



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 10, 2014 4:00 P.M.  
Meeting Minutes

**July 10, 2014 HSMC Meeting**

**I. Call to Order and Welcome**

1. [Welcome](#)

**Mr. Karatassos** called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. He outlined the purpose and role of the Historic Site and Monument Commission. Mr. Karatassos introduced the new Commission member, Ms. Giselle Rahn.

**II. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

2. [Approval of April 3, 2014 Meeting Minutes](#)

Attachment: [April 3, 2014 Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

**Board Action:**

Approve the minutes of April 3, 2014. - PASS

**Vote Results**

Motion: Walt Harper

Second: Thomas Gensheimer

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Walt Harper - Aye

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Giselle Rahn - Aye

**III. Regular Agenda**

3. [Petition of SeeSAW, LLC | 14-002439-PA | 5002 Paulsen Street | Mural](#)

Attachment: [Staff Report - 5002 Paulsen Street 14-002439-PA.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Application - 5002 Paulsen Street 14-002439-PA.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Submittal Packet - 5002 Paulsen Street 14-002439-PA.pdf](#)

**Matt Hebermehl of SeeSAW, LLC** was present on behalf of the petition.

**Ms. Leah Michalak** gave the staff report. The petitioner is requesting a mural at 5002 Paulsen Street and will be located on the southeast corner of Paulsen and 66th Streets. It will be visible from Paulsen, East 67th, and 66th Street. The mural will be on private property and sponsored (funded) by Kayak Kafe Midtown. The other two site-tenants, Femme Fatale Salon and Squeeze Organic Juice Bar, are in verbal support of the mural. No corporate logo or business name will be integrated into the mural.

**Ms. Michalak** reported that staff recommends approval of the mural because it meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Marker, Monument, and Public Art with the following conditions:

1. Clarify if the sponsor and artist names will be incorporated into the design.
2. Clarify if there is a weatherproof and vandalism-resistant coating.

**Mr. Karatassos** asked who owns the property and has the owner given permission for the mural to be painted there.

**Ms. Harris** answered that the property owner has signed the application attesting that permission is given to have the mural on their property.

#### **PETITIONER COMMENTS**

**Mr. Hebermehl** came forward and stated that the artist name will not be incorporated into the design. The mural will be completed at the end of July or the first couple of weeks in August. If there are any changes, he will notify staff.

**Mr. Harper** stated it appears that the mural will be going behind the sunscreen. Why is it not going on the sunscreen?

**Mr. Hebermehl** answered that the sunscreen comes off of the building and, therefore, from the south looking north view, it will go behind the sunscreen. Consequently, to be in line with the City's standards of architectural integrity, they felt that the sunscreen should stand alone as an important architecture ornament to the building.

**Mr. Harper** said he believes the sunscreen would complement the mural. If the colors are behind it and on the front, he believes this would give depth to the mural. He asked Mr. Hebermehl if it would be possible to paint it with the same types of paint color.

**Mr. Hebermehl** said he was not against the suggestion and they could see how it looks, but their intention was that the palette of negative space would complement the preexisting. They are trying to do a mural that meets all the guidelines. They are trying to enhance the space.

**Ms. Rahn** said she is in agreement with Mr. Hebermehl's comment that they see how it will look. If it is aggressive in its transition, then, perhaps a repainting could be visited.

**Mr. Gensheimer** stated that he believes it would be appropriate to leave it architecturally the way it is. He believes the Commission's function is to okay what is approved by the artist and the client more so than for them to tell them what to paint. Mr. Gensheimer said it looks good to him. Actually, this is one of the murals he likes best.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**None.**

**Board Action:**

Approve the mural because it meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art with the following conditions:

1. Clarify if the sponsor and artist names will be incorporated into the design. - PASS
2. Clarify if there is a weatherproof and vandalism-resistant coating.

**Vote Results**

Motion: Thomas Gensheimer

Second: Giselle Rahn

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Walt Harper - Aye

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Giselle Rahn - Aye

4. [Petition of SeeSAW, LLC | 14-002463-PA | 1110 May Street | Mural](#)

Attachment: [Staff Report - 1110 May Street 14-002463-PA.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Application - 1110 May Street 14-002463-PA.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Submittal Packet - 1110 May Street 14-002463-PA.pdf](#)

**Mr. Matt Hebermehl of SeeSAW, LLC** was present on behalf of the mural.

**Ms. Leah Michalak** gave the staff report. The petitioner is requesting a mural at 1110 May Street. SeeSAW has teamed with the West Board Street YMCA's after-school program to create an onsite mural that embodies the communal spirit of the West Broad YMCA. The colorful palette and positive content transform a neutral colored, non-descript, industrial wall into a vibrant tableau that complements the surrounding gardens, basketball courts, and playing fields. The mural complements the neighborhood because it is the neighborhood. The wonderfully talented 6 to 13 year old creators of the design are children living and learning in this neighborhood.

**Ms. Michalak** stated that at the time of this submission, there is not written neighborhood support as of yet, but there has been overwhelming verbal support from the West Broad YMCA administration, parents, teachers and other community members. But, since the report was written, staff has received a very large packet of beautiful drawings and letters stating how excited they all are about the mural. The mural is on private property and funding is secured for the project through grants awarded to SeeSAW from San Francisco

Bay area funds Left Tilt Fun and Sunshine Polka Dot Foundation.

**Ms. Michalak** reported staff recommends approval of the mural because it meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art with the following conditions:

1. Clarify if the sponsor and artist names will be incorporated into the design.
2. Clarify if there is a weatherproof and vandalism-resistant coating.

