



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  
September 3, 2015 4:00 P.M.  
Meeting Minutes

**SEPTEMBER 3, 2015 HISTORIC SITE AND MONUMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

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

**HSMC Member Not Present:** Ryan Madson

**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](#)

**Mr. Karatassos** called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. He recognized Ms. Eileen Baker, Director of Cultural Affairs for the City of Savannah. Ms. Baker is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

**II. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

2. [Approve August 6, 2015 Meeting Minutes](#)

Attachment: [August 6, 2015 Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

**Board Action:**

The Savannah Historic Site and Monument  
Commission does hereby approve Meeting Minutes of August 6, 2015. - PASS

**Vote Results**

Motion: Walt Harper	
Second: Kristopher Monroe	
Thomas Gensheimer	- Aye
Walt Harper	- Aye
Eli Karatassos	- Aye
Kristopher Monroe	- Aye

### III. Regular Agenda

#### 3. [Petition of Ashley Helmholdt for the City of Savannah | 15-004279-PA | 114 East 39th Street | Mural](#)

Attachment: [AERIAL\\_MAP.pdf](#)  
Attachment: [Submittal Packet information.pdf](#)  
Attachment: [Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)  
Attachment: [Image of completed mural.pdf](#)  
Attachment: [Public Comment 1.pdf](#)  
Attachment: [TAC Comment.pdf](#)  
Attachment: [Public Comment 2.pdf](#)

**Ms. Ashley Helmholdt** was present on behalf of the petition.

**Ms. Farr** gave the staff report. The mural was approved temporarily at the August 6, 2015 meeting in order for the mural to be installed in time for a community event. The mural is completed. It is mounted on plywood near the fence and is located in a community garden. The mural was designed by students in the Savannah Ambassadors Program coordinated with the City of Savannah's Community Planning and Development Department. The mural's title is "Blue Sky Garden Mural." The size of the mural is 4 feet by 12 feet. As the mural was temporarily approved by the HSMC if it is not approved today, it will be removed.

**Ms. Farr** stated that staff received two public comments in favor of the mural. They were from 124 and 126 East 39th Street. The owner of 201 East 38th Street and 2210 Abercorn Street was not in favor of the mural. Ms. Farr said favorable comments were received from some of the members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

**Ms. Farr** reported that staff recommends approval of the mural because it meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

**Mr. Harper** asked staff what was the objection to the mural.

**Ms. Farr** explained that the objection was the mural being placed in a residential area.

#### **PETITIONER COMMENTS**

None.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**Board Action:**

The Savannah Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby approve the mural at 114 East 49th Street because it meets the standards in - PASS the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

**Vote Results**

Motion: Kristopher Monroe

Second: Walt Harper

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Walt Harper - Aye

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Kristopher Monroe - Aye

4. [Petition of Loretto Lominack | 15-004501-MON | 207 East Liberty Street | Monument](#)

Attachment: [Submittal Packet.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Letters of Recommendation.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Plan View.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Proposed Monument.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Artist References.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)

Attachment: [TAC Comments.pdf](#)

**Ms. Loretto Lominack and Sis. Helen Marie** were on behalf of the petition.

**Ms. Sara Farr** gave the staff report. The petitioner is requesting approval for Part I: theme, location and preliminary design, to erect a monument recognizing the contributions of the Sisters of Mercy and the Convent of St. Vincent de Paul of the Savannah community. It will be located at 207 East Liberty Street. The monument will consist of a nun and a student dressed in the school's uniform on a 3 foot by 4 inch by 5 foot base. It will be feet 8 inches tall at the highest point. The base will be granite and the statue will be bronze. It is one of a collection of six statues with a similar design, but the student's uniform will be specific to St. Vincent de Paul's school. The monument is proposed to be located near an existing historical marker on the property at 207 East Liberty Street. It will be easily visible from the public right-of-way in the tree lawn, but will not obstruct traffic.

**Ms. Farr** stated that as required, written notices was sent to all property owners, and the neighborhood association, within 200 feet of the subject property. A sign was posted on the property fifteen days prior to the meeting. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) commented on this monument.

**Ms. Farr** reported that staff recommends approval for Part I: theme and location for a monument at 207 East Liberty Street because the proposed project meets the standards in the Master Plan and the Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art. Part II: Final Design and Funding will need to come before the Board for approval.

**Mr. Karatassos** asked staff if Traffic Engineering and Park & Tree are in agreement with the location of the monument.

**Ms. Farr** answered yes.

#### **PETITIONER COMMENTS**

**Ms. Lominack** explained that they are really excited about the monument. The Sisters of Mercy have done an amazing amount of good work for the City of Savannah. They thank the HSMC for considering their monument.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

#### **HSMC DISCUSSION**

The petitioner will return at a later time for Part II: Design Details. Today, they are only reviewing Part I: Theme and Location.

#### **Board Action:**

The Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby recommend to City Council approval of Part I: Theme and Location for a monument at 207 East Liberty Street, because the proposed project meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art. Part II: Final Design and Funding will need to come before the Board for approval. - PASS

#### **Vote Results**

Motion: Thomas Gensheimer  
Second: Kristopher Monroe  
Thomas Gensheimer - Aye  
Walt Harper - Aye  
Eli Karatassos - Aye  
Kristopher Monroe - Aye

#### **IV. Other Business**

5. [Commissioner Items](#)

6. [Next Meeting - Thursday, October 1, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in the Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room, MPC, 112 E. State Street](#)

**V. Adjournment**

7. [Adjourned](#)

There being no further business to come before the HSMC, Mr. Karatassos adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen I. 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.*