

Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room January 29, 2019 ~ 1:30 PM MINUTES Agenda

January 29, 2019 Regular MPC Meeting

Members Present: Joseph B. Ervin, Vice Chairman

Linder Suthers, Secretary Tom Woiwode, Treasurer

Thomas Branch Travis Coles Ellis Cook Karen Jarrett Lacy Manigault Tanya Milton Wayne Noha Eula Parker Lee Smith

Members Not Present: Roberto Hernandez

Joseph T. Welch

Staff Present: Melanie Wilson, Executive Director

Marcus Lotson, Interim Development Services Director Matthew Lonnerstater, Development Services Planner Marcel Williams, Development Services Planner Alyson Smith, Historic PreservationPlanner

Bri Finau, Administrative Assistant

Julie Yawn, IT

Advisory Staff Present: Bridget Lidy, City of Savannah

- I. Call to Order and Welcome
- II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Approval of Agenda
 - 1. Approval of Agenda

Motion

Approve January 29, 2019 Regular MPC Meeting agenda: reverse items 11 and 12.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Travis Coles Second: Linder Suthers

Ellis Cook - Aye

Joseph Ervin - Aye

W. Lee Smith - Aye

Roberto Hernandez - Not Present

Linder Suthers - Aye

Tom Woiwode - Not Present

Travis Coles - Aye

Joseph Welch - Not Present

Tommy Branch - Aye
Lacy Manigault - Aye
Tanya Milton - Aye
Karen Jarrett - Aye
Eula Parker - Aye
Wayne Noha - Aye

IV. Notices, Proclamations and Acknowledgements

Notice(s)

2. February 19, 2019 Regular MPC Meeting, 1:30 P.M., Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room, 112 E. State Street.

V. Item(s) Requested to be Removed from the Final Agenda

3. REZONING MAP AMENDMENT | 135 East Montgomery Cross Road | B-N (Neighborhood Business) to B-C (Community Business) | 18-006712-ZA

There was no one from the public to speak on this petition.

Motion

The petitioner has requested that this item be postponed to the February 19, 2019 Regular MPC Meeting.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Karen Jarrett Second: Tanya Milton

Ellis Cook - Aye

Joseph Ervin - Aye

W. Lee Smith - Aye

Roberto Hernandez - Not Present

Linder Suthers	- Aye
Tom Woiwode	- Not Present
Travis Coles	- Aye
Joseph Welch	- Not Present
Tommy Branch	- Aye
Lacy Manigault	- Aye
Tanya Milton	- Aye
Karen Jarrett	- Aye
Eula Parker	- Aye
Wayne Noha	- Aye

VI. Items Requested to be Withdrawn

The Consent Agenda consists of items for which the applicant is in agreement with the staff recommendation and for which no known objections have been identified nor anticipated by staff. Any objections raised at the meeting will result in the item being moved to the Regular Agenda. At a 12:30 briefing, the staff will brief the Commission on Consent Agenda items and, time permitting, Regular Agenda items. No testimony will be taken from applicants, supporters or opponents, and no votes will be taken at the briefing.

VII. Consent Agenda

Eula Parker

4. January 8, 2019 Briefing and Regular Meeting Minutes for Approval.

Ø 01-08-19 MPC BRIEFING MINUTES.pdf

∅ 01.08.19 MEETING MINUTES.pdf

Motion Recommend APPROVAL of the Briefing and Regular Meeting Minutes. Vote Results (Approved) Motion: Lacy Manigault Second: Travis Coles Ellis Cook - Aye Joseph Ervin - Aye W. Lee Smith - Aye Roberto Hernandez - Not Present **Linder Suthers** - Aye Tom Woiwode - Not Present **Travis Coles** - Aye - Not Present Joseph Welch **Tommy Branch** - Aye Lacy Manigault - Aye Tanya Milton - Aye Karen Jarrett - Aye

