



Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room  
November 1, 2012 4:00 PM  
Meeting Minutes

## November 1, 2012 HSMC Regular Meeting

### I. Call to Order and Welcome

#### 1. [Call to Order](#)

Ms. Soule called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

### II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

#### 2. [September 6, 2012 Meeting Minutes](#)

Attachment: [September 6, 2012 Minutes.pdf](#)

#### **Board Action:**

Approval of the minutes of September 6, 2012. - PASS

#### **Vote Results**

Motion: Walt Harper

Second: Robert Pirro

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Walt Harper - Aye

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Ryan Madson - Not Present

Robert Pirro - Aye

Mary Soule - Aye

### III. Regular Agenda

#### 3. [12-001108HM Massie Heritage Center Marker Relocation](#)

Attachment: [Staff Report.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Petitioner Reasons.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Base map.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Images.pdf](#)

Attachment: [GHS Letter of Support.pdf](#)

**Ms. Candy Lowe** was present on behalf of the petition.

**Ms. Ellen Harris** gave the report. The petitioner is requesting to relocate the existing historical marker describing the history of the Massie School from its present location in Calhoun Square to a location across the street in front of the Massie Heritage Center. Ms. Harris stated that the marker was originally installed in 1970s when the historical marker program was administered by the State of Georgia. The Georgia Historical Society currently administers the historical marker program. Both the State of Georgia and the Georgia Historical Society support relocating the marker.

**Ms. Harris** reported that staff recommends approval of the petition as submitted. The petitioner should coordinate with City Engineering to ensure no utilities are damaged during installation.

**Mr. Harper** asked if the marker is to be restored. Will it be changed in any way?

**Ms. Harris** answered that the marker will be restored. She explained that typically what the state does with its older historical markers is that they will take it down if the petitioner funds it. The state has its own restoration program for the markers. Ms. Harris said it is her understanding that the state sandblasts and repaints the markers. This marker is in good condition and does not have a lot of deterioration. Therefore, the marker will be restored to what it originally looked like.

**Mr. Harper** asked if the State of Georgia gave any reasons why they placed the marker initially in the middle of the square.

**Ms. Harris** explained that she believes the marker was placed in the square in the middle of the 1960s or may be the early 1970s. They were not able to find out why the marker was placed in the middle of the square.

#### **PETITIONER COMMENTS**

**Ms. Lowe** came forward and stated that she is the Director of the Massie Heritage Center. She said that after a three year restoration and an exhibit upgrade project, they are seeing a tremendous amount of visitors who do not necessarily see the historical marker before entering the building. The relocation of the marker will give greater access to what is inside the building to passers-by and potential visitors to the center.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**None.**

#### **Board Action:**

The Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission recommend that the City Council

approve the petition, because it is consistent with the Master Plan and Guidelines, and that the petitioner coordinate with the City Departments to ensure no utilities are damaged during installation. Additionally, the petitioner will need a right-of-way permit before beginning work. - PASS

**Vote Results**

Motion: Eli Karatassos

Second: Robert Pirro

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Walt Harper - Aye

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Ryan Madson - Aye

Robert Pirro - Aye

Mary Soule - Aye

**IV. Other Business**

4. [Nominating Committee Report](#)

Attachment: [Nominating Committee Report 11-01-12.pdf](#)

**Mr. Gensheimer** reported that the recommendation from the Nominating Committee is as follows: **Chair: Ms. Mary Soule, Vice-Chair: Mr. Eli Karatassos, and Secretary: Mr. Walt Harper.**

**Board Action:**

Approval of the Nominating Report for the HSMC officers for 2013: Mary Soule, Chair, Eli Karatassos, Vice Chair, and Walt Harper, Secretary. - PASS

**Vote Results**

Motion: Thomas Gensheimer

Second: Robert Pirro

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Walt Harper - Aye

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Ryan Madson - Aye

Robert Pirro - Aye

Mary Soule - Aye

5. [Commissioner's Items](#)

**Mr. Harper** reported that he has gotten some complaints that there is a tractor trailer parked in the lot at 1711 Price Street. This is the area that the Commission approved for a mural to be painted here. He said he drove by the area three weeks ago and saw that paint, supplies and other materials were there. He did not have an issue with this as the artists were there painting the mural. But today he went by the site and the tractor trailer is still parked here. Mr. Harper said he contacted Ms. Harris and made her aware of this. He said Ms. Harris advised him that she was aware of this as she, too, has seen the tractor trailer parked here and has contacted the City Zoning Enforcement Unit. This should be taken care of soon.

**Mr. Pirro** wanted to know who owns the truck.

**Ms. Harris** explained that trailers are not allowed to be parked in residential neighborhoods. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the property owner to ensure that trucks such as this are not parked on his/her property. Ms. Harris said they are not sure who owns the trailer, but they know who owns the property.

**Mr. Karatassos** asked if the property owner lives in Savannah.

**Ms. Harris** answered yes. Some times things such as this can take a while for the zoning inspectors to get resolved. Upon the zoning inspector getting a complaint, a verbal warning is given to the property owner. If the problem still exists after five (5) or ten (10) days, a citation is issued and then the property owner has to appear in court.

**Mr. Harper** said the mural looks good, the problem is the tractor trailer that is sitting directly in front of the mural.

**Ms. Harris** said she has been informed that vehicles and even a boat have been brought on this site and painted. But, they were removed after being painted. Therefore, some of the residents thought since the tractor trailer was still there that it was a part of the mural.

## V. Adjournment

6. [Next Meeting- January 3, 2013 at 4:00 PM](#)

7. [Adjourned](#)

There being no further business to come before the HSMC, Ms. Soule adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled quarterly meeting is **Thursday, January 3, 2013 at 4:00 p.m.** in the Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room.

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.*