



Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission

Virtual Meeting
February 4, 2021 4:00 PM
Final Agenda

February 4, 2021 Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission Meeting

Members Present: Dr. Nicholas Henry, Chair
Kristopher Monroe, Vice-Chairman
Thomas Gensheimer
Sean Mannion
Lisa Watson

Staff Members Present: Leah Michalak, Director of Historic Preservation
Ryan Jarles, Cultural Resources Planner
Bri Morgan, HSMC Administrative Assistant

I. Call to Order and Welcome

[1. 2021 Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary Vote](#)

Dr. Nicholas Henry brought the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Dr. Henry asked for a vote for the following 2021 Board nominations:

Chair - Kristopher Monroe
Vice Chair - Thomas Geinsheimer
Secretary - Lisa Watson

After approval of the nominations, **Mr. Kristopher Monroe** succeeded as chair and presided over the remainder of the meeting. **Dr. Henry** stated it was pleasure to work with the Board and Staff. He then left the dias and the meeting. **Mr. Monroe** stated his leadership has been invaluable to the Board. **Mr. Mannion** thanked Dr. Henry for providing an excellent examples to use in other forums.

Motion

Approve nominations : Monroe (Chair), Geinsheimer (Vice), Watson (Secretary)

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Thomas Gensheimer
Second: Kristopher Monroe
Thomas Gensheimer - Aye
Dr. Nicholas Henry - Abstain
Kristopher Monroe - Aye
Sean Mannion - Aye
Lisa D. Watson - Aye

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

[2. Approve January 7, 2021 HSMC Meeting Minutes](#)

📎 [01.07.21 Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

Motion

Approve minutes as submitted.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Sean Mannion
Second: Thomas Gensheimer
Thomas Gensheimer - Aye
Dr. Nicholas Henry - Not Present
Kristopher Monroe - Abstain
Sean Mannion - Aye
Lisa D. Watson - Aye

III. Regular Agenda

[3. Petition of The City of Savannah | 21-000348-PA | 400 Block of Broughton Street | Public Art](#)

📎 [Staff Recommendation - 21-000348-PA.pdf](#)

📎 [Submittal Packet - 21-000348-PA.pdf](#)

📎 [AERIAL MAP 21-000348-PA.pdf](#)

Mr. Ryan Jarles presented the applicant's request for approval for Public Art information displays within kiosks on the 400 block of West Broughton Street. The kiosks are part of a larger project, spanning 6 blocks, from Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. (400 Block), to Drayton Street (0 block of East Broughton). The kiosks are part of a larger City of Savannah project currently under construction to revitalize the Broughton streetscape.

Currently under review are public art on two kiosks (the kiosks themselves have already been approved by the Historic District Board of Review), one on the north and one on the south side of the 400 block of West Broughton Street; however, the applicant is proposing that the 5 additional blocks of kiosks also include similar public art. The petitioner has indicated that they would appreciate the approval of the project, allowing Staff to review future installations.

North Kiosk:

The kiosk on the north side of the street will focus on the transition of Broughton Street from a residential area to a more commercial area in the late 1800s. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps from Savannah - Chatham County indicate the location of the residential dwellings west on Broughton Street highlighting the diversity of businesses in the early 20th century.

South Kiosk:

The kiosk on the south side of the street will focus on Savannah's two primary commercial corridors – Broughton Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. (formerly West Broad Street). The copy discusses the contrast between the two corridors due to segregation.

The installation of the public art is to be integrated onto kiosks previously approved by the Historic District Board of Review (18-001061-COA); therefore, the addition of the public art onto the kiosks will not cause overcrowding, nor will it damage or disturb existing vegetation or utilities. The kiosks are being constructed with the inclusion of the public art in mind, therefore the site is large enough for the objects.