- Aye

Wayne Noha - Aye

VIII. Old Business

IX. Regular Business

5. ZONING MAP AMENDMENT | 317 and 323 East Broughton Street | RIPA zoning classification to B-C-1 zoning classification | File Number 18-006862-ZA

- Maps.pdf
- @RIP-A Uses.pdf
- **B-C-1** District Allowed Uses.pdf
- Neighborhood Meeting 01-22-19.pdf
- @ Staff Report 18-006862-ZA.pdf

Mr. Lotson presented the petition before the Board. The applicant is attempting to expand the former Kennedy Pharmacy, which is now part of the Davenport Museum, and sought a variance. Staff determined it would be more appropriate to rezone the property.

Mr. Rob Brannen, representing the petitioner, stated he was in agreement with the staff report and recommendation. He stated the gift shop is planned to be moved to Broughton Street, through the former pharmacy.

Mr. Nathan Godley, neighboring property owner, stated he is opposed to the zoning change. He believes it will allow for aesthetic changes and be a detriment to the area as the action will be a negative precedent. He believes the Historic Savannah Foundation is undermining their purpose to preserve the character of the historic district, and detracting from the historical integrity of the area. He believes there are options other than removing the historic aesthetic of the Kennedy Pharmacy, forever changing its character. The proposed plan will affect him personally as he will have to look daily at a modern structure, rather than the historic as he prefers.

Mr. Cook asked if the historic character of the building will be affected by these plans.

Mr. Brannen stated it is not the intent to change the character of the building. It will have to go back to the Historic Review Board for design.

Mr. Daniel Carey stated the Historic Board of Review will have final say. He stated they will follow the standards.

Motion

The MPC staff recommends approval of the petitioner's request to rezone the eastern half of the property located at 317 East Broughton Street and the property located at 323 East Broughton Street from an RIP-A zoning classification to a B-C-1 zoning classification.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Karen Jarrett Second: Travis Coles

Ellis Cook - Aye

Joseph Ervin - Aye

W. Lee Smith - Aye

Roberto Hernandez - Not Present

Linder Suthers - Aye

Tom Woiwode - Not Present

Travis Coles - Aye

Joseph Welch - Not Present

Tommy Branch - Aye
Lacy Manigault - Aye

Tanya Milton - Not Present

Karen JarrettEula ParkerAyeWayne NohaAye

6. TEXT AMENDMENT | Petition of Parkside Neighborhood Association | 18-006619-ZA | Create Conservation Overlay District

- Application 6619.pdf
- Neighborhood Association Actions.pdf
- Proposed Ordinance_18-006619-ZA.pdf
- Combined Maps.pdf
- Proposed boundaries.pdf
- Staff Report-18-006619-ZA2.pdf
- Letters of Support 1-25-19.pdf
- Public Comment 1-29-19.pdf

Ms. Harris presented the petition before the Board. A brief history of the area was presented also.

Mr. Rob Hessler, stated he was in support of the staff recommendation. He informed of the neighborhood discussions and decisions to support as well. He stated it is the same as Ardsley Park.

Mr. Nick Palumbo, citizen, stated he supports the petition.

Motion

The MPC staff recommends approval of the zoning text amendment to Article Q: Conservation Overlay District to add Daffin Park-Parkside with the condition that the boundaries are consistent with the National Register boundaries.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Karen Jarrett Second: Travis Coles

Ellis Cook - Aye

Joseph Ervin - Aye

W. Lee Smith - Aye

Roberto Hernandez - Not Present

Linder Suthers - Aye

Tom Woiwode - Not Present

Travis Coles	- Aye
Joseph Welch	- Not Present
Tommy Branch	- Aye
Lacy Manigault	- Aye
Tanya Milton	- Aye
Karen Jarrett	- Aye
Eula Parker	- Aye
Wayne Noha	- Aye

7. MAP AMENDMENT | Petition of MPC Staff/Parkside Neighborhood Association | 18-006939-ZA | Create Conservation Overlay District

- Application 6619.pdf
- Proposed boundaries.pdf
- Combined Maps.pdf
- Letters of Support 1-25-19.pdf
- Staff Report2.pdf
- Public Comment 1-29-19.pdf

This petition was heard in conjunction with the previous petition.

