



Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room
February 1, 2018 4:00 P.M.
Meeting Minutes

FEBRUARY 1, 2018 SAVANNAH - CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORIC SITE & MONUMENT COMMISSION

I. Call to Order and Welcome

[1. Order And Welcome](#)

Chair Karatassos called the meeting to order at 4:00 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 November 2, 2017 Meeting Minutes](#)

📎 [November 2, 2017 Minutes.pdf](#)

📎 [Neighborhood Residents Petition in Opposition - 611 Habersham Street 17-004849-PA.pdf](#)

Motion

The Savannah Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby approve November 2, 2017 Meeting Minutes.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Thomas Gensheimer

Second: Alicia Blakely

Dolores Engle - Aye

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Dr. Nicholas Henry - Aye

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Kristopher Monroe - Aye

Alicia Blakely - Aye

III. Regular Agenda

[3. Petition of Kenneth Clark | 17-006988-PA | 1718 Bull Street | Mural](#)

📎 [Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)

📎 [Photographs.pdf](#)

📎 [Description.pdf](#)

📎 [AERIAL MAP.pdf](#)

Mr. Kenneth Clark was present on behalf of the petition.

Ms. Sara Farr-Newman gave the staff report. The applicant is requesting after-the-fact approval for a mural at 1718 Bull Street. The mural is located on the front façade of the building and depicts a pair of angel wings with text along the bottom of the mural, including #bluedoor. The mural does not have specific theme, but is meant to beautify the area and for people to take pictures with. The wings are also tied into their location near SCAD and local art. It is located on a blank wall on the front façade of the building along Bull Street. The business is a coffee shop, Blue Door Coffee & Waffles, which is run by the City Church. It is next to SCAD's Arnold Hall. The mural design consists of a pair of large angel wings in blues and yellows. There is also text on the bottom of the mural.

Ms. Farr-Newman stated that the standard is met with the exception of #bluedoor on the bottom of the mural. This hashtag serves as an advertisement for the business and must be removed. The artist is David George Roland. He graduated from SCAD with a degree in illustration. He also serves as youth pastor in the community.

Ms. Farr-Newman said that letters were mailed to the neighborhood association and to the abutting property owners. No public comments for or against the mural were received.

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

1. The text #bluedoor is removed;
2. A protective coating is installed;

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

The Commission saw at the bottom of the mural what appeared to be dried paint drippings. They also wanted to know why this is an after-the-fact request.

PETITIONER COMMENTS

Mr. Clark explained that the paint drippings at the bottom of the mural were done intentionally. It is a part of the aesthetic. With regards to the after-the-fact request, Mr. Clark said he was not aware that he needed to ask for permission to paint the mural on the building. He is familiar with the district where Forsyth Park is located, but was unaware of this district. They will clean up the drippings.

Mr. Clark stated that he did not have any objections to the staff's recommendations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jennie, a resident who lives in the area, came forward and stated that she likes the mural. It brightens their area.

Ms. Linda Wilder Bryan was curious why a few months ago an open discussion was held for another piece of art that was deemed inappropriate. Today, they have something that is deemed appropriate, but what about the painting of Nina Simone?

Motion

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

1. The text #bluedoor is removed;
2. A protective coating is installed;

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

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Kristopher Monroe

Second: Thomas Gensheimer

Dolores Engle	- Aye
Thomas Gensheimer	- Aye
Dr. Nicholas Henry	- Aye
Eli Karatassos	- Aye
Kristopher Monroe	- Aye
Alicia Blakely	- Aye

[4. Petition of Ben Tollefson | 17-007149-PA | 347 Abercorn Street | Public Art](#)

[☞ Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)

[☞ Submittal Package.pdf](#)

[☞ AERIAL MAP.pdf](#)

[☞ Public Comment.pdf](#)

Mr. Ben Tollefson was present on behalf of the petition.

Ms. Sara Farr-Newman gave the staff report. The petitioner is requesting approval for a public art installation at 347 Abercorn Street. The project, titled "Come Rain or Come Shine.," is a collaborative piece by Elmer Ramos and Ben Tollefson. It will include sculptural elements on the façade of the building. The art will be temporary and last for 30 days.

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

PETITIONER COMMENTS

Mr. Tollefson came forward and entertained questions from the Commission.

