



S A V A N N A H - C H A T H A M C O U N T Y
HISTORIC SITE & MONUMENT COMMISSION

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room
January 6, 2011 4:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2011 HSMC Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order and Welcome

1. [Order](#)

Mr. Phillip Williams, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

2. [Meeting Minutes November 17, 2010](#)

Attachment: [HSMC November 17, 2010 Minutes.pdf](#)

Mr. Karatassos stated that the Mayor and Aldermen went forward with the emancipation marker. He wants to be sure that the minutes properly represented the fact that he was in favor of the marker.

Ms. Soule stated she believes the minutes reflect this as they show that Mr. Karatassos made a motion, but it failed due to lack of being seconded.

Mr. Karatassos made an amendment to the minutes as his last name was misspelled. The correct spelling is K-A-R-A-T-A-S-S-O-S.

Board Action:

Approval. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Eli Karatassos

Second: Walt Harper

Walt Harper - Aye

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Adrienn Mendonca - Aye

Mary Soule	- Aye
Phillip Williams	- Aye

III. Regular Agenda

IV. Other Business

3. Revised 2011 Meeting Schedule

Attachment: [Thomson HSMC 2011 Meeting Schedule 12152010.pdf](#)

Ms. Harris reported that Mr. Tom Thomson, MPC Executive Director, sent a memo to the HSMC explaining that due to the existing economic climate, staff time and resources have been reallocated. One option is to change the meeting schedule to meet less frequently. Therefore, rather than have the HSMC meeting scheduled monthly, it is recommended that the HSMC meet every other month. This will provide the Commission with consistency to know the meetings dates. Ms. Harris explained that current policy is if no applications are received, the meeting will be canceled.

Mr. Karatassos said he would recommend having the meetings quarterly.

Ms. Harris explained that the only hesitation with meeting quarterly is the potential of holding up a marker for an additional three to four months. But, if the Commission wants to meet quarterly, this is something they can do.

Mr. Harper stated that he believes every two months are long enough. They have gone three months without a meeting.

Mr. Karatassos said the Commission only had three meetings in 2010.

Ms. Harris stated that if the Commission needs to do so, they can go back to having the meetings every month.

Board Action:

Approval to have meetings every other month. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Walt Harper

Second: Mary Soule

Walt Harper - Aye

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Adrienn Mendonca - Aye

Mary Soule - Aye

Phillip Williams - Aye

4. Establishment of Nominating Committee

Mr. Williams stated that they need volunteers to serve as a nominating committee to present nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary for 2011. **Mr. Karatassos, Ms. Mendonca, and Ms. Soule** volunteered to serve as the Nominating Committee.

Ms. Harris said that all the present officers are eligible to serve another term.

Ms. Soule stated that she and Ms. Harris spoke about the monument in Chatham Square. She believes that the HSMC was going to send a recommendation to whoever erected it. Ms. Soule believes it is a sundial and is located on the corner of two intersecting sidewalks. This is a problem as people are constantly removing the top of the sundial.

Ms. Harris explained that Park & Tree is responsible for all monuments.

Ms. Soule said her recommendation is that the monument be removed from this intersection and relocated behind the benches. The monument would still be seen and would be out of the pedestrians' way.

Mr. Harper stated that the sundial should be welded.

Mr. Karatassos said probably the monument should be removed if it is not going to be properly displayed.

Ms. Harris stated may be a fence could be installed around it.

Mr. Harper believes that cameras are now being placed in the squares. This should help to catch persons who are damaging the monuments.

Mr. Karatassos said this was why he asked who erected it. Maybe these persons should be responsible for removing the monument.

Ms. Harris explained that when monuments are placed on City's property, the City assumes the responsibility. She suggested that they discuss this item at the next meeting and in the meantime, she will research the monument and talk with the City.

Mr. Karatassos believes that at the last meeting, Mr. Smith brought up a discussion about a marker erected in Forsyth Park. He believes this should have come to the HSMC for their review and recommendation.

Mr. Harper stated that he asked Mr. White about this and he was told that they do not have to come before the HSMC to get anything approved.

Mr. Karatassos explained that it is not a question that they don't have to, but there is certainly a courtesy between agencies.

Ms. Mendonca asked if the marker is permanent.

Mr. Karatassos answered yes.

Mr. Harper said it is permanent as can be. It is a sign. It is not a monument; it is not a plaque. According to the Park & Tree Director, they do not need to come before the HSMC to get this approved.

Mr. Williams stated that he agrees with Mr. Karatassos. It would be a benefit to Park & Tree and a courtesy to the HSMC if Park & Tree got an experienced opinion about what is placed in the park.

Ms. Harris believes the question is whether what was put in Forsyth Park is considered a marker or a sign. If it is considered a sign, it is not within the HSMC's jurisdiction. The HSMC does not review signs. However, the HSMC does review markers.

Mr. Karatassos asked if this sign came before the Historic District Board of Review.

Ms. Harris answered no.

Mr. Karatassos said at any rate it did not go before an agency that would have appropriately been present to make a comment. He reported that he is working on a contract with the County on a project that they are managing. Even though the County does not have to ask for permission, but, as a courtesy, they are meeting with the staff to go over what they are planning to do. Although, there will not be a specific recommendation, comments will be made which he is sure will be helpful in whatever they decide to do in regards to this project. If it is a marker, then the HSMC should be allowed to make a comment on it.

Mr. Williams suggested that they all go look at it and since they are citizens, they are allowed to comment. He said aside from being members of the HSMC if they feel that passionate about it, they should get together and write a letter explaining that they are on the HSMC and noticed that the sign is there. They are the citizens that have been appointed to look at the aesthetic of the sites, monuments and parks.

Board Action:

The Sundial Monument in Chatham Square be placed on the March 3, 2011 meeting agenda in order to get more information. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Mary Soule

Second: Eli Karatassos

Walt Harper - Aye

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Adrienn Mendonca - Aye

Mary Soule	- Aye
Phillip Williams	- Aye

Board Action:

The staff review the situation in Forsyth Park and decide whether the plaque is a marker or a sign and make a report to the HSMC. Then at their next meeting, the HSMC will make their decision and report to the City and Park & Tree. If it is found to be a marker, the item be placed on the HSMC's March 3, 2011 Meeting Agenda. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Eli Karatassos

Second: Walt Harper

Walt Harper - Aye

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Adrienn Mendonca - Aye

Mary Soule - Aye

Phillip Williams - Aye

V. Adjournment

5. [Adjourned](#)

There being no further business to come before the HSMC, Mr. Williams adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting is March 3, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Harris
Cultural Resource and Urban Planning Manager

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.