**Mr. Karatassos** asked if the weatherproofing and vandalism-resistant painting are a part of their standards.

**Ms. Michalak** answered yes.

**Mr. Karatassos** asked if this is on the application. He has noticed that these questions are asked on most of the petitions that they review.

**Ms. Michalak** said a statement regarding this should be written by the petitioner along with their other statements that this is included.

**Mr. Karatassos** asked Ms. Michalak if she stated that the mechanical units will not be painted.

**Ms. Michalak** said the units appear to be blue in their renderings. However, this is a question that can be asked of the petitioner to get clarification.

#### **PETITIONER COMMENTS**

**Mr. Hebermehl** said the intention is not to paint the mechanical units. The units are aluminum and this may give a bluish color. If the units are painted, he does not know how they will age over time differently than the wall.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

#### **Board Action:**

Approve the mural because it meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art with the following conditions:

1. Clarify if the sponsor and artist names will be incorporated into the design.
  2. Clarify if there is a weatherproof and vandalism-resistant coating.
- PASS

#### **Vote Results**

Motion: Walt Harper	
Second: Thomas Gensheimer	
Thomas Gensheimer	- Aye
Walt Harper	- Aye
Eli Karatassos	- Aye
Giselle Rahn	- Aye

#### IV. Other Business

##### 5. Elect Officers

**Mr. Karatassos** asked Mr. Harper to make the recommendation from the ad hoc nominating committee that convened earlier.

**Mr. Harper** reported that the nominating committee met and they studied this long and hard and came up with the following slate of officers for 2014-2015:

1. Chair - Eli Karatassos
2. Vice Chair - Thomas Gensheimer
3. Secretary - Walt Harper

**Mr. Gensheimer** asked if it is necessary at this time to appoint officers as a large percentage of the Commission is not present.

**Mr. Karatassos** answered that it is not appropriate or inappropriate. It is whatever they wish to do.

**Mr. Harper** stated he believes it is time that they do so.

**Ms. Harris** explained that the Commission's bylaws states that the officers are elected whenever the nominating committee brings the slate of officers.

**Mr. Karatassos** said a part of the Commission's problem is that they really do not know if they will have another meeting this year. The Commission only meets when they have a petition. It has been three months since their last meeting. The Commission really needs to have a vice chair in the event that he is not able to attend a meeting.

**Mr. Harper** said the Commission's next scheduled meeting is September 4.

**Mr. Karatassos** explained that the recommendation from the nominating committee is for the officers to serve the remaining of 2014 and the entire year of 2015. An alternative could be for the officers to serve to the end of 2014.

**Mr. Harper** felt that the Commission needs to clear up the "acting" and "vice chair" positions.

**Ms. Harris** explained that if the Commission wishes, they could appoint officers to the end of 2014. However, either way the Commission wants to is fine, but she believes that

they need to fill the officers at this point. It is not only chairing the meetings, but they need to have signatures on the decisions, etc.

**Mr. Gensheimer** stated that he only posed a question. The nominating committee has made its recommendation and the Commission then approves or disapproves the officers. He was in favor of the nominating committee's recommendation.

**Mr. Karatassos** said they could also have nominations from the floor. The Commission may accept or amend the nominating committee's report. He explained that when City Council makes an appointment, the appointment has an end date; however, you serve until Council appoints someone in your place or reappoints you. Consequently, you serve at the pleasure of Council. Therefore, if for some reason they do not have a meeting before the end of the year, the slate would continue to function until they do have a meeting.

**Board Action:**

Approve the nominating committee report for the following officers to serve to the end of 2014: Chair - Eli Karatassos; Vice Chair - Thomas Gensheimer and Secretary - Walt Harper - PASS

**Vote Results**

Motion: Giselle Rahn  
Second: Thomas Gensheimer  
Thomas Gensheimer - Aye  
Walt Harper - Aye  
Eli Karatassos - Aye  
Giselle Rahn - Aye

6. [Discuss Special Called Meetings and Meeting Schedule](#)

**Ms. Harris** stated that she put this item on the agenda so the Commission could have a discussion about when to call a Called Special Meeting. At one time, the Commission's meetings were on the first Thursday of every month. However, because of light applications, they went to a schedule of having the meetings every other month with the understanding that if a petition came in, they could have a meeting in the off month so the petitioner would not have to wait for a long period of time. She asked the Commission if they want to continue this same schedule or change it.

**Mr. Karatassos** said he has the meeting on his schedule for the first Thursday of every month. He believes that they had an unusual situation where two members were on vacation at the same time and Ms. Soule at the end of her term did not want to serve any longer. He believes it would be fine to schedule their meetings for every other month, but with the understanding that if a petition comes in they have an obligation to hear it and not have it delayed for two or three months. In some cases, the petitioner has funding from other

sources. Mr. Karatassos said the Historic Site and Monument Commission is appointed to serve at the pleasure of City Council on behalf of the public.

**Mr. Gensheimer** said he believes the problem comes during the summer. He believes that during the remainder of the year, the first of the month works for everybody.

**Mr. Karatassos** suggested that may be they need to schedule their first meeting for the first Thursday in February, 2015 and then work the meetings forward every other month. The next scheduled meeting is September 4, 2014. At the meeting in November, 2014, the nominating committee could make its report on the recommended slate of officers for 2015.

7. [Commissioner's Items](#)

8. [Next Meeting - Thursday, September 4, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. in the Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room, MPC, 112 E. State Street](#)

**V. Adjournment**

9. [Adjourned](#)

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Harris  
Director of Urban Planning and Historic Preservation

EIH: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.*