The kiosks are located at large, redesigned sidewalk areas along the north and south sides of Broughton Street. Broughton Street is known as a festival zone, often playing host to parades and other large group gatherings; Broughton Street is also known for frequent automobile accidents occurring on the street itself. Although known for festivities and accidents, the kiosks are to be located within a well-designed buffer zone between the sidewalk and the street, allowing for the kiosks to not become detrimental to the festivities nor prone to possible damage from automobiles. The kiosks and proposed public art will be included on the sidewalks along Broughton Street and will be easily accessible and will have adequate nearby on-street parking.

The public art proposed is included in a larger project to revitalize the Broughton Street corridor and will add to the enhancement of the neighborhood. The installation of the public art is included in the already approved and ongoing Broughton Street revitalization project the above will not be affected. The public art proposed is included in a larger project to revitalize the Broughton Street corridor and will add to the enhancement of the site. The public art is part of an overall enhancement of the site and will not play host to memorial services.

The inclusion of public art onto the already approved kiosks being installed along Broughton Street respects the Oglethorpe plan. The proposed public art will be photographic in nature and is a commissioned work. The proposed public art is to be a permanent part of the approved kiosks. The public art will be of superior materials with the intention of being vandalism resistant and will not pose any danger to pedestrians and will be within a newly maintained and landscaped area. The majority of the public art will utilize historical images of Savannah and other documents from the City Archives. These documents, although not original works, will be utilized in a unique and original way to present them to the public. These images and documents are part of and respectful to the community. The proposed work will be of an appropriate scale and will be within a maintained and landscaped portion of the revitalization of Broughton Street.

The artist/designer/fabricator is the City of Savannah and associated contractors and have demonstrated their ability to create said public art and meet proposed timeframes. All funding is part of phase 1 of the Broughton Street Streetscape Improvement Project. As part of phase 1 of the Broughton Street Streetscape Improvement Project, the kiosks and public art will be maintained as part of operations of various City departments.

PETITIONER COMMENTS:

Ms. Bridget Lidy, City of Savannah, stated this is part one of a two-part project, totaling six kiosks. They will replace the existing kiosks and will have electrical outlets for events. They were designed to withstand attempted vandalism.

Mr. Mannion asked what the budget covered. **Ms. Lidy** stated the budget was for the entire project cost for Phase 1. **Mr. Mannion** asked if the information on the kiosks would be rotating. **Ms. Lidy** responded they will be permanent.

Ms. Watson asked about the mounting. **Ms. Lidy** stated the mounting will be in the ground with brick around it; they will be flush.

Mr. Monroe asked if the sides will look as on the drawings. **Ms. Lidy** stated yes; there will be text, indicating the squares to celebrate the Oglethorpe Plan. **Mr. Monroe** stated that will hopefully deter vandalizing with text on it rather than being blank. **Ms. Michalak** assured that staff verified that the materials and colors presented in this proposal matched those approved by the HDBR for the kiosks.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Geinsheimer stated this is giving staff the ability to approve all of the kiosks without HSMC oversight. He stated he is reluctant to approve such freedom. **Mr. Monroe** and **Mr. Mannion** agreed. **Mr. Mannion** asked what safeguards will be in place when Ms. Michalak and **Mr. Jarles** are gone? **Ms. Michalak** stated the guidelines will be the safe guard. The Board, in general, had concerns with staff having that responsibility. **Mr. Jarles** stated the Board makes recommendations to City Council, who ultimately approves or denies.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission recommend approval of the public art located on the 400 block of Broughton Street to the Savannah City Council because it meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

Additionally, due to the time sensitive nature of the public art, and their repeating theme and design concept, Staff recommends that the HSMC Board and the Savannah City Council allow Staff to review future submittals that are part of this project. Staff will present these approved submittals at following HSMC meetings for informational purposes.

