



# Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room - 112 East State Street  
August 4, 2022 4:00 PM  
MINUTES

## August 4, 2022 Historic Site & Monument Commission

**Members Present:** Kristopher Monroe, *Chair*  
Eileen Baker  
Catherine Kostilnik  
Sean Mannion

**Members Absent:** Ashley Rainge, *Vice Chair*  
Lisa Watson, Secretary

**Staff Present:** Pamela Everett, Assistant Executive Director  
Leah G. Michalak, Director of Historic Preservation  
Caitlin Chamberlain, Senior Planner  
Bri Morgan, Administrative Assistant  
Julie Yawn, Systems Analyst

### I. Call to Order and Welcome

### II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

#### [1. Approve the July 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes](#)

[📎 07.07.22 MEETING MINUTES.pdf](#)

#### **Motion**

Approve the July 7, 2022 HSMC Meeting Minutes as presented.

#### **Vote Results ( Approved )**

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Catherine D. Kostilnik, PhD

Kristopher Monroe	- Abstain
Sean Mannion	- Aye
Lisa D. Watson	- Not Present
Eileen Baker	- Aye
Ashley Rainge	- Not Present
Catherine D. Kostilnik, PhD	- Aye

### III. Regular Agenda

[2. Petition of Clinton Edminster | 22-002933-PA | 2317 Waters Avenue | Mural](#)

☉ [Staff Rec -22-002933-PA 2317 Waters Ave.pdf](#)

☉ [Submittal Packet- Application, Description, Owner Consent.pdf](#)

**Ms. Caitlin Chamberlain** presented the applicants request for an approval for an installation of a permanent mural at property 2317 Waters Avenue. The mural is proposed to be located on the south façade of the structure. It will be the full size of the wall, 10 feet tall and 38 feet wide, and painted with high quality exterior paints. The proposed theme represents the history of Waters Avenue.

Per the applicant:

“This mural’s theme borrows from the history of Waters Avenue. The blue line represents the street undulating to the changes in the neighborhood as it weaves through different stories (represented by the shapes) in an ongoing celebration of color and movement.”

The theme of the mural is a representation of the evolving history of Waters Avenue. The mural complies with the Georgia obscenity laws. The mural does not advertise any illicit or illegal activities under the laws of Georgia or the United States. The mural will not cover or detract from significant or character-defining architectural features. The mural will be respectful to the greater context of the neighborhood and will not cause undue distraction to drivers. The building for the proposed mural is zoned TC-1 (Traditional Commercial). The public was notified. No response was received.

The mural is not located on a historic structure. The mural is sited far enough away from other murals as to allow proper appreciation of it.

The mural will be appropriate to the building site and to the context of the surrounding neighborhood. The mural is an original design by the artist. The artist is proposing the use of high-quality exterior paints. The wall surface will be properly prepared for long-term installation. This shall include a weatherproof or vandalism resistant coating.

The artist, Clinton Edminster, has worked as the artistic director for the Starland Mural Project, is the owner of Starlandia Art Supply and has been involved in public art projects throughout Savannah. The artist estimates that after the surface has been properly prepared, the installation will take one week to complete. The applicant is funding the work and will be responsible for upkeep of the mural.

**PETITIONER COMMENTS:**

There was no Petitioner comments

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There was no Public comments.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

The Board is supportive of the project.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

**Staff recommends approval of the mural with the condition that:**

- 1. Ensure that the mural has a weatherproof or vandalism resistant coating.**

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

**Motion**

The Historic Site and Monument Commission approves the installation of the mural at property 2317 Waters Avenue with the following condition:

- 1.Ensure that the mural has a weatherproof of vandalism resistant coating.

