



C H A T H A M C O U N T Y
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room
May 4, 2011 - 2:00 P.M.
Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2011 Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order and Welcome

II. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

1. [January 5, 2011 Meeting Minutes](#)

Attachment: [January 5, 2011 Draft minutes.pdf](#)

The minutes of January 5, 2011 were approved with an amendment that Ms. Lisa White, not Mr. George Cohen, was elected Vice-Chair of the CCHPC for the year 2011.

Board Action:

Approval. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Stephen T. Lindell

Second: Jane A. Feiler

George Cohen - Aye

Jane A. Feiler - Aye

Vaughnette Goode-Walker - Aye

Stephen T. Lindell - Aye

Pamela Lossing - Aye

Lisa L. White - Aye

III. Posting

IV. Consent Agenda

V. Regular Agenda

2. [Barry Sheehy- Civil War Savannah](#)

Mr. Sheehy was introduced by **Ms. Goode-Walker**.

Mr. Sheehy said it has been two years since he was at the CCHPC meeting. Since that

time, the first book of the series has been completed. Mr. Sheehy stated that when he talks with students he points out that if you are a poet, you must be alone because of the nature of what you are doing. If you are a novelist, you can do much of your work alone until you get to the very end of your work; but if you are a historian, you can do very little alone. You must bring a lot of people along in order to make good history possible.

A recent study undertaken by Georgia's Tourism Authority shows that heritage tourism -- tied to the specific history or culture of a region -- is one of the fastest growing segments in the travel industry. Not only are there more and more people interested in heritage tourism, but the demographics of heritage travelers are important. They tend to be older, wealthier and better educated. They also spend more and stay longer than average tourists. In this sesquicentennial period it is important for Savannah, Chatham and surrounding counties to develop appropriate heritage tourism strategies to attract visitors. Savannah is not only one of America's most beautiful cities, but it is also home to the greatest concentration of antebellum and Civil War structures and sites of any urban center in America. The city is on the National Registry of Historic Places and has been nominated as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Savannah attracts more than six million visitors a year to the city. In recent years it experienced a mini-boom in visits related to the best seller *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. But even a city attractive and historic as Savannah must seek to continually refresh its tourism product. The sesquicentennial provides an ideal opportunity to do this while leveraging the City's rich legacy of Civil War and antebellum history and architecture.

Their goal is to use the sesquicentennial as an opportunity to increase, in a measurable way, visitors to Savannah in categories of: 1. Heritage Tourism; 2. Conventions and Shows; and 3. Cruise Ship Passengers.

Civil War Savannah Series

The project he introduced to the CCHPC has evolved into four books. *Immortal City* is the foundational book. This book looks at Savannah from 1850 through 1865 and itemizes all the important Civil War and antebellum sites in the city. There are 400 sites. The book is not about a war, but about a city experiencing a war. The second book in the series, *Brokers, Bankers and Bay Lane*, will be out in September, 2011. This book looks inside the slave trade of Savannah. They believe this book will be favorably received and reviewed by Oprah Winfrey's organization. There are no guarantees of course, but such an endorsement would propel sales to the moon and attract a lot of attention and visitors for Savannah. The third book in the series, *Touched with Fire*, will be published in 2012 and the final book, *A Terrible Beauty* will be out in 2013. The book series will coincide exactly with the sesquicentennial commemoration. The authors are not receiving income from this series. They are contributing to the restoration and preservation of historic Savannah. All the profits will go to the Historic Savannah Foundation.

Today, Mr. Sheehy, Cindy Wallace (not present) with Vaughnette Goode-Walker are promoting their second book, *Brokers, Bankers, and Bay Lane*.

3. [DP20110328-12-1 Pennyworth Island Historic Property Designation](#)

Attachment: [Designation Ordinance.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Staff Report and Recommendation.pdf](#)
Attachment: [Resolution.pdf](#)

Ms. Ellen Harris gave the staff report. In December 2009, Chatham County purchased Pennyworth Island, a 174.49 acre island located within the Back River portion of the Savannah River, northeast of Hutchinson Island and immediately west of the portion of the U.S. highway 17A bridge between Hutchinson Island and South Carolina. The property, now known as the Pennyworth Island Preserve, was purchased with funds allocated through the Chatham County Greenspace Fund and was therefore set aside as conservation land. A nomination for listing on the National Register of Historic Places was submitted in January 2011. The designation is pending. Because the designation will be an archaeological site, it has been requested that a phase three archaeological survey be completed so that additional information be gathered for the property.

Ms. Harris said that Pete Nichols, Public Information Officer for Chatham County, was present today. Ms. Bounds and she have been working closely with Mr. Nichols to develop a short video presentation that will be shown on the County's Government Channel 16 highlighting the Pennyworth Island as a cultural and natural resource.

Ms. Harris stated that **Ms. Joanna Bounds** of the MPC staff serves as the planner for the Chatham County Greenspace program. Ms. Harris thanked Ms. Bounds for her participation with this property designation.

Ms. Goode-Walker stated she read that the County was going to have public access to the island. She asked Ms. Harris how this was progressing.

Ms. Harris answered that, at this time, they do not anticipate public access to the island. Presently, access is only accessible by boat and is difficult. It is possible at some point in the future that a dock could be constructed. They are looking to use the island as a conservation area. Ms. Harris reported that guided tours will be allowed if the persons have registered with the county.

Ms. Harris reported that staff recommends approval of the ordinance to designate Pennyworth Island as a local historic property as per the Chatham County Preservation Ordinance and recommends approval of the Pennyworth Island Historic Property Resolution.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Board Action:

Approval of the ordinance to designate Pennyworth Island as a local historic property as per the Chatham County Preservation Ordinance and approval of the Pennyworth Island Historic Property Resolution be submitted to the Chatham - PASS

County Commissioners for approval.

Vote Results

Motion: George Cohen

Second: Stephen T. Lindell

George Cohen - Aye

Jane A. Feiler - Aye

Vaughnette Goode-Walker - Aye

Stephen T. Lindell - Aye

Pamela Lossing - Aye

Lisa L. White - Aye

VI. Request for Extensions

VII. Staff Reviews

VIII. Other Business

New Business

4. [Request to County Commission Chair](#)

Ms. Goode-Walker reported that she sent a letter to Chairman Pete Liakakis seeking information on appointments to the CCHPC to replace the members that are no longer on this Commission. She is waiting to hear from Chairman Liakakis.

IX. Notices, Proclamations and Acknowledgements

X. Adjournment

5. [Adjourned](#)

There being no further business to come before the CCHPC, Chair Goode-Walker adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

The next CCHPC meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 6, 2011 at 2:00 in the Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room, MPC, 112 East State Street.

The Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission provides meeting summary minutes which are adopted by the respective Board. Verbatim transcripts of minutes are the responsibility of the interested party.