Motion

The MPC staff recommends approval of the Daffin Park-Parkside Conservation Overlay District.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Travis Coles Second: Tanya Milton

Ellis Cook - Aye

Joseph Ervin - Aye

W. Lee Smith - Aye

Roberto Hernandez - Not Present

Linder Suthers - Aye

Tom Woiwode - Not Present

Travis Coles - Aye

Joseph Welch - Not Present

Tommy Branch - Aye
Lacy Manigault - Aye
Tanya Milton - Aye
Karen Jarrett - Aye
Eula Parker - Aye
Wayne Noha - Aye

8. MAJOR SITE PLAN GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN | Montgomery Street Residences | File No. 18-006912

- Submittal 1 Montgomery Street Residences 12-18-18 General Development Plan.pdf
- Concept Drawings.pdf
- Staff Report 6912.pdf

Mr. Lotson presented the petition to the Board. There is a proposal of a four-story apartment building on eight parcels, requiring a recombination. 135 dwelling units consisting of mixed studio, one-bedroom, and two-bedrooms. Requesting a ten-percent waiver of required parking, proposing 63 of the 109 required. Recommending approval of the General Development Plan and denial of the off-street parking waiver, due to other options to meet parking requirements.

Motion

Continue to February 19, 2019 Regular MPC Meeting.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Tommy Branch Second: Karen Jarrett

Ellis Cook - Aye

Joseph Ervin - Aye

W. Lee Smith - Nay

Roberto Hernandez - Not Present

Linder Suthers - Aye
Tom Woiwode - Aye
Travis Coles - Aye

Joseph Welch - Not Present

Tommy Branch - Aye
Lacy Manigault - Aye
Tanya Milton - Aye
Karen Jarrett - Aye
Eula Parker - Aye
Wayne Noha - Aye

9. NEW CONSTRUCTION in the Mid-City Historic District | Petitioner: Lynch Associates Architects | File No. 18-006859-COA | Montgomery Street, West 31st Street, West 32nd Street

- Submittal Packet.pdf
- Montgomery Project Narrative.pdf
- Material Selections.pdf
- Supplemental Submittal.pdf
- Historic Context- Sanborn Maps.pdf
- Staff Recommendation.pdf

Ms. Smith presented the petition before the Board. Non-contributing buildings are on site of the property that have been approved for demolition. Conditions have been requested.

Mr. Manigault asked if the petitioner is in agreement with the staff recommendation and conditions.

Mr. Josh Yellin, representing the petitioner, stated permits cannot be obtained without meeting staff

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conditions. They are obligated to remain within those stated guidelines. He explained the parking plans for the project.

Mr. Jake Henry, of Savannah Tree Foundation, stated there is a lack of required tree line. He also requested the greenspace requirement be adhered to and included in staff recommendations.

Mr. Lotson stated plantings will need to be discussed to determine requirements. A landscape plan will have to be provided with the specific development plan, reviewed, and addressed with the petitioner by City staff.

Mr. Justin Parrish, also representing the petitioner (architect), addressed the conditions outlined by staff that conflict with their proposal. He stated adjustments were made in accordance with City staff to accommodate the existing trees on MLK Boulevard. The roofing is intended as an accent feature; it will always viewed from street level and not prohibited in the ordinance. The curb cuts may be in conflict with Transportation requirements regarding a gate and 20 feet of the property line. The exposed base is a concrete material and is allowed. He stated they are proposing a canopy, not an awning.

Mr. Yellin stated approval from all governing authorities will have to obtained before anything can be started.