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

**Vote Results ( Approved )**

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Catherine D. Kostilnik, PhD

Kristopher Monroe	- Abstain
Sean Mannion	- Aye
Lisa D. Watson	- Not Present
Eileen Baker	- Aye
Ashley Rainge	- Not Present
Catherine D. Kostilnik, PhD	- Aye

[3. Petition of City of Savannah Water Resources Department | 22-003268-PA | Various Addresses | Storm Drain Art](#)

[📎 Submittal Packet- Application, Description, Map, Images.pdf](#)

[📎 Staff Recommendation - 22-003268-PA.pdf](#)

**Ms. Caitlin Chamberlain** presented the applicant's request of approval to paint ten storm drains throughout the Casey Drainage Basin in the Ogeechee River Watershed. The storm drains are at the following ten locations: 44th Street and Chatham Crescent; Kerry Street at Dixie Avenue; Cedar Street at DeLesseps Avenue; Atlantic Avenue and 54th Street; Atlantic Avenue at 56th Street; 62nd Street and Habersham Street; 15 Blueridge Avenue (Juliet Low Elementary School); 414 Lee Boulevard (Heard Elementary School); 9402 White Bluff Road (White Bluff Elementary School); and Woodley Road at Windsor Park. The mission of this project is to raise awareness and gain community support in decreasing pollution and bacterial contamination of the waterways that have been placed on the State of Georgia's impaired waters list.

Per the applicant:

"Working with Cultural Affairs, Recreation Services and the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System, the Water Resources Department plans to paint ten storm drains within the larger Casey Drainage Basin. This Basin flows into the Vernon River and three of the waterways are impaired due to pollution. This public outreach and engagement project will be used to comply with the City's Municipal Stormwater permit and is phase one of three to be implemented city-wide.

"The proposed storm drain murals are planned to start in September. City staff will secure the drains with barricades and install a tent over each one. They will also clean, prep and seal the drains. Artists will be given supplies to complete their work. The sealants (for metal and concrete) and paint are Sherwin Williams products which have been used by other cities for storm drain art projects. The life of the installation is projected to range from three to five years or longer. The original designs can be repainted, or the drain can be cleaned and prepped for a new design approved by HSMC and City Council prior to installation."

The Casey Drainage Basin flows into the Vernon River and three of its waterways are impaired due to pollution. It connects to Hayners Creek and converges with Harmon Creek. The Casey Basin is a large basin made up of subbasins called Casey South (South of Victory Drive), Chippewa (south of Eisenhower Drive), Wilshire (surrounding White Bluff Road) and Windsor (within the Windsor Forest neighborhood). There are three phases that this project will cover but due to the impaired designation, the Casey Basin was deemed the most critical area to address.

Per the applicant:

"In 2005, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division categorized the Casey Basin impaired. This requires the City to take actions to reduce the main pollutant- bacteria. The City is required to install water quality improvement elements to stormwater infrastructure and conduct public outreach because much of the bacteria comes from humans, pet waster and litter. The goal is to improve water quality so Casey and Hayners Creeks can be removed from the State's impaired waters list. Community support is critical to delisting these waterways.

“This project is part of a larger campaign to lift the lowly storm drain to a level of prominence, so we are reminded of our connection to our rivers and ocean. We are reminded that our actions impact the wildlife and local economies that depend on our waters staying healthy.

“Storm drain selections were made based on location in the Casey Basin, public visibility, and safety. Four drain locations are in City parks and four are adjacent to elementary schools. The others are in areas where there is moderate to heavy pedestrian and bicycle activity. Coordination with school and City Park staff will be ongoing, but all schools and City staff have approved the project concept.”

The City held a Call for Artists to send their design proposals and highly encouraged applications towards emerging artists, local artists, and artists that are part of minoritized or historically excluded communities such as Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC). The ten selected designs and their locations are included in the application packet.

The theme of the project is improving water quality in the Savannah River and Ogeechee River watersheds. It is respectful to the context of the community and is not intrusive, as the murals will be painted directly onto the tops of the storm drains in visible areas throughout the Casey Basin. The designs comply with the Georgia obscenity laws. They do not advertise any illicit or illegal activities under the laws of Georgia or the United States. The storm drain murals are complementary to, as well as enhance the aesthetic of the storm drains. Since these are all on the ground over the drains, they will have no impact on any architectural features. The storm drain murals will be respectful to the greater context of the neighborhoods 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. The project is targeted towards pedestrians and therefore will not be a distraction to drivers, as the chosen storm drains are along walking paths. The storm drain murals are located within mixed-use areas.

Notice was sent to all property owners, and the neighborhood association, within 200 feet of the subject properties. A sign was posted on the property fifteen days prior to the meeting. No comments were received.