Motion

The Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission recommends that the Savannah – Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission recommend approval of the public art located on the 400 block of Broughton Street to the Savannah City Council because it meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

Return to HSMC for remaining kiosks as they are constructed.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Lisa D. Watson

Thomas Gensheimer	- Aye
Dr. Nicholas Henry	- Not Present
Kristopher Monroe	- Abstain
Sean Mannion	- Aye
Lisa D. Watson	- Aye

[4. Petition of Georgia Historical Society | 20-005337-HM | 342 Drayton Street | Historical Marker](#)

[☞ Staff Rec 342 Drayton 20-005337-HM.pdf](#)

[☞ Submittal Packet - 20-005337-COA 342 Drayton Street.pdf](#)

[☞ December 2020 - Submittal Packet - 342 Drayton Street - 20-005337-COA.pdf](#)

[☞ Board Decision December- 20-005337-HM.pdf](#)

Mr. Ryan Jarles presented the applicant's request for approval for the installation of a Georgia Historical Society Historical Marker within the public right-of-way of 342 Drayton Street. The historical marker is proposed to be installed within the sidewalk parallel to the East Charlton Street frontage of 342 Drayton Street.

The marker is proposed to read:

Colonial Group, Inc.
Originally American Oil Company

Raymond McAllister Demere founded the American Oil Company on July 21, 1921, as Savannah's first independent wholesale petroleum company, and he opened his first service station at this site in 1923. Renamed Colonial Oil in 1933, the company is now known as Colonial Group, Inc. In 1934 the company built its first independent ocean terminal on the Savannah River, contributing to the growth and diversification of the Port of Savannah. In 1964 Colonial launched Interstate Stations, now Enmarket, for the operation of convenience stores in the Southeast. At its 100th anniversary in 2021, the fourth-generation family-owned company remained headquartered in Savannah and was one of the area's largest employers having expanded with multiple, diverse subsidiaries to become one of the largest privately-held corporations in the United States.

Erected by the Georgia Historical Society and Colonial Group, Inc.

"The Colonial Group, Inc. historical marker demonstrates the themes of Industry and Commerce, Maritime History, and Local History.

Established at a time when automobiles were leading a transformation of all aspects of American life, the American Oil Company was founded by the Demere family in 1921. Headquartered in Savannah throughout its one-hundred-year history, the company was the first independent wholesale petroleum company in the city. Since that time, the company has expanded its services from a petroleum company to include a group of subsidiaries including Colonial Oil Industries, Inc.; Colonial Terminals, Inc.; Colonial Fuel & Lubricant Services, Inc.; Enmark Stations, Inc./Enmarket; Colonial Compliance Systems, Inc.; Colonial Energy, Inc.; Colonial Towing, Inc.; Colonial Chemical Solutions, Inc.; Savannah Yacht Center, Inc; and Aqua Smart, Inc.

Thee fourth-generation, family-owned company maintains its headquarters, yacht services, marine terminal, distribution center, and several service stations (Enmark) in the Savannah-

area. As such, Colonial Group has contributed to the success and expansion in Georgia's ports as well as Savannah's economic growth and prosperity through the creation of countless jobs that brought employment to generations of Savannahians. Further, through its kaolin terminals, Colonial Group plays a key role in Georgia's vital paper and timber industry. Colonial Group continues to have significant economic impact on Savannah, Georgia, and the nation as one of the largest privately-held companies in the US, employing over 2,000 people and operating in nearly 40 states.

In recognition of the significance of corporate citizens like Colonial in shaping the history of Georgia over the past century, the Georgia Historical Society has made a focused effort in recent years to acknowledge those contributions through the Georgia Business History Initiative. With the installation of this proposed historical marker, Colonial Group, Inc. joins other local companies and organizations such as Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation and Georgia Ports Authority, as well as iconic Georgia companies across the state such as The Coca-Cola Company, Delta Air Lines, and Chick-fil-A, as part of this Initiative. In this program, companies work with GHS to develop a historical marker that tells the story of that company's contribution to the development of our state and nation while maintaining the high standards of historical accuracy in the Georgia Historical Marker program. Their executive summary of the company history is erected at a site of historical significance to the company and the community, in this case at the site of the first full-service American Oil Company (now Colonial Group, Inc.). Like all markers within the Georgia Historical Marker Program, this marker will be included in all online and print educational materials created to promote Georgia history through the marker program, including the award-winning GHS Historical Marker website and mobile app."