Motion

Continue to February 19, 2019 Regular MPC Meeting.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Karen Jarrett Second: Linder Suthers

Ellis Cook - Aye
Joseph Ervin - Aye
W. Lee Smith - Nay

Roberto Hernandez - Not Present

Linder Suthers - Aye
Tom Woiwode - Aye
Travis Coles - Aye

Joseph Welch - Not Present

Tommy Branch - Aye
Lacy Manigault - Aye
Tanya Milton - Aye
Karen Jarrett - Aye
Eula Parker - Aye
Wayne Noha - Aye

10. ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT | Section 8-3030(n)(2) Figure 3 | Historic District Height Map

- @ Exhibits.pdf
- Staff Report 0080.pdf
- Picture 001.jpg

Mr. Lotson presented the petition before the Board. He stated the need for the height map as it was introduced in 1990 is to provide continuity. The additional height on the subject property was approved due to the ability of additional height being removable without damage to the structure. If the height map is amended, three stories will be allowed for the properties. Of concern is the National Park Services findings resulting in the National Landmark Historic District rating of Savannah's Historic District from 'satisfactory' to 'threatened',

due to the influx of rooftop additions. It appears the subject property is in violation because there is no record of an approved variance.

Mr. Smith stated the requested permit was approved and provided; the builder did nothing wrong and should not be deemed in violation.

Mr. Neil Dawson, representative for the petitioner, highlighted the varying heights in the downtown area, thus many variances allowed. They would like to improve the existing public-right-of-way, which is about 300 feet wide. The rooftop is planned to be minimally visible, while improving the public's experience. The site has won historic awards.

Mr. Lotson stated the applicant previously did go through the proper process correctly, however the need for a variance was not addressed at that time. There were specific findings to this site regarding a non-historic addition to a historic building.

Mr. Bob Rosenwald, Downtown Neighborhood Association, stated a precedent of a variance does not mean the next applicant is guaranteed one. At some point, the line needs to be drawn, especially with the threat of losing designation. He stated he is opposed to the petition.

Mr. Daniel Carey, Historic Savannah Foundation, stated he agrees with the staff report. He stated there are few buildings with original height left in the district. It is better to err on the side of caution rather than continuing the allowance of changes that affect the integrity the Historic District.

Motion

Staff recommends denial of the petition to amend Section 8-3030(n) (2) Figure 3 Historic District Height Map.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Ellis Cook

Second: Karen Jarrett

Ellis Cook - Aye

Joseph Ervin - Aye

W. Lee Smith - Nay

Roberto Hernandez - Not Present

Linder Suthers - Aye
Tom Woiwode - Nay
Travis Coles - Nay

Joseph Welch - Not Present

Tommy Branch - Nay
Lacy Manigault - Aye
Tanya Milton - Aye
Karen Jarrett - Aye
Eula Parker - Aye
Wayne Noha - Aye

11. REZONING MAP AMENDMENT | 703 Louisville Road | I-H to P-RIP-D | 18-006863-ZA

- Exhibit A Maps.pdf
- @ Exhibit B Use Tables.pdf
- Exhibit C General Development Plan.pdf
- Exhibit D Development Agreement 703 Louisville Rd FULLY EXCD (12-8-18).pdf

- Rezoning Application 703 Louisville excd (12-18-18)(derimes@bouhan.com).pdf
- Revised Pg 2 of Rezoning Application showing JDN as City's Agent (1-4-19).pdf
- Affidavit of Authorization excd (1-4-19).pdf
- Seaboard Freight Station Pictures.pdf
- MPC Staff Report 18-006863-ZA and 18-006368.pdf
- Exhibit E MPC Policy for Documenting Buildings Prior to Demolition.pdf
- Memo re Gateway Project (1-24-19).pdf
- Letter of Concern 703 Louisville Road.pdf
- Williams_Letter to MPC re 703 Louisville Rd.pdf
- D. Carey Letter and Documents.pdf
- Slide deck for MPC Gateway Project (1-29-19).pdf

Mr. Lonnerstater presented the petition before the Board. He informed them the developer intends to purchase the surplus parcel adjacent to the subject site. Neither are part of the National Landmark Historic District, though adjacent to the district. The 1929 structure on the subject site is not a registered historic building. There is a proposed student housing project with seven stories, which is to include parts of the existing 1929 structure in the new construction. The proposed plan includes removal of the existing structure, with ample parking provided for the residents.