The storm drain murals are proposed in ten different locations and will not interfere with each other or any other public art in the vicinities. No historic materials are involved. All proposed storm drain murals are sized to the tops of the drains where they would be painted. All are original in design. The sealants and paint are Sherwin Williams products which have been used by other cities for storm drain art projects. The City will provide these supplies to all artists involved, thus providing consistency of materials used. The applicant estimated that the paintings will last between three and five years, with an option for repainting the design if it fades or allowing for a new design pending approval from HSMC and the City Council. Staff recommends application of a weatherproof and vandalism resistant coating once the pieces are finished.

A Call for Artists was announced and coordinated by the City's Cultural Affairs Department. A panel consisting of city staff, two local artists, a representative from the non-profit group Oceana, and a prominent ecologist selected the winners from 40 entries. Submission criteria requested that the applicants were at least 18 years old, a resident of Chatham County and they were asked to submit a written proposal, artist bio and images representing their artwork. Design specifications requested original designs calling attention to our waterways. Applicants could choose which drain shape they wanted to submit a design for but each of the ten artists was assigned to a specific drain site by the panel.

The City is the applicant and will fund the project. Notice was sent to all property owners, and the neighborhood association, within 200 feet of the subject properties. A sign was posted at all ten properties fifteen days prior to the meeting.

#### **PETITIONER COMMENTS:**

**Ms. Lara Walker and Mr. Stuart Miller**, City of Savannah Cultural Affairs, does lots of community outreach. Stormwater goes into the creek. This project is help educate the public of where the water goes to help reduce water pollution. The paint is now a Behr paint; the Sherwin Williams will not work. The Kerry Street project will be moved because the proposed site has a chip. The age qualification was to gain mature submissions. They will open to lower the age for future projects.

**Mr. Mannion** asked what was thought process of where each painting would go. **Ms. Walker** visible and safe. City parks and schools would yield a favorable response.

**Ms. Baker** asked if the metal drain in the middle use the same paint. **Ms. Walker** stated sealant will allow usage on metal and concrete.

**Mr. Mannion** asked about timeline. **Ms. Walker** stated it was planned for September; but there are concerns with that. Estimates completed by the fall.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There was no public comment.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Appreciated the varying locations. Would like to attend the unveiling. Thoughtful project.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of the storm drain murals with the condition that:

- 1. The applicant ensures that the murals have a weatherproof or vandalism resistant coating.**

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

**Motion**

The Historic Site and Monument Commission recommend approval to the Savannah City Council of the storm drain murals with the condition that:

- 1.The applicant ensures that the murals have a weatherproof or vandalism resistant coating.

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

**Vote Results ( Approved )**

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Catherine D. Kostilnik, PhD

Kristopher Monroe	- Abstain
Sean Mannion	- Aye
Lisa D. Watson	- Not Present
Eileen Baker	- Aye
Ashley Rainge	- Not Present
Catherine D. Kostilnik, PhD	- Aye

[4. Petition of City of Savannah, Joe Shearouse | 22-003322-HM | Cape Street | Honorary Street Designation](#)

📎 [Staff Recommendation- Warnock Street Designation 22-003322-HM.pdf](#)

📎 [Submittal Packet.pdf](#)

Caitlin Chamberlain presented the applicant's requesting approval of an honorary street designation on Cape Street, to have an honorary name of Raphael Warnock Way. Cape Street is located between Brewer Street to the north and west; Morris Brown Drive to the east; and Draper Street to the south.

As per the applicant:

“Request is for an Honorary Street Designation on Cape Street. Honorary street name designations are intended to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the community. The designation shall not interfere with the official name of the street. Honorary street designations are symbolic and DO NOT change the official name of the street. Honorary Street Signs are attached below the street name and are brown in color.”

Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock is a local Savannahian, and this commemorates the street where he grew up. It commemorates the local history of the area and will strengthen the neighborhood identity. Senator Warnock lived in Savannah for more than five years and is a prominent national figure. Staff is not aware of any other existing public property with a name duplication. This is not advertising.

Honorary street names are symbolic and do not change the official name of the street, so these conditions are applicable even though Senator Warnock is not deceased. The City of Savannah is requesting the change.