The site currently does not have any "objects" other than a City of Savannah parking pay machine. The adjacent 'Andrew Low House' property includes one historical marker on the northern portion of the property and is not visible from the present marker petition location. No vegetation is proposed to be altered in any way. Information on the location of ground utilities was not provided. Staff recommends that the Historical Marker be located far enough away from the parking pay machine so as not to interfere with the associated utilities.

The historical marker is to be located within a portion of sidewalk that does not include any other objects besides a City of Savannah parking pay machine. To Staff's knowledge, the sidewalk surrounding the property is not utilized for special events. The applicant is proposing the historical marker be placed within the sidewalk (public right-of-way) parallel to East Charlton Street in order to provide a safer location for pedestrians to view the historical marker, and to ensure the marker not undergo possible damage from vehicles on Drayton Street. The historical marker will be visible from the accessible sidewalk surrounding the property. The marker is to be visible from the sidewalk as well as the street. The marker is proposed within a presently maintained City of Savannah sidewalk. The historical marker will bring light to a previously untold story of local industry within the neighborhood and enhances the character of the surrounding neighborhood.

The site includes existing mechanical (parking pay machine), however, will not require the removal of said pay machine, and will not significantly affect automobile traffic sight lines. The historical marker is proposed to be within 100 feet of the property for which its' content represents. The applicant has stated that they have secured the necessary funds (\$5,000). The applicant has accepted and taken on the role of all future maintenance of the marker, relinquishing the requirement of supplying an escrow payment to the City of Savannah.

BOARD COMMENTS:

The Board agreed the text was much better, as it now reads as a historical marker, not as an advertisement.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Ryan Chandler, Colonial Group, thanked the Board for their guidance.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Historic Site and Monument Commission recommend approval to the Savannah City Council for the installation of a Georgia Historical Society Historical Marker at 342 Drayton Street, with the following condition, because the petition otherwise meets the guidelines set forth within the HSMC Masterplan and Guidelines.

- 1. Ensure the installation does not require removal or alteration of existing above or below ground utilities.**

Motion

The Historic Site and Monument Commission recommends approval to the Savannah City Council for the installation of a Georgia Historical Society Historical Marker at 342 Drayton Street, with the following condition, because the petition otherwise meets the guidelines set forth within the HSMC Masterplan and Guidelines.

1. Ensure the installation does not require removal or alteration of existing above or below ground utilities.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Thomas Gensheimer

Second: Sean Mannion

Thomas Gensheimer	- Aye
Dr. Nicholas Henry	- Not Present
Kristopher Monroe	- Abstain
Sean Mannion	- Aye
Lisa D. Watson	- Aye

[5. Petition of Georgia Historical Society | 21-000108-HM | 204 West Hall Street | Historical Marker](#)

[Staff Rec 204 W Hall St 21-000108-HM.pdf](#)

[Submittal Packet - 21-000108-HM 204 West Hall Street.pdf](#)

[Board Decision December - 20-005335-HM Signed.pdf](#)

Mr. Rayn Jarles presented the applicant's request that the Historic Site and Monument commission approve the installation of a Georgia Historical Society Historical Marker on private property at 204 West Hall Street. This petition was previously heard and recommended for approval, however, the petitioner chose to relocate the position of the marker onto private property to be maintained by the petitioner.

The marker is proposed to read:

"Bynes-Royall Funeral Home

During the last years of Reconstruction, Maj. William Royall established the Royall Undertaking Company to serve African Americans denied mortuary services by Savannah's White-owned funeral homes. As a formal mortuary education was not available in the South until the early 20th century, Royall's company trained many prominent Black funeral directors in the state through an apprenticeship program. In 1924, the company moved to West Broad Street, now Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, the African-American cultural and business district of Savannah. In 1955, Cpt. Frank Bynes, Sr. and Frenchye Mason Bynes bought the business and renamed it the Bynes- Royall Funeral Home. Like many Black funeral homes during the Civil Rights Movement, Bynes- Royall provided a safe space to meet and organize. Bynes-Royall relocated here in 1963 and remains the oldest Black-owned business in Savannah.

