



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  
May 7, 2015 4:00 p.m.  
Meeting Minutes

**MAY 7, 2015 HISTORIC SITE AND MONUMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

**HSMC Members Present:** Eli Karatassos, Chair  
Walt Harper, Secretary  
Thomas Gensheimer  
Ryan Madson  
Kristopher Monroe  
Giselle Rahn

**MPC Staff Present:** Ellen Harris, Director of Urban Planning and Historic Preservation  
Sara Farr, Historic Preservation Planner  
Mary E. Mitchell, Administrative Assistant

**I. Call to Order and Welcome**

1. [Order and Welcome](#)

**Chairman Karatassos** called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. He outlined the role of the Historic Site and Monument Commission.

**II. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

2. [Approve April 2, 2015 Meeting Minutes](#)

Attachment: [04-02-2015 Minutes.pdf](#)

**Board Action:**

The Savannah-Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby approve the - PASS Meeting Minutes of April 2, 2015.

**Vote Results**

Motion: Walt Harper

Second: Thomas Gensheimer	
Thomas Gensheimer	- Aye
Walt Harper	- Aye
Eli Karatassos	- Aye
Ryan Madson	- Aye
Kristopher Monroe	- Aye
Giselle Rahn	- Aye

### III. Regular Agenda

#### 3. [Petition of Pam Miller for the Kensington Park Community Association | 15-000355-HM | Kensington Park | Marker](#)

Attachment: [Proposed Sign.pdf](#)  
Attachment: [Althea Parkway and Reynolds Street Picture 1.pdf](#)  
Attachment: [Althea Parkway and Reynolds Street Picture 2.pdf](#)  
Attachment: [Reynolds Circle.pdf](#)  
Attachment: [Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)  
Attachment: [Map.pdf](#)  
Attachment: [Letter of Support.pdf](#)

**Ms. Pam Miller** was present on behalf of the petition.

**Ms. Sara Farr** gave the staff report. The petitioner requested to erect a 24 inch by 36 inch marker in Reynolds Circle or the "Historic Kensington Park Est. 1952." This petition was reviewed by the HSMC on March 5, 2015 and April 2, 2015. The petition was continued at both meetings to allow for the petitioner to provide the following information: justification for the new markers due to existing plaques on the brick piers, details for the mounting of the signs and the durability of the sign materials and the selection of a new site for the marker. The application was revised as follows: removal of the smaller signs located on the brick piers and specifying that the sign will be constructed or etched wood instead of a flat painted surface and that it will be mounted two feet off the ground with woods posts embedded in the ground. Two new sites are also proposed: the triangle at the intersection of Althea Parkway and Reynolds Street and Reynolds Circle. The preferred site is Reynolds Circle.

**Ms. Farr** reported that staff recommends approval to City Council of the Reynolds Circle location with the following conditions:

1. The sign is located 10 feet from back of curb per Traffic Engineering;
2. An encroachment license is obtained via Real Properties.

#### **PETITIONER COMMENTS**

**Ms. Miller** thanked the staff and HSMC for working with their neighborhood to get their marker erected. As staff has reported, the neighborhood prefers that the marker be put in the Reynolds Circle location. The new site is central to the neighborhood. They held their neighborhood celebration here in this area two weeks.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**BOARD DISCUSSION**

The HSMC thanked Ms. Miller and the Kensington Park Neighborhood Association for working diligently in securing their chosen site. The HSMC believes that this site is a good choice.

**Board Action:**

The Savannah-Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission does hereby recommends approval to City Council for a marker in Reynolds Circle with the following conditions:

1. The marker is located 10 feet from back of curb - PASS per Traffic Engineering;
2. An encroachment license is obtained via real properties.

