistant Executive Director
Monica Gann, Assistant Preservation Planner
Bri Morgan, Administrative Assistant
Roger Beall, Systems Analyst

I. Call to Order and Welcome

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

[1. Approve the February 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes](#)

[📎 02.03.22 MEETING MINUTES.pdf](#)

Motion

Approve the February 3, 2022 HSMC Meeting Minutes as presented.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Eileen Baker

Kristopher Monroe - Abstain

Sean Mannion - Aye

Lisa D. Watson - Aye

Eileen Baker - Aye

Ashley Rainge - Not Present

Catherine D. Kostilnik, PhD - Aye

III. Regular Agenda

[2. Petition of W Projects, Erin Wessling | 22-000965-PA | 1204 Gwinnett Street | Pedestrian Walkway Mural Phases 2 and 3](#)

- 🔗 [Staff Recommendation-22-000965-PA.pdf](#)
- 🔗 [Submittal Packet - narrative.pdf](#)
- 🔗 [Submittal Packet-murals mock-up and overall site plan.pdf](#)
- 🔗 [Submittal Packet- app and checklist.pdf](#)

Ms. Monica Gann presented the petitioner's request

PETITIONER'S COMMENTS:

Ms. Erin Wessling, petitioner, stated she is open to additional questions. There is a fourth and fifth phase - around the fall of 2022. This will be the largest asphalt mural in Georgia and public art pieces in the South east.

Mr. Brett Bell, City of Savannah, stated they actively engaged the neighborhood and gained their support. Still in a transitional phase; planned to be complete by May 2022.

Ms. Marsha Beaufort, Chairman of Savannah Arena Task Force, stated they are happy with the process and communicate with the artists.

Mr. Nick Palumbo stated he supports the petition.

Mr. Adolfo Alvarado, artist, painting for 20 years.

Mr. Matthew Hebermehl, artist, stated he was worked on this project for ten years to fruition.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There was no public comment.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Motion

The Historic Site and Monument Commission motioned to recommend approval to the Savannah City Council for Phase 2 and # for the pedestrian walkway mural for the city property located along Gwinnett Street and Stiles Avenue, as requested, to be docketed on a City Council agenda because the proposed work meets the Master Plan and Guidelines.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Catherine D. Kostilnik, PhD

Kristopher Monroe	- Abstain
Sean Mannion	- Aye
Lisa D. Watson	- Aye
Eileen Baker	- Aye
Ashley Rainge	- Aye
Catherine D. Kostilnik, PhD	- Aye

[☞ Staff Recommendation-22-001027-HM.pdf](#)

[☞ Submittal Packet- application, narrative, and photos.pdf](#)

Ms. Monica Gann presented the petitioner's request.

PETITIONER'S COMMENTS:

Ms. Elyse Butler, GHS, availed herself to questions. The second marker is for City Hall. **Mr. Monroe** asked why are business industries are doing the majority of the markers on Bay St. **Ms. Butler** stated there are many coming in the future in other areas, such as Tybee. The goal is to bring attention the port, highlighting the area is a working area. **Mr. Monroe** stated many untold stories are not being told. The business history initiative marker program, which shaped the financial history of the area, is different than local history marker program. **Ms. Baker** asked why is it placed in front of the Gamble building. **Ms. Butler** responded the original marker is across the river. It ties into the area as the offices were located on Factor's Walk.

Mr. Mannion highlighted the historical timeline: 1867 discovery of fertilizer, the emancipation of slavery in 1865. **Ms. Butler** stated historical maker language does not have to be chronological. However, she offered an amended version to include 1865. This area is underrepresented in the historical marker program.

Ms. Kostilnik asked why was 'enslaved laborers' used. **Ms. Butler** stated that is the choice of the State, based on community preference and continuity.

Ms. Rainge asked what is the intended takeaway for tourists. **Ms. Butler** stated the how the port shaped various industries, as well as a tourist destination.

Ms. Watson asked why was only one fertilizer company being addressed. **Ms. Butler** stated Delany approached them, as it is directly tied to their history, and there is no room to list all companies. **Ms. Watson** stated it sounds like an advertisement; **Ms. Butler** stated there is always 'erected by' language.

Mr. Monroe suggested additional wordsmithing. **Ms. Butler** stated the guidelines states the developer should be identified.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

BOARD COMMENT:

Motion

Continue to July 7, 2022 to give petitioner opportunity to adjust verbiage.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Catherine D. Kostilnik, PhD

Kristopher Monroe - Abstain

Sean Mannion - Aye

Lisa D. Watson - Aye

Eileen Baker - Aye

Ashley Rainge - Aye

Catherine D. Kostilnik, PhD - Aye

IV. Other Business

[4. Commissioners Review of Mural Policy](#)

Mr. Monroe is satisfied with current policy.

Ms. Baker stated it states no funding comes from the City - not true. It comes under Budget.

Mr. Mannion stated the issue is the revolving art work from the original mural approval. The question is does that need to return before the Board for approval. **Ms. Watson** stated it states each project should be approved even if it is at the same location. **Ms. Kolstilnik** stated changes should be brought before the Board. **Ms. Watson** stated there are many murals that have not come before the Board, but we are not enforcers.

Ms. Rainge stated swapping out historical persons, as long as it follows the guidelines, it is not an issue for her. However, there needs to be verbiage set forth regarding materials.

Mr. Mannion asked how is it handled. There are some nailed to a wall New projects need to be approved, and whitewashed walls and new murals are not acceptable.

Ms. Baker asked if Code Enforcement could be more involved. The definition of 'Graffiti' was provided.

Mr. Mannion stated this issue is not because of a particular artist. The question is what are the ramifications when the process is not followed comes before the Board.

Motion

Amend page 18 ch 6 mural policy include an enforcement policy for Code Enforcment for mural changes without COA

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Ashley Rainge

Kristopher Monroe	- Abstain
Sean Mannion	- Aye
Lisa D. Watson	- Aye
Eileen Baker	- Aye
Ashley Rainge	- Aye
Catherine D. Kostilnik, PhD	- Aye

[5. Vice-Chair Nomination - Ashley Rainge](#)

Mr. Monroe introduced new Board member.

Ms. Rainge accepted nomination as Vice Chair.

Motion

Nominate Ms. Ashley Rainge as Vice Chair.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Eileen Baker

Kristopher Monroe	- Abstain
Sean Mannion	- Aye
Lisa D. Watson	- Aye
Eileen Baker	- Aye

Ashley Rainge

- Abstain

DECISIONS

Catherine D. Kostilnik, PhD

- Aye

6. Westside Mural ribbon cutting-photos

📎 [photo - 1.jpg](#)

📎 [photo - 2.jpg](#)

📎 [photo - 3.jpg](#)

📎 [photo - 4.jpg](#)

📎 [photo - 5.jpg](#)

Pictures were shared that were taken by Ms. Baker..

7. Liberty Marker photos

📎 [Unveiling photos of the marker.pdf](#)

Photos shared that were taken by Mr. Monroe and Ms. Michalak.

V. Adjournment

8. Next Meeting: May 5, 2022 at 4pm - 112 East State Street: Mendonsa Hearing Room

9. Adjourn

Adjourned at 5:46 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.