Erected by the Georgia Historical Society and Save Our Youth Savannah"

The petitioner provided the following statement regarding the theme of the historical marker:

"The Bynes-Royall Funeral Home historical marker demonstrates the themes of Industry and Commerce, Local History, Cultural and Ethnic Heritage. From the late 19th to the early 20th century, the care of the deceased shifted from being a private family function to a professional industry. Illustrating the shift of the mortuary industry, as well as a response to Savannah's Yellow Fever epidemics, Bynes-Royall Funeral Home was founded by Major William Royall in the last years of Reconstruction. Originally named the Royall Undertaking Company, its purpose was to serve the Black community who were denied service by White funeral homes. In 1924, the funeral home moved to West Broad Street, the cultural and economic center for Black Savannah. In 1955, the Bynes family purchased the business and renamed it to Bynes-Royall Funeral Home. As with other Black funeral homes throughout the South, Bynes-Royall became a safe space for activists in the Civil Rights Movement to meet and organize. In 1963, Bynes-Royall relocated from West Broad Street to its current location at 204 W. Hall Street and is the oldest Black-owned business in Savannah."

The site currently does not have any "objects", and there are no visually related examples of historical markers. No vegetation is proposed to be altered in any way, and the historical marker is proposed to be located in the front eastern corner of the fenced front yard. Information on the location of ground utilities was not provided; however, Staff has no concerns that this will be an issue.

The historical marker is to be located in the front eastern corner of the fenced front yard, which is not utilized for special events nor prone to automobile accidents. The historical marker will be visible from the accessible sidewalk. The marker is to be visible from the sidewalk as well as the street, and is proposed within a presently maintained private yard. The historical marker will bring light to a previously untold story of the neighborhood and enhances the character of the surrounding neighborhood, as the site does not include existing signage and will not significantly affect automobile traffic sight lines. The historical marker is to bring attention to a previously uninteresting empty portion of the property's front yard. It is proposed to be within 100 feet of the property for which its' content represents, and meets all design requirements. The applicant has stated that they have secured the necessary funds (\$5,000). The historical marker is proposed on private property and will be maintained by the Georgia Historical Society.

PETITIONER COMMENTS:

Ms. Elyse Butler, petitioner, thanked the Board for hearing the petition again.

BOARD COMMENTS:

The Board agrees with the relocation of the marker.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Historic Site and Monument Commission hereby approve the installation of a Georgia Historical Society Historical Marker within the front yard at 204 West Hall Street, as proposed, because the petition meets the guidelines set forth within the HSMC Masterplan and Guidelines.

Motion

The Historic Site and Monument Commission hereby approve the installation of a Georgia Historical Society Historical Marker within the front yard at 204 West Hall Street, as proposed, because the petition meets the guidelines set forth within the HSMC Masterplan and Guidelines.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Thomas Gensheimer

Second: Sean Mannion

Thomas Gensheimer	- Aye
Dr. Nicholas Henry	- Not Present
Kristopher Monroe	- Abstain
Sean Mannion	- Aye
Lisa D. Watson	- Aye

[6. Petition of Clinton Edminster | 21-000111-PA | Various Locations | Temporary Murals](#)

📎 [Submittal Packet - 21-000111-PA.pdf](#)

📎 [GROUP VICINITY MAP 21-000111-PA .pdf](#)

📎 [Staff Recommendation - 21-000111-PA.pdf](#)

📎 [Public Comment - Mechelle Gladney.pdf](#)

Mr. Ryan Jarles presented the applicant's request for approval for a temporary mural package at 1512 Bull Street, 906 Drayton Street, and 2201 Bull Street and future addresses. The title for the mural package is the "Fence Mural Project" and consists of 11 murals designed by 9 different artists. The proposed temporary murals will be painted on large cotton canvas measuring 6 feet tall and 9 feet wide. The materials used to paint the murals include exterior acrylic paints, spray paint, and acrylic paint markers. All murals have been coated on both sides with a polyacrylic varnish for waterproofing and protection from the elements. Additionally, all murals have been installed with grommets on all sides for hanging. Murals are expected to be installed for 2-4 months depending on their location.