Ms. Lori Judge, property owner, said the petition process has been easy and it has been a pleasure to work with the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Farr reported that the staff received one public comment via email from Mr. John Toler of 211 East Jones Street. Mr. Toler wrote that he did not want something displayed that would detract from the Victorian atmosphere and style of the Historic District.

Motion

The Savannah Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby approval the public art installation because it meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Dr. Nicholas Henry

Second: Thomas Gensheimer

Dolores Engle	- Aye
Thomas Gensheimer	- Aye
Dr. Nicholas Henry	- Aye
Eli Karatassos	- Aye
Kristopher Monroe	- Aye
Alicia Blakely	- Aye

[5. Petition of Rob Hessler | 18-000004-HM | Brinkman Park \(1102 East 49th Street\) | Rename Park](#)

[📎 Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)

[📎 Submittal Package.pdf](#)

[📎 AERIAL MAP.pdf](#)

Mr. Rob Hessler and many neighborhood residents were present on behalf of the petition.

Ms. Farr-Newman gave the staff report. The petitioner is requesting approval to rename Brinkman Park to Brinkman-DeLorme Park. The park is located at the corner of 49th Street and Waters Avenue. It was donated to the City in 1922 and set aside as public park in 1924 by City Council. The applicant provided letters of support from 16 nearby residents, including residents adjacent to the park as well as the president of the Ardsley Park Neighborhood Association, Nick Palumbo. The resident also complied with the recommendation by the Library and Archives Director, Luciana Spracher, as well as Park & Tree to name the park Brinkman-DeLorme Park to respect the historic name, which was likely named after Henry Christian Brinkman who served as an alderman from 1925 to 1934.

Ms. Farr-Newman stated that the renaming of the park will honor John DeLorme, who was associated with the Parkside neighborhood where the park is located. He lived in the neighborhood his whole life and was president of the Parkside Neighborhood Association. He also was responsible for signage and landscaping improvements in Brinkman Park. Additionally, he played a key role in getting Parkside listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. DeLorme died on January 12, 2017.

Ms. Farr-Newman explained that the standards in Article E. Section 4:110-1108, which was adopted by City Council on October 26, 2017, apply to the renaming of the park:

Criteria:

- All public property names should meet one of the following criteria:
- To honor and commemorate noteworthy person associated with the City of Savannah, Chatham County, State of Georgia, or the United States of America;
- To commemorate local history, places, events, or culture;
- To strengthen neighborhood identity;
- To recognize native wildlife or natural features

Restrictions:

- Persons that resided in the City of Savannah for less than 5 years, other than prominent national figures;
- Names assigned to existing public property within the City or unincorporated Chatham County where duplication of the name is likely to lead to confusion;

-Except as set forth in Section 4-1106, commercial names where usage of such name would amount to advertising

Considerations:

- Naming requests shall take into account:*
- The number of residents and businesses directly affected;*
- Community diversity;*
- The historical significance of preexisting name or location;*
- The appropriateness and compatibility of the request in relation to the existing area;*
- The impact on emergency service delivery;*
- Continuity and stability*

Natural Person Name Request:

Requests should consider the following:

Absent extraordinary or extenuating circumstances, the proposed honoree for the permanent naming shall be deceased;

Whether the proposed namesake made a sustained contribution over an appreciable time period, exerted efforts of benefit or significance to local, state, or national affairs, and/or demonstrated leadership in governmental, cultural or historical affairs, humanitarian efforts, or community development;

Contributions that beneficially changed the nature and characteristics of the community;

Achievement by a native Savannahian of national or international acclaim in a specific field of endeavor that has reflected positively on Savannah.

Ms. Farr-Newman reported that staff recommends approval to City Council to rename Brinkman Park to Brinkman-DeLorme Park, because the renaming meets the standards.

Ms. Engle reported that this request was approved unanimously at the Park & Tree meeting.