Mr. Lonnerstater continued that it has been suggested to utilize more of the existing structure rather than complete demolition. Several letters of opposition were received in relation to the demolition of the 1929 structure.

Mr. John Northrup, representing the petitioner, stated the property is between two districts: the Canal District and the Historic District. The project is not catered to students, but young professionals and to compliment the area.

Mr. Patrick Shay, representing the petitioner, stated Louisville will be urbanized and become a real street. The canal will be upgraded by widening and the greenspace will be improved. The lower two levels will be structured parking to be inundated in case of flooding. There is the intent of an improved crosswalk and hopeful for improvements along Louisville Road.

Ms. Jarrett asked why is this structure being demolished as it is associated with Central Railroad.

Ms. Suthers stated the proposed structure looks institutionalized. It works against what the preservationists are working toward.

Mr. Alex Sweeney, historic consultant, stated the structure is not eligible for historic designation as of 2016. A permanent photographic archival record has been completed. The canal is listed as historic.

Mr. Northrup stated various city departments have been consulted to be sure the Canal District is respected. The surplus property was agreed to be sold and the transaction should be completed in the next month. Extensive due diligence was performed and ongoing. The structure has lost a lot of its historic integrity and would be extremely costly to restore; as much as possible will be salvaged for the new building. The petitioner has the right to fully demolish the structure and can get a permit to do so. The petitioner would like to make a contribution toward the preservation of the railroad museum across from the 1929 structure.

Ms. Suthers asked if future plans will submitted to the MPC.

Mr. Northrup agreed.

Ms. Connie Shrieve, citizen, stated it was agreed a trail plan was to be put on the property after all of their studies were completed. She stated there is confusion as to who owns the property. The Savannah Ogeechee Canal has paid taxes on the property until 2002, because they are a charitable organization. There is a 16.5 mile road through the property.

Mr. Jason Aarons, citizen, stated he would like something done with the 1929 building and the modernization of the proposed buildings. Erasure of Savannah's character is occurring.

Ms. Linda Barnes, citizen, feels it is shameful to not use this historic building, to have only a sign or marker.

Mr. Daniel Carey, HSF, stated his organization opposes staff recommendation. He believes the Army Corp of Engineers and the state's Historic Preservation Office do not agree with the petitioner's consultant's recommendation. He's not sure that it was understood that the agreement included demolition of the 1929 structure. He would like other agencies to complete their review.

Mr. Kevin Roe, citizen, stated the building should be protected and it can survive flooding, as it has before. The studies need to be completed, rather than allowing the petitioner to do as they want instead of what is best for Savannah.

Mr. Nick Palumbo, citizen, stated the consultant's report is in regard to the interior of the building, not the structure itself. More studies need to be done.

Ms. Rebecca Fenwick, citizen, stated Savananh is built on historic preservation. The petitioner can save and use the structure, or sell to someone else that will.

Mr. Steve Argue, citizen, stated this structure is one of the only two railroads still in Georgia. He requested developing a structure that harmonizes with the 1929 structure to honor the building.

Mr. Dan Walters, citizen, stated there is an on-line petition to save the structure with over 3,000 signatures.

Mr. Scott Proctor, citizen, stated he supports the HSF and saving the structure.

Ms. Jill Braugher, citizen, stated the city is allowing this development to hardscape a wetland.

Mr. Northrup stated the delays are costing them much money and would like approval of the petition, as the studies are legitimate and with merit. Additional delays will not yield a solution that will please everyone. They will try to salvage what they can.