There is concern in the public of the use of "Starland" in other districts on the temporary murals.

The applicant also provided the following information within their request, "We are also seeking prior approval for installation of murals on construction fences anywhere in the city for the next five years. Due to the nature of construction, funding, production time, and

administering projects like these it would benefit the public and our artists to have all future construction fence murals approved by MPC staff. We are learning from our first phase and are excited to be able to improve our materials, marketing, and expand our artist selection."

Two of the addresses are reviewed as if located on private property because they have already received Encroachment Licenses from the City of Savannah for the installation of the construction fencing onto the public right-of-way. 2201 Bull Street's construction fences are located on private property.

-906 Drayton Street: permit # 2008319-R1.

-1512 Bull Street: permit #'s 2000700-R3 and 21-00234-R2.

-2201 Bull Street: Located on private property.

The theme of the temporary mural package is "Building Together." The theme is respectful to the context of the community because of the location of the murals, being located on construction projects. The temporary mural package complies with the Georgia obscenity laws. The temporary murals do not advertise any illegal activities under the laws of Georgia or the United States. The temporary murals are complementary to, as well as enhance the otherwise unsightly construction fences. The temporary murals will not detract from significant or character-defining features of the buildings because they are located on construction fences outside of the property.

The locations of the future mural locations is currently unknown; due to the time sensitive nature of the project (project relies on installation of construction fencing) Staff recommends that the Board allow Staff to review future submittals that are part of this project; staff intends to present the staff approved submittals at following HSMC meetings for informational purposes. The temporary murals will be respectful to the greater context of the neighborhood and staff does not believe they will be located in an area which may cause undue distraction to the drivers thereby creating a safety hazard. Construction fencing often depicts large images, and no prior 'undue distraction' has been reported as a result of these large images.

The temporary murals are located within mixed-use areas. Two letters of support were provided by neighboring businesses. Staff also makes the assumption that the managers of the sites are aware and are in agreement with the temporary murals being located on their fences. The temporary murals are proposed in groups, located on temporary construction fencing. No historic materials are involved. All proposed temporary murals are sized to the fences they are temporarily attached to. The proposed paint types for the temporary murals are high quality acrylic and spray paints. The murals are all proposed to be temporary. The art will remain in place for the duration of the time that the construction fencing is required at each location.

The applicant states that they "relied on many of the artists from last year's successful Starland Mural Project. In the months since the Starland Mural Project has been in contact with many other local artists who were interested in painting murals. This contact list was used to determine the remaining participants. Moving forward we will be implementing a call for entries selection model that will greatly expand our portfolio of local artists to hire and invest in."

The full description of the funding has not been provided; however, the submittal does say the applicant received funding from the 'Weave-A-Dream' grant. 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. Two letters of support were provided by neighboring businesses.

Mr. Monroe asked if the applicant statement was sent with the application or after. **Mr. Jarles** replied afterward. The number of artists for the projects are unknown, as they are looking for additional artists and the request is for five years. **Mr. Gensheimer** stated he is uncomfortable for granting approval for future projects without having approval from the Board. Appreciation for public varies; some may consider it offensive.

Mr. Mannion asked if this is an after-the-fact or for future projects. **Mr. Jarles** replied it is for both. **Mr. Mannion** asked why was a City of Savannah logo on a unapproved project. **Ms. Michalak** stated it would have been beneficial for a City representative to have been present for the meeting to provide explanation. **Mr. Mannion** asked why did it take so long before the petition came to the Board; it was live on FaceBook before the application was submitted. **Mr. Jarles** stated we have no enforcement capabilities. **Ms. Michalak** stated we are at the mercy of the timeframe of Code Enforcement for its citing process. She stated she recalled the previous HSMC staff meeting with Mr. Edmister several years ago about an earlier project. However the application was received after the project started.

