



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

DECEMBER 3, 2015 HISTORIC SITE AND MONUMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

HDRB Members Present: Eli Karatassos, Chair
Walt Harper, Secretary
Thomas Gensheimer
Ryan Madson
Kristopher Monroe

MPC Staff Present: Ellen Harris, Director of Urban Planning and Historic Preservation
Leah Michalak, Historic Preservation Planner
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 4:00 p.m. He welcomed everyone in attendance and explained the role of the Historic Site and Monument Commission.

2. [Presentation of 2016 Savannah's Historic Districts Calendar](#)

Ms. Harris explained that the Historic Preservation Department is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Savannah's Designation as a National Historic Landmark District. The Preservation Department has compiled a 2016 daily calendar that highlights some of the different sites. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1966, our NHL District is one of the largest in the county and only 2,500 historic places bear this distinction. Our district is significant for its "Oglethorpe Plan" of words and squares and as one of the few surviving colonial city plans; this city plan has existed since Savannah's founding in 1733 and contains over 1,100 historic buildings of unparalleled architectural richness and diversity.

Ms. Harris reported that 2016 is also the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. This federal legislation allows communities to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Savannah Historic Districts calendar was initiated to promote awareness of our numerous historic and cultural resources. The calendar highlights 12 historic districts in the National Register of Historic Places. It is hoped that we will embrace the architectural legacy in Chatham County-Savannah and help promote the awareness of our historic and cultural resources.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

3. [Approval of October 1, 2015 Meeting Minutes](#)

Attachment: [October 1, 2015 Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

Board Action:

The Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby approve the meeting minutes of October 1, - PASS 2015.

Vote Results

Motion: Walt Harper

Second: Thomas Gensheimer

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Walt Harper - Aye

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Ryan Madson - Aye

Kristopher Monroe - Aye

III. Regular Agenda

4. [Petition of Georgia Historical Society | 15-006148-HM | 201 East Broughton Street | Historical Marker](#)

Attachment: [Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Submittal Packet.pdf](#)

Attachment: [AERIAL MAP.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Broughton Street Location - 11-20-15.pdf](#)

Ms. Elyse Butler was present on behalf of the petition.

Ms. Sara Farr gave the staff report. The Georgia Historical Society, in collaboration with the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), is requesting to erect a historical marker on the Georgia Civil Rights Trail (CRT) at the Jen Library at 201 East Broughton Street commemorating the Savannah Protest Movement. The GHS staff consulted with SCAD and Mayor Edna Jackson to draft the text. The historical marker is to be mounted by SCAD. Three sites are proposed for the marker: along Broughton Street, on Lincoln at Broughton,

and on Abercorn at Broughton. The Broughton Street location will be on the Broughton Street façade close to Lincoln Street. This location reflects the former location of the Azalea Room, which is important to the Savannah Civil Rights Movement.

Ms. Farr stated that as required in the Master Plan and guidelines, written notice 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. No comments were received from the public.

Ms. Farr reported that staff recommends approval of the marker with the following condition: that the final text has the sponsors names in a smaller font than the main text, because it meets the Historic Site and Monument Commission guidelines. Staff recommends that the Broughton Street site be used, because it is closest to the location of the Azalea Room and easily visible by pedestrians on Broughton Street.

Mr. Monroe asked if the text was written by the Georgia Historical Society.

Ms. Farr answered that the text was written by the Georgia Historical Society in collaboration with SCAD and a few other consultants.

PETITIONER COMMENTS

Ms. Christy Crisp explained that they did the research in-house and vetted the text through SCAD, Mayor Edna Jackson and Carolyn Quillion, who is referenced as one of the three students arrested during that time. They all reviewed the text and agree with it.

Mr. Harper asked if the marker will be installed on the wall.

Ms. Crisp answered yes. This is a little different than how they usually erect the markers. They were advised by the staff of the existing requirements to not putting things in the sidewalk on Broughton Street.

Mr. Harper said he believes the only place the marker could be placed is down below. He asked if the marker will be the same size of a normal plaque.

Ms. Crisp explained that the marker will look exactly as a normal marker, but it will be placed flush against the wall.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Danielle Meunier of the Historic Savannah Foundation (HSF) stated they agree with staff's recommendation regarding the text on the marker. The HSF believes that if the marker is placed in the proposed area, it will be too low to the ground. Ms. Meunier asked the petitioner what is the height of the wall and how high will the plaque be placed. Because the plaque will be on a post and is large, they wonder if there is an opportunity for a different type of plaque to be placed here.

Ms. Crisp stated regarding the height of the wall, as you get closer to Lincoln Street there is more space on the concrete area. SCAD recommended this location for the marker because it allows height above and below.

