



Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room
April 5, 2018 4:00 PM.
Meeting Minutes

APRIL 5, 2018 SAVANNAH - CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORIC SITE & MONUMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Members Present: Dr. Nicholas Henry, Chair
Kristopher Monroe, Vice-Chair
Thomas Gensheimer
Eli Karatassos
Ron Melander

Member Absent:: Alicia Blakely

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

I. Call to Order and Welcome

[1. Order And Welcome](#)

Dr. Henry 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.

Mr. Ron Melander is a new member on the HSMC from the Park & Tree Commission. He replaces Ms. Dolores Engle.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

[2. Approve February 1, 2018 Meeting Minutes](#)

📎 [February 1, 2018 Minutes.pdf](#)

Motion

Approve February 1, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Eli Karatassos

Second: Kristopher Monroe

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Dr. Nicholas Henry - Abstain

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Kristopher Monroe - Aye

Ron Melander

- Aye

III. Regular Agenda

[3. Petition of Jane Pressly | 18-001015-HM | 27 Abercorn St | Plaque and Monumnet Replacement](#)

📎 [AERIAL MAP.pdf](#)

📎 [Picture.pdf](#)

📎 [Site.pdf](#)

📎 [Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)

Ms. Sara Farr-Newman gave the staff report. The applicant is requesting approval for a monument at 27 Abercorn Street. The Savannah Town Committee of The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America is requesting to reinstall the previously existing marker honoring John Wesley in front of the Sturgis House, which was originally the third monument or marker the Dames installed in Savannah. The marker was originally installed in 1903 but was removed sometime in the past 10 years. The plaque was stolen prior to the granite's removal, though the date is unknown. The marker is proposed to be reinstalled with a new plaque in the same location. A specification for the new plaque design and material will be provided at a later date.

PETITIONER COMMENTS

Ms. Lora Martin explained that the plaque that was on the house was installed by the Colonial Dames in 1903. The Sturgis House and the John Wesley Hotel are on the same trust lot. They visited the Georgia Historical Society and upon reading a 1938 newspaper they saw that the plaque was still on the John Wesley Hotel. However, some time during 1938 and 2000 the plaque was moved and installed on a large granite block. The granite block was located between the median and the street. Some ten years later, the plaque was removed. The Colonial Dames had Mr. Charlie DePue store the plaque at his monument company. They are now ready to reinstall the plaque and granite back in its old location.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

Motion

The Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby approve the proposed installation of the marker at 27 Abercorn Street with a new plaque with the following conditions to be provided for staff approval:

1. A final rendering of the new plaque and text is provided;
2. The plaque material is provided and is a durable material such as bronze;
3. The text is revised as requested;
4. The applicant provides an escrow payment;

Because otherwise the marker meets the standards.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Eli Karatassos
Second: Kristopher Monroe
Thomas Gensheimer - Aye
Dr. Nicholas Henry - Abstain
Eli Karatassos - Aye
Kristopher Monroe - Aye
Ron Melander - Aye

[4. Petition of St. LUke Baptist Church | 18-001181-HM | 418 W 38th ST | Honorary Street Designation](#)

- [☞ Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)
- [☞ AERIAL MAP.pdf](#)
- [☞ Submittal Package.pdf](#)
- [☞ Petition.pdf](#)

Deacon Clifford King was present on behalf of the petition.

Ms. Sara Farr-Newman gave the staff report. The applicant is requesting approval for an honorary street designation. The block of West 38th Street between Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd and Montgomery Street is proposed to be named Rev. and Mrs. Lexcie E. Aiken Way. They have been at the church for 49 years and have served the community, particularly Carver Village. They founded the Feed-A-Meal program that serves people weekly and has been going on for 30 years. This designation will honor their impending retirement. Several hundred persons signed a petition supporting this proposal.