**Vote Results**

Motion: Walt Harper  
Second: Ryan Madson  
Thomas Gensheimer - Aye  
Eli Karatassos - Aye  
Ryan Madson - Aye  
Kristopher Monroe - Aye  
Giselle Rahn - Aye  
Walt Harper - Aye

4. [Petition of Erin Wessling for Judge Realty | 15-002195-PA | 347 Abercorn Street | Mural](#)

Attachment: [Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)

Attachment: [AERIAL\\_MAP.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Submittal Package.pdf](#)

**NOTE: Mr. Kristopher Monroe recused from participating in this request as he is the President of the Board of Art Rise Savannah.**

**Ms. Erin Wessling** was present on behalf of the petition.

**Ms. Sara Farr** gave the staff report. The petitioner is requesting a temporary mural at 347

Abercorn Street. Judge Realty is holding a contest for a temporary moss mural on their building. The mural will be completed with Art Rise Savannah to celebrate the community and the environment. The mural will take approximately five to seven days to install and grow and the final design will last nine to fifteen days before being removed from the building.

**Ms. Farr** reported that staff recommends approval of the mural with the following conditions:

1. It is removed in accordance with the Preservation Brief 1;
2. The final design is approved by the HSMC;

Because otherwise it meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

#### **PETITIONER COMMENTS**

**Ms. Wessling** explained how the moss will be applied to the building. She said the moss is sustainable and, therefore, will not harm the building. The moss will go from the top of the building to the bottom. No words will be placed on the building. There will only be images.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

#### **HSMC DISCUSSION**

The HSMC believed this is a good concept. They are eager to see this evolve.

#### **Board Action:**

The Savannah-Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission does hereby approve the mural at 347 Abercorn Street with the following conditions:

1. It is removed in accordance with Preservation Brief 1; - PASS
2. The final design is approved by the HSMC;

Because otherwise it meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

**Vote Results**

Motion: Giselle Rahn	
Second: Ryan Madson	
Thomas Gensheimer	- Aye
Walt Harper	- Aye
Eli Karatassos	- Aye
Ryan Madson	- Aye
Kristopher Monroe	- Abstain
Giselle Rahn	- Aye

**IV. Other Business**

5. [UPDATE: Staff Review- Petition of Katherine Sandoz | 15-002267-HM| 1704 Lincoln Street | Mural](#)

Attachment: [Staff Decision.pdf](#)

Attachment: [sandoz mar15 hsmc app 1704 Lincoln Street 15-002267-PA.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Goins Email- sign determination.pdf](#)

**Ms. Harris** reported that this petition was presented to staff on April 22, 2015. The petitioner was requesting a temporary mural at 1704 Lincoln Street. The mural was being proposed to be installed with chalk spray paint April 30, 2015 and removed May 2, 2015. Ms. Harris stated that due to the timeframe, there was not enough time to present this to the HSMC. Therefore, she contacted Chairman Karatassos and explained the situation to him. He directed that this be handled at staff level. The temporary mural includes a floral pattern at the doorway and sidewalk at 1704 Lincoln Street. The chalk can be removed with water and a brush. The public notice standards were waived due to the temporary nature of the mural.

**Ms. Harris** reported that staff approved the public art because it met the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments and Public Art.

**Ms. Harris** stated that the HSMC might want to come up with a guideline for staff to approve items such as this.

**HSMC DISCUSSION**

The HSMC believed the item was handled appropriately.

6. [Commissioner Items](#)

**Mr. Ryan Madson** reported that a light projection on the SunTrust Bank Building was done by Jason Armstrong. This was not brought to the HSMC, but he believes it was approved by the City.

**Ms. Harris** stated that she is not sure this was approved by the City.

**Mr. Harper** stated that when he saw the lights on the building, he called staff and inquired about this.

**Ms. Rahn** asked if the light installation such as this falls under the authorization of the HSMC.

**Ms. Harris** explained that this falls under the authorization of the HSMC as the Public Arts Guidelines applies to this matter.

## V. Adjournment

### 7. Adjourned

There being no further business to come before the HSMC, Mr. Karatassos adjourned the meeting at 4:25 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.*