Mr. Harper said he visited the site and does not believe that enough room is here at the proposed location. It is too low and will get damaged easily if it is placed this low. Can the marker be placed on a post board near the corner? It could face Broughton Street, but place it closer to the corner.

Mr. Monroe said this type of marker is heavy. How will it be affixed to the wall?

Ms. Crisp stated that they have not affixed a marker of this type to a wall, but the foundry that they work with has affixed a marker of this type to the wall. They told them by putting masonry bits into the corner will uphold the marker.

Mr. Harper asked if there is a reason that they cannot put the marker on a pedestal and put it on the sidewalk closer to the street.

Mr. Karatassos asked staff if there is a prohibition against putting post on the public right-of-way on paved sidewalks.

Ms. Harris answered that it is not prohibited, but there are no other historical markers on Broughton Street on post. There is somewhat an informal policy of not encouraging this. Broughton Street is also part of the city's planned streetscape improvement for tree lawns, etc. If it is the HSMC's desire to have the marker in a tree lawn, it would need to go to City Council for final approval.

Mr. Karatassos said he believes it would be appropriate for everyone involved in this petition, get together and see if there is another solution as to where the marker could be placed. He said a continuance could be allowed to give the petitioner and the other individuals involved to restudy the location and possibly place the marker higher or put it on a pole.

Board Action:

The Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby approve to continue the marker petition for the petitioner to restudy the location, possibly placing it higher or on a pole. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Walt Harper

Second: Thomas Gensheimer

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Ryan Madson - Aye

Kristopher Monroe - Aye

Walt Harper - Aye

5. [Petition of the Savannah College of Art & Design | 15-006149-PA | 201 West Bay Street | Sculpture](#)

Attachment: [AERIAL MAP.pdf](#)
Attachment: [Submittal Packet.pdf](#)
Attachment: [lighting.pdf](#)
Attachment: [Schematic.pdf](#)
Attachment: [Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)
Attachment: [Submittal Package.pdf](#)

NOTE: Mr. Karatassos wanted it noted in the records that two of the members of the HSMC are employed by SCAD as professors. The HSMC ruled that the members (Mr. Gensheimer and Mr. Madson) would participate in the decision-making of this petition because they do not have a direct connection with the petition.

Ms. Lee Barry Todd was present on behalf of the petition.

Ms. Sara Farr gave the report. The petitioner is requesting approval for sculptural panels at 201 West Bay Street. This site is the current location of the Inn at Ellis Square and consists of two separate buildings: the four-story historic Guckenheimer Building and a non-historic seven-story addition. The panels will be attached to the non-historic portion of the building. The panels are inspired by the wrought iron fences in historic downtown Savannah and will be constructed of brushed steel. They will span the fourth floor to the roof. The sculpture will also be bottom lit with LED lights that will be backwash of white light. They will not flash or change, though they may be colored for specific holidays. This application is going to the HDRB concurrently due to its location in the Savannah Historic District.

Ms. Farr reported as required in the Master Plan and Guidelines, written notice 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. No comments were received from the public.

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

1. The details of the lighting and attachment are provided to staff for approval prior to installation;
2. A timeline is specified for the project;

Because otherwise the project meets the Markers, Monuments, and Public Art Master Plan and Guidelines.

PETITIONER COMMENTS

Ms. Todd came forward and stated that Professor Robert Brown, a lead professor for this project, was accompanying her at the meeting. She explained the sculpture request is a part of the collaborative learning center of SCAD where they partner with businesses and organizations on real world projects. In this case, their partner is Noble Investment Group. The Indigo Hotel is scheduled to open at 201 West Bay Street on March 16, 2016. Ms. Todd explained that SCAD has worked prior with this group on two other projects in

Atlanta.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

Board Action:

The Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby approve the petition for sculptural panels at 201 West Bay Street with the following conditions:

1. The details of the lighting and attachment are provided to staff for approval prior to installation; - PASS
2. A timeline is specified for the project;

Because otherwise the project meets the Markers, Monuments, and Public Art Master Plan and Guidelines.

Vote Results

Motion: Ryan Madson

Second: Thomas Gensheimer

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Walt Harper - Aye

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Ryan Madson - Aye

Kristopher Monroe - Aye

IV. Other Business

6. [Commissioner Items](#)

7. [Next Meeting - Thursday, January 7, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room, MPC, 112 E. State Street](#)

8. [2016 Calendar of Meetings](#)

Attachment: [Meeting list 2016.pdf](#)

9. [Presentation of the 2016 Historic Preservation Calendars](#)

V. Adjournment

10. [Adjourned](#)

There being no further business to come before the HSMC, Mr. Karatassos adjourned the meeting at 4:45 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.