SAVANNAH-CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORIC SITE AND MONUMENT COMMISSION
HISTORICAL MARKER RECOMMENDATION

PETITIONER: Christian Sottile
10 West Taylor Street
Savannah, GA 31401

FILE No.: 19-002716-HM

LOCATION: 200 Block West River Walk

DATE: November 7, 2019

NATURE OF REQUEST:
The applicant is requesting approval for the relocation of the Waving Girl Monument from its current location within Morrell Park to 200 West River Walk. The new location is within the Plant Riverside Development along West River Street and the West River Walk. The placement of the monument is proposed at the start of West River Walk, where the original end to the River Walk meets the new West River Walk.

CONTEXT:
The location on which the Waving Girl Monument is currently placed was designed for the inclusion of a monument. The relocation of the Waving Girl Monument will leave the original location within Morrell Park empty. The application does not address the future use for the site from which the monument is to be removed. The City's representative indicated that the City's does not have any current plans for a replacement monument. Also, City Council will vote on the petition after they receive Historic Site and Monument Commission's recommendation; they will provide guidance as to whether or not permission to move the monument will be granted.

FINDINGS:

The following standards from the Historic Site and Monument Commission Guidelines for Markers, Monuments and Public Art apply:

> ***Evaluating Sites for Markers, Monuments, or Public Art.*** *Certain factors should be taken into consideration when evaluating whether a site is the appropriate location for a marker, monument or public art [hereto referred to as "object" to indicate the inclusion of all three types]. These factors include:*
>
> > *The installation of an object should not cause overcrowding of the site, if there are existing objects. Objects should be sited far enough away from other objects as to allow the visitor proper appreciation of each individually.*

The installation of the monument upon the newly proposed location will not cause overcrowding for it is cited far enough away from other objects as to allow visitors proper appreciation.

> > *The proposed object should not damage or disturb existing established vegetation on the site including low tree limbs, or significant tree roots.*

The installation of the monument upon the newly proposed location will not damage or disturb existing established vegetation on the site; the site is new construction.

> *The proposed object should not require the removal or alteration of existing above or below ground utilities.*
> *The proposed site should be large enough to accommodate an object, and should not encroach on other existing object sites, buildings, or designated green space.*

The standards are met.

> *The proposed site should not be utilized for special events (such as sports, festivals, ceremonies, etc.) on a regular basis which an object would disrupt.*

The monument's newly proposed location is upon West River Walk and is not proposed to be utilized for events.

> *The proposed site should not be prone to frequent automobile accidents which could damage the proposed object.*
> *The proposed site should be easily accessible to pedestrians and the physically challenged (excluding marker sites).*

The standards are met.

> *The proposed site should be visible and accessible from a public right of way.*
> *The proposed site should have adequate parking nearby (excluding marker sites).*
> *The proposed site should not have a high probability of significant archaeology unless an archaeological study is part of the proposal.*
> *The proposed site should be easy to maintain.*

The site provides adequate parking nearby and allows for easy accessibility and visibility from the public right-of-way. The site is not proposed as having any difficulty in maintenance.

> *The installation of the object should enhance the space and character of the surrounding neighborhood.*
> *The installation of the object should not require the alteration or removal of existing signage (traffic, street, etc).*
> *The installation of the object should not significantly affect automobile traffic sight lines.*

The proposed site location for the relocation of the Waving Girl Monument is a new construction development. The installation of the monument within this new development will enhance the space and location without interfering with pre-existing signage or graphics. The site is a pedestrian way and no vehicular traffic is proposed.

> *The installation of the object should enhance the design of the overall site.*
> *The installation of the object should not require the removal or alteration of existing sidewalks, unless it is part of a comprehensive redesign for the entire site (which is generally discouraged).*

The installation of the monument is proposed to enhance the overall design of the site. The monument was included within the design for the new development.

Site in Relation to Theme for Markers or Monuments. *The relationship between site and theme for a marker or monument is critical in determining the appropriate site for a particular theme.*

Monument. *Monuments should be erected on sites to which the theme has relevance. The proposed site should not disrupt an established theme pattern.*

The theme of the proposed site for the monument relocation is one that follows an industrial pattern in keeping with the original design and use of the power station constructed in 1912. The design of the development also reflects the industrial pattern found further to the west along the river and the Savannah Port.

If the proposed theme falls into an existing theme pattern, the proposed site should also follow the corresponding site pattern.

The existing theme is one that reflects the industrial usage of the waterfront. Along with that theme is included the presence of the ships coming to and from the adjacent port. The them of the monument itself is one that follows the usage of the ports and the ships coming to and from port. The monument depicts Florence Martus waving to the passing ships as she did everyday upon the two islands on which she resided: Cockspur Island, and Elba Island. Although the monument is not proposed to be placed in either of these locations, the theme behind the monument and its purpose corresponds with the theme of the site proposed.

The proposed site should be the most relevant location available to the monument theme, as demonstrated through the documentation regarding the direct local relevance of the proposed theme.

Florence Martus was born on Cockspur Island and later moved to Elba Island, on which she would wave to the passing ships utilizing her handkerchief. Cockspur Island is a National Monument site and can only be entered by paying guests; Elba Island is home to the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminal and is not accessible by the public. The proposed location for the relocation of the monument would allow for public viewing as well as making the monument easily visible to passing ships.

The context of the proposed site should be a major consideration in the mass and scale of the proposed object.

The monument is visually compatible with the mass and scale of the development in which its proposed location resides.

The location of monuments in the Landmark District should respect the Oglethorpe Plan, particularly in terms of historic viewsheds and sight lines.

The location of the monument is not within the Oglethorpe Plan and is proposed to be placed along the Savannah River Walk which plays host to several other Monuments and Markers.