Mr. Lotson stated there are other portions of the right-of-way that are not part of this petition.

Mr. Lonnestater stated the Future Land Use Map has the area designated as Parks and Recreation, and agreed that floodplain areas are generally designated as such.

Mr. Shay stated portions of the façade are trying to be salvaged, not just bricks or steel. Collaboration with the Board and counterparts will be held to accomplish.

Motion

APPROVAL of the requested rezoning classification from I-H (Heavy Industrial) zoning classification to a P-RIP-D (Planned Medium Density Residential) zoning classification applying the ";extraordinary and unusual"; provision of Sec. 8-3031(D)(1)(a) (file no. 18-006863-ZA), subject to the following conditions:

WITH CONDITION TO DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIFIC PLANS: BRING BACK FOR REVIEW OF DESIGN REGARDING ELEVATION.

Provide anticipated unit mix (number of bedrooms);

Meet 20% greenspace requirement;

Clarify type of green infrastructure/low-impact stormwater management techniques to be utilized;

Present concept building elevations and renderings to the Planning Commission;

Incorporate some aspect of the historic building (i.e. historic bricks, sign, etc.) into the design of the new building and allow for historic building materials to be salvaged; and

Comply with the MPC's policy for documenting buildings prior to demolition.

NOTE: Separate motions were made for the rezoning application (18-006863-ZA) and the General Development Plan (18-006368-PLAN).

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: W. Lee Smith Second: Tom Woiwode

Ellis Cook - Aye

Joseph Ervin - Aye

W. Lee Smith - Aye

Roberto Hernandez - Not Present

Linder Suthers - Nay
Tom Woiwode - Aye
Travis Coles - Aye

Joseph Welch - Not Present

Tommy Branch - Aye
Lacy Manigault - Aye
Tanya Milton - Aye
Karen Jarrett - Nay
Eula Parker - Aye
Wayne Noha - Aye

12. GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN | 703 Louisville Road | Gateway Project | 18-006368-PLAN

- MPC Staff Report 18-006863-ZA and 18-006368.pdf
- Williams_Letter to MPC re 703 Louisville Rd.pdf
- D. Carey Letter and Documents.pdf
- Slide deck for MPC Gateway Project (1-29-19).pdf

This petition was heard in conjunction with the previous.

Motion

APPROVAL of the proposed General Development Plan (file no. 18-006368-PLAN), subject to the following conditions:

Provide anticipated unit mix (number of bedrooms);

Meet 20% greenspace requirement;

Clarify type of green infrastructure/low-impact stormwater management techniques to be utilized;

Present concept building elevations and renderings to the Planning Commission;

Incorporate some aspect of the historic building (i.e. historic bricks, sign, etc.) into the design of the new building and allow for historic building materials to be salvaged; and

Comply with the MPC's policy for documenting buildings prior to demolition.

NOTE: Separate motions were made for the rezoning application (18-006863-ZA) and the General Development Plan (18-006368-PLAN).

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: W. Lee Smith
Second: Tommy Branch

Ellis Cook - Nay

Joseph Ervin - Aye

W. Lee Smith - Aye

Roberto Hernandez - Not Present

Linder Suthers - Nay
Tom Woiwode - Aye
Travis Coles - Aye

Joseph Welch - Not Present

Tommy Branch - Aye
Lacy Manigault - Aye
Tanya Milton - Aye
Karen Jarrett - Nay
Eula Parker - Aye
Wayne Noha - Aye

X. Presentations

XI. Other Business

XII. Adjournment

13. Adjourn

There being no further business to present before the Board, the January 29, 2019 Regular MPC Meeting adjourned at 4:48 P.M.

Respectfully,

Melanie Wilson, Executive Director /bf

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room January 29, 2019 ~ 1:30 PM MINUTES Agenda

XIII. Development Plans Submitted for Review

14. Development Plans Submitted for Review

January 29th MPC Meeting Development Log.pdf

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.