



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
July 7, 2011 4:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

July 7, 2011 HSMC Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order and Welcome

1. [Order](#)

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by the Secretary, Mr. Walt Harper.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

2. [March 3, 2011 Meeting Minutes](#)

Attachment: [March 3, 2011 Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

Board Action:

Approval. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Eli Karatassos

Second: Phillip Williams

Walt Harper - Aye

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Adrienn Mendonca - Aye

Phillip Williams - Aye

III. Regular Agenda

3. [C-110610-34181-2 Ardsley Park Chatham Crescent Markers](#)

Attachment: [Staff report.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Context photographs.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Location map.pdf](#)

Ms. Ellen Harris gave the staff report. The petitioner is requesting the installation of three solid bronze plaques to be located on the pillars marking the entrances into Ardsley

Park Chatham Crescent Neighborhood. The pillars are located on the southwest corner of Abercorn Street and Victory Drive; the northwest corner of Washington and Waters Avenues; and the southeast corner of Washington Avenue and Bull Street. The plaques will be 24" x 24" and will include the Ardsley Park Chatham Crescent seal and the text "Ardsley Park Chatham Crescent Established 1910." The markers meet the standards of enhancing the space and character of the neighborhood and also meets the standard of commemorating a place.

Ms. Harris stated that the cost will be approximately \$5,000 and the funds have been fully secured by the neighborhood. The plaques will be installed on the pillars with pins into the mortar and not into the historic bricks. She reported that staff recommends approval of the petition.

Mr. Karatassos stated that he had no objection to the plaques, but he dislikes the color. He asked why the color could not be gray. It is inconsistent with the rest of the post. It almost detracts from the visual appeal of the post.

Mr. Williams stated that it is different material; it is bronze.

Ms. Harris said physically it could be possible for the color to be gray or a different material. The guidelines state, however, that it should be black with silver or bronze finish on the lettering.

Mr. Karatassos stated again that he believes it distracts. He asked what else could it be made out of.

Mr. Williams answered aluminum.

Mr. Karatassos wanted to know if it would last.

Mr. Williams said no.

Mr. Karatassos said he wished the markers were not so distinctively different in color.

Mr. Williams said the markers could be polished brass or silver, but they would become dull over time if they are not maintained. He believes this finish has been proven with other markers to be the longest lasting and maintenance free.

Mr. Karatassos asked eventually what would the color become.

Mr. Williams said a dark patina. Therefore, the shininess will start to fade a little and get darker, but it will take a while to do so. On the other hand, this is a picture of it and not the actual marker.

Ms. Harris said the mock-up is made out of plastic. What is shown on the table is not actually bronze. The originals have not been cast at this point to see exactly what the colors would be; this is just the mock-up where they can see the size, text, dimensions, etc.

Mr. Karatassos said maybe they could be lower on the pillars and have them all the same height instead of having one low because of the lamp and then the other higher. He was not

saying put them in the ground, but have them there as a marker instead of a picture being framed by a beautiful block. It makes the columns look irrelevant.

Mr. Harper stated that he did not believe it would be noticeable as the columns are in different places. They are looking at the markers now side-by-side.

Mr. Karatassos said he was only saying it makes the marker more prominent than the actual column. It diminishes the column and makes it look more like a plaque.

Mr. Williams said it is a plaque.

Mr. Karatassos said the columns are beautiful; he likes them as they are and if they are going to put a marker on them, why put it so prominently at the top.

Mr. Harper asked if there is a standard governing the height of markers.

Ms. Harris answered that there is not a standard governing the specific height of markers. The traditional way has been at approximate eye level so that it would not be a strain to either look down or up.

Ms. Mendonca was curious why they only have three. Are they not putting a marker on the south boundary?

Ms. Harris explained that the neighborhood is putting the markers on all existing columns.

Ms. Mendonca said she was curious about the markers themselves. She asked if the idea is to embed the markers into the mortar.

Ms. Harris explained that the idea is to attach the pins into the existing mortar in the bricks. It will be done in such a way to avoid having to penetrate into the historic bricks. The pins will be added into the existing mortar. They are not adding new mortar.

Mr. Karatassos asked if they could be smaller.

PETITIONER COMMENTS

Mr. Randy Moffet, President of Ardsley Park Chatham Crescent Neighborhood Association, was present on behalf of the petition.

Mr. Karatassos said he was reared not too far from this area. He asked Mr. Moffet if he believed the neighborhood association would object to the markers being a little lower.