PETITIONER COMMENTS

Deacon King stated that Rev. Aiken has been his pastor more than 35 years. Rev. Aiken has been the pastor of St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church for 49 years. During this tenure, Rev. Aiken has been instrumental in the 38th Street park beautification [the park is adjacent to the St. Luke church]. He has spearheaded several projects trying to uplift the many people who visit the park on a daily basis. Not only has Pastor Aiken served the St. Luke church, but many surrounding areas of the church. Rev. Aiken worked at the Savannah Sugar Refinery for more than 30 years where he was also instrumental in spreading the Gospel. Deacon King thanked the HSMC for hearing the request to name the block between Montgomery and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to Rev. and Mrs. Lexcie E. Aiken Way.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Evon Wright, a member of the church, stated that Pastor Aiken was the first Black shipping clerk at the Sugar Refinery. St. Luke Baptist Church is a 106 years old and Pastor Aiken has been the pastor for 49 years. Therefore, the church wanted to honor Rev. & Mrs. Aiken for their many years of dedicated services to the church, the community, and the City of Savannah.

Ms. Alizina McCoy, a member of the church, introduced Rev. and Mrs. Aiken.

Many church members and citizens were present at today's meeting supporting this petition. Alderman Bill Durrence was present and supports the petition.

Motion

The Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby recommend to City Council approval for the honorary designation of the block of West 38th Street bounded by Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd and Montgomery Street as Rev. and Mrs. Lexcie E. Aiken Way with the following conditions:

- 1.The road is not under the control of the Federal Highway Administration, GA Department of Transportation, or Chatham County;
- 2.The street sign is installed within 45 days of City Council approval;

Because otherwise the standards are met.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Eli Karatassos

Second: Thomas Gensheimer

Thomas Gensheimer	- Aye
Dr. Nicholas Henry	- Abstain
Eli Karatassos	- Aye
Kristopher Monroe	- Aye
Ron Melander	- Aye

5. Petition of Drayton Tower | 18-001258-HM | 102 East Liberty Street | Plaque

📎 [Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)

📎 [AERIAL MAP.pdf](#)

📎 [Submittal Package.pdf](#)

Ms. Shelby Wierenga was present on behalf of the petition.

Ms. Sara Farr-Newman gave the staff report. The applicant is requesting approval for a marker at 102 East Liberty Street. The marker is proposed to be bronze and located adjacent to the entrance of Drayton Tower on the building.

Ms. Farr-Newman reported that staff recommends approval for a marker at 102 East Liberty Street with the condition the text size is provided for staff approval, because otherwise it meets the standards.

PETITIONER COMMENTS

Ms. Wierenga said the building was started in 1949 and was completed in 1951. The building was designated in 1966. She believed that they needed to show the building's designated date. They have been trying for four years to get a plaque on this building. The plaque will be placed on a 11" x 8" bronze column. However, it can be wider if they need to do so.

Ms. Harris explained that the building was listed in 2013 on the National Register of Historic Places and was completed in 1951. The historic name of the building is "Drayton Arms Apartment."

HSMC DISCUSSION:

The Board was unclear on why 1966 was on the plaque when the building was constructed in 1949-1951. The Board also wants additional information about the significance of the building incorporated.

Motion

The Savannah - Chatham County historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby approve a marker at 102 East Liberty Street with the following conditions to be provided for staff approval:

1. The text size is provided;
2. The years are corrected;
3. Additional context is provided on the plaque for the years and reason for the National Register Listing;

Because otherwise the plaque meets the standards

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Eli Karatassos

Second: Kristopher Monroe

Thomas Gensheimer	- Aye
Dr. Nicholas Henry	- Abstain
Eli Karatassos	- Aye
Kristopher Monroe	- Aye
Ron Melander	- Aye

IV. Other Business

[6. Commissioner Items](#)

[7. Next Meeting - Thursday, May 3, 2018 at 4:00 pm in the Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room, MPC, 112 E State Street](#)

V. Adjournment

[8. Adjourned](#)

There being no further business to come before the HSMC, Chair Dr. Henry adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Harris
Director of Urban Planning and Historic Preservation

EIH:mem

The Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission provides meeting minutes which are adopted by the respective Board. Verbatim transcripts of minutes are the responsibility of the interested party.