Design. *The design of a marker, monument, or public work of art should be of the highest quality and caliber, and enhance public space. In order to promote the high standards the City of Savannah has historically enjoyed in its markers, monuments, and public art, the following guidelines should be observed.*

Monuments and Public Art. *Monuments may take on many forms including works of art, benches, statues, sculptures, obelisks, sundials, etc. Monuments are typically commissioned, site-specific pieces.*

The applicant may choose to donate an existing work of art for installation in a public space in cases where the project budget doesn't allow for a commissioned piece, the timeframe for installation doesn't allow for a commissioned piece, the applicant desires the posthumous acquisition of art by a desired artist, or the applicant has a work of art in a collection he/she wishes to donate. However, the public art work should follow the guidelines (except Guidelines 18-21) and it is strongly recommended that the applicant obtain approval prior to purchase.

The applicant may choose to commission a work of art or monument. The artwork or monument must be of the highest quality and should adhere to the guidelines.

The monument is an existing monument within the City of Savannah and the construction of the monument adheres to the guidelines.

Monuments should not be fabricated prior to approval.

The monument is an existing monument within the City of Savannah.

Monuments should be considered permanent and designed accordingly.

Monuments and public art should be designed and constructed of materials suitable for outdoor display. All proposed materials should have performed satisfactorily in the local climate for a period of time long enough to assure permanence. Future maintenance and conservation requirements should be considered.

Monuments and public art should be designed to be reasonably resistant to vandalism.

Monuments and public art should be designed so as not to pose a danger to the curious public, such as the use of sharp objects or loose parts.

Monument and public art design should include landscaping, paving, seating, drainage, lighting, fencing, or other protective measures which may be considered necessary.

Monuments and public art should be of superior quality and craftsmanship.

Monuments should not resemble gravestones.

A monument should be of original design, and public art should be an original work of art (one of a kind) or reproduced in editions of less than 200.

The standards are all met. The monument is an existing monument within the City of Savannah.

Monuments and public art should not replicate an original monument or work of art.
Monuments and public art should be designed to complement and enhance the site in which it is located. It should not compete with, dominate or encroach upon existing monuments, public art, or buildings.
Monuments and public art should be respectful of the architectural, historical, geographical, and social/cultural context of the site.
Monuments and public art should be compatible in scale, materials, and form with its context. Context includes the buildings, monuments, public art, landscaping and open space to which the monument or public art is visually related.
The format of the monument should effectively convey the message of the monument to the public.

Florence Martus was born on Cockspur Island and later moved to Elba Island, on which she would wave to the passing ships utilizing her handkerchief. Cockspur Island is a National Monument site and can only be entered by paying guests; Elba Island is home to the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminal and is not accessible by the public. The proposed location for the relocation of the monument would allow for public viewing as well as making the monument easily visible to passing ships. The design of the monument is respectful to the architectural, historical, geographical, and social/cultural context of the proposed site. The format of the monument on this site will effectively convey the message of the monument to the public.

Donor names and monument sponsors may be incorporated into the design (such as inscribed on bricks or on a separate plaque) but should be discreet and not detract from or dominate the monument or artwork.
The artist's name may be incorporated into the design but should be in a discreet location on the work of art.

The name of the artist as well as the name of the group who erected the monument are included upon the base and do not detract from or dominate the monument.

The designer and/or fabricator (for a monument) and the artist (for public art) should have completed projects of similar size and scale in the public arena and be able to provide appropriate documentation.
The designer and/or fabricator (for a monument) and the artist (for public art) should have an excellent reputation and be able to provide verifiable references attesting to the quality of work.
The designer and/or fabricator (for a monument) and the artist (for public art) should be able to provide images or samples of existing similar monuments or works of art.
The designer and/or fabricator (for a monument) and the artist (for public art) should be able to demonstrate the ability to meet the proposed timeframe.

The sculptor Felix de Weldon also sculpted the Iwo Jima Monument in Washington, D.C. The Waving Girl Monument is an existing condition.

Funding.

Budget. *The Mayor and Aldermen do not fund new markers, monuments, or works of art. The applicant is fully responsible for funding the design, construction, installation, and any necessary landscaping, paving, or lighting involved with a new marker, monument, or work of art.*

The applicant must provide a realistic budget in Part II Final Design and Funding. The budget should be based on cost estimates provided by the manufacturer, artist, installer and/or contractor, as appropriate. The budget should include funding goals and deadlines. Should funding goals and deadlines fail to be met, the HSMC may, at its sole discretion, reconsider the application. The applicant must be capable of raising the necessary funding. Construction of the monument or installation of the work of art will not begin until all of the funding has been secured.

The funding for the relocation of the monument is fully backed by partners within the Plant Riverside Development team. The resources to mobilize the monument are prepared and exist at the Plant Riverside development already.

Escrow Payment. *All markers, monuments and public art erected on public property become the property of the Mayor and Aldermen. The Mayor and Aldermen assume responsibility for the future maintenance and upkeep of the marker, monument or artwork. Therefore, an initial Escrow Payment is required of the applicant subsequent to approval of the application. The Mayor and Aldermen, or their designee, will determine the appropriate Escrow Payment and will notify the applicant. The Escrow Payment must be paid prior to construction/installation of the monument or public art. Any marker, monument or artwork erected on private property is the responsibility of the property owner.*

All maintenance and upkeep for the monument is proposed to be performed by the Propeller Club of Savannah.

Public Notice. *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.*

All required public notice was provided. No public comments were received.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends <u>approval</u> for the relocation of the Waving Girl Monument from its current location within Morrell Park to 200 West River Walk because otherwise it meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

LGM: raj