Mr. Moffet explained that they merely photographed the pictures and then taped them to the bricks for representation purposes. They can certainly lower the markers; that's not a problem.

Mr. Karatassos said he believes it would look better if they are lower; just a couple of feet off the ground.

Ms. Mendonca believes they would look funny if they are lower. She believes eye level is what the neighborhood association was looking for.

BOARD DISCUSSION

Mr. Karatassos said he would make a motion to approve the plaques with the condition that the bottoms not exceed 24 inches from the ground.

Mr. Williams said the problem is they are looking down on it, but they should be looking straight at it.

Mr. Karatassos stated this is the point, they are looking at the post at the column in the neighborhood. He does not have a problem with the 24 inches. He asked Mr. Harper if it is too low.

Mr. Harper explained that he does not think 24 inches above ground would be sufficient. People would be looking down.

Mr. Williams said he sees Mr. Karatassos' concern, but the actual Crescent emblem is repeated language. The text below it could be blown up and the only thing new is adding "established in 1910." He asked what if the word "Crescent" was blown up more, keep it rectangular or possibly make it circular and add 1910 within the word Crescent.

Mr. Karatassos asked if this was a logo.

Mr. Williams answered yes.

Mr. Karatassos said he believes the logo means more than the lettering and relates to the object that this is going to be placed thereon.

Ms. Mendonca said they need to consider the driveability aspect of being able to see it as you drive into the neighborhood. If one is walking, she believes they would be able to see the circle, but driving could be something else if it is not large enough.

Mr. Karatassos said it is not a street sign.

Ms. Mendonca said the entire point is to mark this as a historic neighborhood. A part of what she is hearing is they don't want it to stand out on the structures that are already existing. Some of the problem could be the color. If there is some way to compromise and come to something that suits everybody should be the aim.

Mr. Karatassos stated that if it was aluminum, gray and was not such a contrast to the background, it would be okay. However, the only thing he is saying is lower it. Mr. Williams idea is very good. He does not believe that enough credit is given to the actual crescent logo. They could probably not change the size of the fonts, but lower the word Ardsley Park; blow up the circle and they would have exactly everything as is; but would not have as much difference between "established 1910" from the "Crescent." From the graphics standpoint, the distance between the words "Ardsley Park" and the circle should be the same as the distance between the words "established 1910" and "Chatham Crescent."

Therefore, if they were to lower "Ardsley Park Chatham Crescent" down so that it is an equal distance to where it is currently to the circle, then enlarge the circle, he believes would make the plaque look better. But, it should still be lower.

Mr. Moffet explained that the intention of the Board was to mark the Ardsley Park Chatham Crescent Neighborhood and not necessarily to publicize the neighborhood association into a larger seal. He believes this would overly publicize the neighborhood association at the expense of designating the historic neighborhood.

Mr. Williams asked staff what is the standard height for plaques.

Ms. Harris stated that there is not a standard height.

Mr. Williams stated they could not make a standard here because of the light post. If it is 48 inches and the standard is 60 inches to the center of the plaque, they could not put it here.

Ms. Harris explained that there is no standard height.

Mr. Karatassos asked Ms. Harris if she recommended the height for the plaques.

Ms. Harris answered no.

Mr. Williams asked Mr. Moffet if the plaques will fall between the joints so that they could be marked in and not drilled into the stone.

Mr. Moffet answered yes.

Board Action:

Approval of the plaques with the condition that the bottoms are placed 30 inches from the ground. - FAIL

Vote Results

Motion: Eli Karatassos

Second: Phillip Williams

Walt Harper - Nay

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Adrienn Mendonca - Nay

Phillip Williams - Aye

Board Action:

Approve with the condition that the bottom of the plaques be placed 48 inches from the finished grade. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Phillip Williams

Second: Eli Karatassos

Walt Harper - Aye

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Adrienn Mendonca - Nay

Phillip Williams - Aye

IV. Other Business

4. [Toomer Monument](#)

Mr. Harper reported that Mr. Jerry Flemming of Park & Tree has removed the graffiti from this monument. They have replaced the sundial. A brick walkway has been laid. Therefore, a separation from the actual walkway is here. Mr. Harper said the monument looks much better.

V. Adjournment

5. [Adjourned](#)

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Harper adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 1, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Harris
Cultural Resource and Urban Planning Manager

EH:mem

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.