Mr. Gensheimer stated he could not vote to approve to allow future approval without Board oversight. (*Mr. Gensheimer left the meeting.*) **Mr. Mannion** asked how can this petition adhere to the Master Plan and Guidelines if the locations are not known? **Ms. Michalak** stated their provision for the Board to give authority to staff (*Walls of Hope*). This is not a requirement, but allowed to do, as previously done. **Ms. Watson** stated someone from staff in the past stated an instructional video would be made. She stated that the community needs to know the Board is to help and represent the community. Artists are putting up murals everywhere without permission; the process is very simple. Artists are like contractors and adhering to the process indicates professionalism.

PETITIONER COMMENTS:

Mr. Clinton Edminster, petitioner, stated Cultural Affairs came to Starlandia in early October and expressed interest and requested assistance. The idea came to fruition regarding construction sites in mid-October. The Weave-A-Dream grant allowed the project to move forward with a measure of ease, and it does require the City of Savannah's logo. He stated the HSMC application process was not clear, and did not submit because he did not think it was necessary. There should be communication between HSMC and Weave-A-Dream. He acknowledged speaking with Ms. Michalak and stated he's done other murals without HSMC approval. He apologizes for assuming it wasn't necessary because they are temporary, nor did he have the time to do so in order to meet the Cultural Affairs grant deadline; he was not trying to subvert the authority of HSMC. He encourages and helps others to use the HSMC process.

Mr. Monroe stated various fence projects did come before the HSMC several years ago.

Ms. Watson asked how long was the timeframe with Weave-A-Dream. **Mr. Edminster** stated he applied October 31 and spoke with Cultural Affairs on November 10. They had nothing to present, and received a check five days later. Nothing was solidified. The murals had to be up and monies spent by December 31. He thought he it was best to just apply later. **Mr. Monroe** stated there should be more communication between the agencies and that Mr. Edminster makes a valid point.

Mr. Mannion stated it bothers him that unchecked murals going up is being requested, and the lack of time had on the petitioner's part when time was had to apply for the grant. **Mr. Edminster** stated the HSMC application would have been incomplete as they had no designs as the application requires, nor did he reach out to the MPC for assistance with the issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

Ms. Watson stated it is essential that community outreach is done so that the community is not offended. **Mr. Monroe** stated the public has a right to weigh in on the projects in the neighborhood; they are not adversaries of the artists. **Mr. Mannion** stated he thinks it a good idea to cover the construction fences, but there are standards the City has in place that need to be adhered. And the community has a right to express their desires for their community. The process is not difficult or time-consuming; frustrating that the petitioner simply chose not to apply in the proper manner and time.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the temporary mural package at 2425 Bull Street because it meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

Additionally, due to the time sensitive nature of the murals, and their repeating theme and design concept, Staff recommends that the Board allow Staff to review future submittals that are part of this project. Staff will present these approved submittals at following HSMC meetings for informational purposes.

Motion

The Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission approve of the temporary mural package at 1512 Bull Street, 906 Drayton St, & 2201 Bull Street because it meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

Board will need to review future mural sketch designs prior to being installed and location.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Lisa D. Watson

Second: Sean Mannion

Thomas Gensheimer - Not Present

Dr. Nicholas Henry - Not Present

Kristopher Monroe - Abstain

Sean Mannion - Aye

Lisa D. Watson - Aye

IV. Other Business

[7. Newly Appointed Commission Members](#)

Eileen Baker, replacing Dr. Nicholas Henry

Ashley Rainge, replacing Alicia Blakely

V. Adjournment

[8. Next Regular HSMC Meeting: March 4, 2021](#)

9. Adjourn

There being no further business to present before the Board, Chairman Monroe adjourned the February 4, 2021 Historic Site and Monument Commission meeting at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leah G. Michalak
Director of Historic Preservation

/bm

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.