Per the applicant, "Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock grew up in Kayton Homes public housing in Savannah, born one of twelve brothers and sisters raised in coastal Georgia. His father, a veteran, small businessman, and preacher, grew up in Burke and Screven County, GA. Senator Reverend Warnock's mother grew up in Waycross, GA, where she spent summers picking tobacco and cotton.

A graduate of Savannah's Sol C. Johnson High School, Senator Raphael Warnock's mother and extended family still lives in the Savannah area. Senator Warnock is a proud graduate of Morehouse College; after graduating from Morehouse, he went onto earn a PhD and begin his career ordained in the ministry. For over 15 years, Senator Warnock has served as Senior Pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, the former pulpit of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He is the youngest pastor selected to serve in that leadership role at the historic church.

Senator Warnock was elected as a Democrat to the United States Senate in the January 5, 2021, special election runoff for the term ending January 3, 2023, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Johnny Isakson, a seat previously held by appointed Senator Kelly Loeffler. He took the oath of office on January 20, 2021.

This designation is important because it recognizes the historic nature of having a US Senator with local Savannah roots. The petitioner, Mayor Van Johnson commented "I think it's even more historic that he is a product of public housing," and "I think it's important for little boys who grow up on that block to know that greatness is not defined by where you live." Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock's achievements serve as a testament to Savannahians on how we can overcome obstacles and make positive change."

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. As of the writing of this report no comments were received from the public.

**Mr. Mannion** stated the City has steered clear of naming while person is still alive. How does that play into the unwritten policy. **Ms. Michalak** stated the last was one the street renaming was still alive; monuments are after death.

#### **PETITIONER COMMENTS:**

**Van Johnson**, Mayor, stated the petitioned request is appropriate. The policies may be changed based on the administration, to make more sense. This is a unique opportunity for the area. He cited other examples of street renamings of those still alive. Incumbent not to miss the significance; only 100 US senators, only two from Georgia, one of which is from Savannah. Provides positive light on public housing, where Warnock is from. Gives positive light of public housing.

**Joe Shearouse**, City Manager, stated honorary street renamings are good for five years. Requires renewal afterward. Edna Jackson also grew up in the neighborhood; destroyed by the flyover.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Ryan Jarles**, HSF, supports the efforts of the renaming.

#### **BOARD COMMENTS:**

The Board was in support of the project.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

**Staff recommends that the Historic Site and Monument Commission recommend approval to the Savannah City Council for an Honorary Street Designation as requested because the proposed honorary street designation meets the standards within *Article E- Naming and Renaming of Public Property, Facilities and Streets*.**

**Motion**

The Historic Site and Monument Commission recommend approval to the Savannah City Council for an Honorary Street Designation as requested because the proposed honorary street designation meets the standards within Article E- Naming and Renaming of Public Property, Facilities and Streets.

**Vote Results ( Approved )**

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Eileen Baker

Kristopher Monroe	- Abstain
Sean Mannion	- Aye
Lisa D. Watson	- Not Present
Eileen Baker	- Aye
Ashley Rainge	- Not Present
Catherine D. Kostilnik, PhD	- Aye

**IV. Other Business**

[5. Review of Mural Policy](#)

📎 [Mural Policy Review edits.pdf](#)

📎 [Masterplan and Guidelines Mural Policy.pdf](#)

**Ms. Leah Michalak** opened the discussion.

**Mr. Sean Mannion** stated the overall discussion started with rotating murals; if not a rotating mural, petitioners would not have to reapply?

**Ms. Michalak** stated if it is intended to be changed, it must be disclosed. Otherwise, will need to reapply if design is changed. She stated new applications will remove the loophole and be certain it is in compliance with Master Plan and Guidelines.

**Motion**

Approve Staff changes to Mural Policy of Master Plan and Guidelines

**Vote Results ( Approved )**

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Eileen Baker

Kristopher Monroe	- Abstain
Sean Mannion	- Aye
Lisa D. Watson	- Not Present
Eileen Baker	- Aye
Ashley Rainge	- Not Present
Catherine D. Kostilnik, PhD	- Aye

**V. Adjournment**

[6. Next Meeting: September 1, 2022 at 4pm - 112 East State Street: Mendonsa Hearing Room](#)

7. Adjourn

There being no further business to present before the Board, the August 2, 2022 Historic Sites and Monuments Commission adjourned at 4:45 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.***