



Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room
December 1, 2022
4:00 PM
MINUTES

December 1, 2022 Historic Savannah Site and Monument Commission

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kristopher Monroe, Chair
Ashley Rainge, Vice Chair
Eileen Baker

MEMBER ABSENT: Lisa Watson, Secretary
Catherine Kostilnik
Sean Mannion

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 October 6, 2022 HSMC Meeting Minutes as presented.](#)

[📎 10.06.22 MEETING MINUTES.pdf](#)

Motion

Approve the October 6, 2022 HSMC Minutes as presented.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Eileen Baker

Second: Ashley Rainge

Kristopher Monroe

- Abstain

Sean Mannion

- Not Present

Lisa D. Watson

- Not Present

Eileen Baker

- Aye

Ashley Rainge

- Aye

III. Regular Agenda

[2. Petition of City of Savannah, Luciana Spracher | 22-003721-HM | West 46th Street and Bulloch Street | Historical Marker](#)

📎 [Submittal Packet.pdf](#)

📎 [Staff Report-22-003721-HM.pdf](#)

Ms. Caitlin Chamberlain presented the applicant's request for a recommendation for approval from the Historic Site and Monument Commission to City Council to install a 42"x 38" cast aluminum double-sided roadside historical marker in Cann Park at the public right-of-way intersection of West 46th Street and Bulloch Street to commemorate Savannah Civil Rights Leader, attorney, and City Council Member Robert Edward "Robbie" Robinson.

As per the applicant:

"The marker will be located in the public right-of-way in the southeast corner of Cann Park near the intersection of West 46th Street and Bulloch Street. It will be located in the tree lawn between the street and the walking path, and between two large trees and near a lamppost. The City of Savannah Park and Tree Department has reviewed and approved the installation at this location."

The proposed marker is to read as follows:

Savannah civil rights leader, attorney, and City Council Member Robert Edward "Robbie" Robinson spent his formative years in the Cann Park neighborhood. Mr. Robinson was born in Savannah on July 30, 1947, and spent most of his childhood in the home at 706 West 46th Street. As a member of the NAACP Youth Council, Robinson participated in non-violent direct-action protests, including wade-ins at Tybee Beach, for which he was arrested, in 1963. He was among the first Black students to integrate Savannah High School, graduating in 1964. He continued his civil rights work as an attorney, representing civil rights and employee discrimination cases, and serving as general legal counsel for the Savannah Branch NAACP. In 1982, he was elected to City Council as the first Black alderman to represent the 5th District. He continued to fight for racial and economic equity while on Council, and secured much-needed improvements for his District, including paved roads, improved drainage, and traffic lights. Robinson was serving his second term on Council when a mail bomb sent to his law office on Abercorn Street exploded. He died on December 18, 1989, from injuries suffered during the attack.

Erected by the City of Savannah.

Staff recommends that the Historic Site and Monument Commission recommend approval to the Savannah City Council to install a historical marker in Cann Park at the public right-of-way near the intersection of West 46th Street and Bulloch Street as requested because the proposed work meets the Master Plan and Guidelines.

PETITIONER'S COMMENTS:

Ms. Luciana Spracher, City of Savannah, highlighted the appropriateness of Mr. Robinson's contributions. The marker is located where he spent his childhood, and still exploring a site near his law firm. Park and Tree will install and provide the needed maintenance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Linda Wilder Bryant, Councilwoman, shared her history with Mr. Robinson and is greatly appreciative of the marker.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Ms. Rainge stated she supported the petition.

Motion

The Historic Site and Monument Commission recommend approval to the Savannah City Council to install a historical marker in Cann Park at the public right-of-way near the intersection of West 46th Street and Bulloch Street as requested because the proposed work meets the Master Plan and Guidelines.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Ashley Rainge

Second: Eileen Baker

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

[3. Petition of Charles Brazil | 22-005078-MON | Franklin Square, Haitian Monument | Name Plaque Addition](#)

[☞ Submittal Packet.pdf](#)

[☞ Staff Report- 22-005078-MON Franklin Sq Haitian Monument .pdf](#)

Ms. Caitlin Chamberlain presented the petitioner's request of the addition of a 10"x4" bronze name plaque for James R Mastin, the sculptor who created the Haitian Monument, *Les Chasseurs Volontaires ("Siege of Savannah")* in Franklin Square. The Haitian American Historical Society and the City of Savannah commissioned James R. Mastin to design the monument that commemorates Les Chasseurs Volontaires de Saint Domingue, the largest unit of soldiers of African descent who fought in the American Revolution. The monument was dedicated on October 8, 2007.

Staff recommended approval of the addition of a name plaque for James Mastin, the sculptor of the Haitian Monument in Franklin Square with the following conditions because otherwise the project meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments and Public Art:

1. Relocate the plaque to the rear of the monument; provide the new location to staff.
2. Ensure that the font height of the top line is a minimum of 1" and that the text of the bottom line is not less than ½" in height; provide the dimensioned mock-up to staff.
3. Provide an escrow payment as required by the City.

PETITIONER'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Charlie Brazil stated the sculptor was promised to try to get his name on the sculpture and they would like to honor the deserving request.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There was no public comment.

BOARD COMMENTS:

The Board supported the request.

Motion

The Historic Site and Monument Commission recommend approval to the Savannah City Council for of the addition of a name plaque for James Mastin, the sculptor of the Haitian Monument in Franklin Square with the following conditions because otherwise the project meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments and Public Art:

- 1.Relocate the plaque to the rear of the monument; provide the new location to staff.
- 2.Ensure that the font height of the top line is a minimum of 1” and that the text of the bottom line is not less than ½” in height; provide the dimensioned mock-up to staff.
- 3.Provide an escrow payment as required by the City.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Ashley Rainge

Second: Eileen Baker

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

IV. Other Business

[4. Chair to appoint a three-person nominating committee](#)

Mr. Monroe selected the three most senior commissioners as the committee: Lisa Watson, Sean Mannion, and Eileen Baker for Chair and Vice Chair and Secretary. The nominations will be presented at the next meeting.

V. Adjournment

[5. Next Meeting: January 5, 2023 at 4 pm- 112 East State Street: Mendonsa Hearing Room](#)

[6. Adjourn](#)

There being no further business to present before the Commission, the December 1, 2022, Historic Sites and Monuments Meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leah G. Michalak
Director of Historic Preservation

CC/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.