PETITIONER COMMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

Motion

The Savannah Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby recommend approval to City Council to rename Brinkman Park to Brinkman-DeLorme Park, because the renaming meets the standards.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Thomas Gensheimer

Second: Alicia Blakely

Dolores Engle	- Aye
Thomas Gensheimer	- Aye
Dr. Nicholas Henry	- Aye
Eli Karatassos	- Aye
Kristopher Monroe	- Aye
Alicia Blakely	- Aye

[6. Petition of Elyse Butler for Georgia Historical Society | 18-000076-HM | 130 West Gordon Street](#)

📎 [Staff Recommendation.pdf](#)

📎 [Submittal Package.pdf](#)

📎 [AERIAL MAP.pdf](#)

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

Ms. Sara Farr-Newman gave the staff report. The petitioner is requesting approval for a historic marker honoring Louis B. Toomer. The marker is proposed to be located in Chatham Square near the existing sundial. The historical marker demonstrates the Civic and Institutional theme through the accomplishments of Mr. Toomer as the nation's Register of the Treasury. Appointed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Mr. Toomer held this post from 1953-1956. Furthermore, Mr. Toomer was known for his support of the Republican party, served as chairman of the Chatham County GOP organization, and was a three-time delegate to the GOP convention.

Ms. Farr-Newman stated that the Louis B. Toomer historical marker demonstrates the Civic and Institutional theme through the accomplishments of Mr. Toomer as the nation's Register of the Treasury. Appointed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Mr. Toomer held this post from 1953-1956. Furthermore, Mr. Toomer was known for his support of the Republican party, served as chairman of the Chatham County GOP organization, and was a three-time delegate to the GOP convention. Mr. Toomer was an influential figure in the African-American business community. He established both banking and real estate businesses within Chatham County. His establishments provided an alternative to the segregated banking and real estate businesses. Georgia Savings and Realty Corporation, which was founded in 1927 by Mr. Toomer, is still in the operation as Carver State Bank and serving Chatham County.

Ms. Farr-Newman read that the following is the proposed marker text:

Louis B. Toomer: Founder of the Carver State Bank

Louis Burke Toomer, African-American leader, local bank founder, and realtor, was born in Savannah in 1897. Raised and educated locally, Toomer stabled the Georgia Savings and Realty Corporation on February 23, 1927, in the historic black business district on West Broad Street. During segregation, the company provided banking, investment, and insurance services for blacks who were not always allowed access to white banking establishments. In 1947, the name of the corporation changed to The Carver Savings Bank, and it was converted to a State-supervised savings bank. It became Carver State Bank in 1962. A staunch Republican who served as a delegate at three GOP conventions, Toomer was appointed Register of the Treasury (1953-1956) by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Toomer died in 1961 and a bronze sundial was erected in his honor in 1964 in Chatham Square.

Erected by the Georgia Historical Society and the Carver State Bank

Staff recommends that **State**-supervised not be capitalized.

Ms. Farr-Newman reported that staff recommends approval to City Council for the marker in Chatham Square with the condition the text is modified as requested, because otherwise the marker meets the standards.

PETITIONER COMMENTS

Mr. Robert James of Carver State Bank said approximately two years ago as a part of their anniversary, they walked to the square where the sundial is located. Several individuals approached him saying that the sundial was not sufficient enough as there should be a historical marker that says something about Mr. Toomer and Carver State Bank. Based on this suggestion, they talked with Mrs. Vaughnette Goode-Walker about handling this request on their behalf. They are extremely excited about getting the historical marker erected. They participated in the wording along with the Georgia Historical Society.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

Motion

The Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby recommend approval to City Council for a marker in Chatham Square with the condition the text is modified as requested, because otherwise the marker meets the standards.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Alicia Blakely

Second: Dr. Nicholas Henry

Dolores Engle - Aye

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Dr. Nicholas Henry - Aye

Eli Karatassos - Aye

Kristopher Monroe - Aye

Alicia Blakely - Aye

IV. Other Business

7. Nominating Committee Report and Officer Elections

Motion

The Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby approve the Nominating Committee Report recommending the following Commission members as officers for 2018: Dr. Nicholas Henry, Chair; Kristopher Monroe, Vice-Chair; and Alicia Blakely, Secretary.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Dolores Engle

Second: Kristopher Monroe

Dolores Engle	- Aye
Thomas Gensheimer	- Aye
Dr. Nicholas Henry	- Aye
Eli Karatassos	- Aye
Kristopher Monroe	- Aye
Alicia Blakely	- Aye

8. Commissioner Items

Ms. Harris gave the Confederate Memorial Task Force final report. She explained that City of Savannah Mayor Eddie DeLoach convened the Confederal Memorial Task force in October 2017 to provide recommendations for the Savannah City Council regarding the Confederate Memorial in Forsyth Park Extension.

