



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 1, 2016 4:00 P.M.
Meeting Minutes

SEPTEMBER 1, 2016 HISTORIC SITE AND MONUMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

HDRB Members Present: Eli Karatassos, Chair
Dolores Engle
Dr. Nicholas Henry
Kristopher Monroe

HSMC Member Not Present: Thomas Gensheimer
Ryan Madson

MPC Staff Present: 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 Historic Site and Monument Commission meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance to the meeting. He explained the role of the Historic Site and Monument Commission. He congratulated Ms. Ellen Harris and husband on the birth of their beautiful daughter, Beatrice Marie.

Mr. Karatassos asked staff to invite Mr. Harper to the October 6, 2016 meeting for the Commission to present to him a plaque of appreciation for his years of dedicated service to the Commission.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

2. [Approval of June 2, 2016 Meeting Minutes](#)

Attachment: [06-02-2016 Minutes.pdf](#)

Board Action:

The Savannah Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby approve the meeting minutes of June 2, 2016. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Dolores Engle

Second: Dr. Nicholas Henry

Dolores Engle - Aye

Dr. Nicholas Henry - Aye

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Kristopher Monroe - Aye

III. Regular Agenda

3. [Petition of Scott Boylston | 16-004471-PA | 607 East 34th Street | Mural](#)

Attachment: [AERIAL MAP.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Submittal Package.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Final Designs.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Public Comment.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)

Mr. Scott Boylston was present on behalf of the petition.

Ms. Sara Farr gave the staff report. The petitioner is requesting approval for a mural at 607 East 34th Street. The mural will be located adjacent to a community greenhouse and will complement and reflect the current programming that occurs at the greenhouse. The mural itself will be on a cinder block building on the same property as the greenhouse. Ms. Farr said the petitioner provided the following information:

The proposed mural will be adjacent to a large, community-centered greenhouse on East 34th Street in Savannah. The greenhouse was built from reclaimed materials by Emergent Structures (a 501c3 non-profit organization) to provide a work space to teach neighborhood youth the social value and the vocational skills of growing food. The greenhouse was built to support the mission of another 501c3 non-profit organization, Design for Ability. Design for Ability teaches special needs high school students vocational skills to help them enter into the workplace. Another partner at the greenhouse is Mr. Will Mobley, a vocational education instructor at SCCPSS. The greenhouse was constructed in a food dessert on Savannah's east side, and programming for the greenhouse includes initiatives to create intergenerational learning, and provide fresh produce to elderly residents of the neighborhood. The mural will be located on the side of a low-lying cinder block building on the same property as the greenhouse. The mural project is intended to create a vibrant, enriching, and safe environment in the community, where all people feel welcome.

Ms. Farr said staff received a letter from a neighbor in opposition to the mural as there was some confusion where the mural would be located. The letter is attached to today's agenda.

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

1. The sponsor and artist names are discreet and do not exceed 5% of the design;
2. The final design is provided for staff approval;

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

Mr. Boylston thanked staff and the HSMC for hearing their petition. He entertained comments from the Commission.

Mr. Karatassos asked Mr. Boylston if they would include some reference on the mural of the individual that they are honoring.

Mr. Boylston stated that he believes this is a great idea. He explained that artists' signatures will be located in the right-hand corner. They are also planning to put a small logo here. For the sake of education for the neighborhood and visitors to honor John T. Biggers would be a fantastic idea. Mr. Boylston said a part of their outreach and engagement with the neighborhood children was asking them what they were interested in. The children chose John T. Biggers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION

The Commission recommended that reference to John T. Biggers be incorporated into the mural, which the petitioner agreed to do.

Board Action:

The Savannah Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby approve the mural with the following conditions:

1. **The sponsor and artist names are discreet and do not exceed 5% of the design;**
 2. **The final design is provided for staff approval;**
- PASS

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

Vote Results

Motion: Kristopher Monroe

Second: Dolores Engle

Dolores Engle - Aye

Dr. Nicholas Henry - Aye

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Kristopher Monroe - Aye

IV. Other Business

4. [Commissioner Items](#)

5. [Next Meeting - Thursday, October 6, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room, MPC, 112 E. State Street](#)

V. Adjournment

6. [Adjourned](#)

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Leah G. Michalak
Historic Preservation Planner

LGM: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.