The Task force Members (in alphabetical order) were:

Daniel Carey, President and CEU, Historic Savannah Foundation
Christy Crisp, Director of Programs, Georgia historical Society
Stan Deaton, PhD, Senior Historian, Georgia Historical Society
Vaughnette Goode-Walker, Tour Operator, Footprints of Savannah
Ellen Harris, Director, Historic Preservation & Urban Planning, Chatham County-Savannah
Metropolitan Planning Commission
Amir Jamal Toure, JD, Historian, Resident and Tour Operator, Geechee Kunda
Robin Williams, PhD, Chair, Department of Architectural History, Savannah College of Art & Design

Ms. Harris stated that Mayor DeLoach charged the Task Force with making simple and sensible recommendations that would address ways to make the Confederate Memorial more representative of Savannah's community while also preserving Savannah's unique history. She said that during their first meeting, they decided to refer to the Confederate Memorial in all Task Force records as a "memorial" in recognition of the Savannah Ladies Memorial Association's stated desire to erect a memorial to Savannah's Civic War fallen. Historical records refer to it interchangeably as both a "memorial" and a "monument," and it is most often titled the "Confederate Monument" in historical documents.

Ms. Harris explained that in order to gauge the Savannah's community opinions about the Confederate Memorial and what its future should be, the City of Savannah issued a call for public comment during a two-week period from October 30, 2017, 5:00 p.m. through November 13, 2017, 5:00 p.m. Slightly less than two-thirds of the Savannah residents who responded to the call for public comment desired no changes to the memorial, while slightly more than one-third of the Savannah residents who responded felt that there needed to be some form of change to the memorial.

Ms. Harris reported that while the following recommendations are presented as individual recommendations, the Task force believes that collectively they are the best solution for preserving the Confederate Memorial for the Savannah community:

Recommendation #1: Rename from "Confederate Monument" to "Civil War Memorial."

Recommendation #2: Preserve all historic material on the memorial.

Recommendation #3: Install a new bronze plaque on the blank horizontal panel on the south side of the memorial with this text: "This memorial was originally erected in 1875 to the Confederate dead, redesigned in 1879, and rededicated in 2018 to all the dead of the American Civil War."

Recommendation #4: Do not alter the blank vertical panel on the south side of the memorial.

Recommendation #5: Relocate the McLaws and Bartow monuments to Laurel Grove North Cemetery.

Recommendation #6: Do not replace the Bartow and McLaws monuments at the memorial site.

Recommendation #7: Preserve the fence around the memorial in the current elliptical shape.

Recommendation #8: The community expands the story of the Civil War, its causes, and its effects throughout Savannah, other than at the Forsyth Park Confederate Memorial Site.

Ms. Harris stated the Task Force recommends individuals and organizations use the existing avenues available to them to propose new memorials, monument and markers, including the City of Savannah's Historic Site & Monument Commission, administered by the Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission, and a the Georgia Historical Society's historical Marker Program.

Ms. Harris gave the Historic Site & Monument Commission members a copy of the Confederate Memorial Task Force Final Report.

Ms. Harris reported that the recommendations were presented to City Council this morning at their workshop. City Council did not vote on the recommendations. She is aware that a question will be asked if this report will come back to the Historic Site and Monument Commission for a recommendation. However, whether this comes back to the Historic Site and Monument Commission is at the discretion of the Mayor and Aldermen.

Mr. Karatassos asked if there is not a state requirement that this come to the HSMC.

Ms. Harris answered no. The state law that was created in 1949 is different in terms of its goals and recommendations.

Mr. Karatassos asked if there is a reason why it would not come to the HSMC.

Ms. Harris answered that she did not know.

Mr. Monroe asked if this should apply to the busts.

Ms. Harris answered that the Task Force team did not believe this applies to that situation.

[9. Next Meeting - Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 4:00 pm in the Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room, MPC, 112 E State Street](#)

V. Adjournment

[10. Adjourned](#)

There being no further business to come before the Historic Site and Monument Commission, Chair Karatassos adjourned the meeting at 4:55 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 minutes which are adopted by the respective Board. Verbatim transcripts of minutes are the responsibility of the interested party.