



Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room - 112 East State Street
February 2, 2023 4:00 PM
MINUTES

February 2, 2023 Historic Site and Monument Commission Meeting

I. Call to Order and Welcome

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Approve December 1, 2022 HSMC Meeting Minutes

Motion

The HSMC approved the December 1, 2022 meeting minutes as presented.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Eileen Baker

Kristopher Monroe - Abstain

Sean Mannion - Aye

Lisa D. Watson - Aye

Eileen Baker - Aye

Ashley Rainge - Not Present

Catherine D. Kostilnik, PhD - Aye

III. Regular Agenda

2. Petition of Georgia Historical Society, Elyse Butler | 22-006000-HM | Dixon Park at Intersection of East Broad Street and East Henry Street | Historical Marker

Ms. Caitlin Chamberlain presented the applicant's request for a recommendation of 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 Dixon Park at the public right-of-way intersection of East Broad Street and East Henry Street to commemorate suffragist and community leader, Mamie George Williams.

As per the applicant:

"The historical marker highlights her political and social impact on a local, statewide and national level. The proposed location for the historical marker is in Dixon Park, the neighborhood where Mamie George Williams lived and worked."

The proposed marker is to read as follows:

Mamie George Williams, a life-long resident of Savannah, lived and worked near here. A political and civic leader, Williams volunteered for many organizations, including the Red Cross, the Girl Scouts, and the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs. A suffragist, she organized voter campaigns and registered African American women to vote following passage of the 19th Amendment. Nonetheless, African Americans were denied full voting rights, due to Jim Crow laws. In 1924, Williams became the first woman from Georgia and the first African American woman in the nation to serve on the Republican National Committee. A community leader, she led fundraising efforts for a home in Macon for African American girls and served as vice president of Carver State Bank. She worked with the African American Girl Scouts, financially assisting with establishing their Log Cabin Camp in Hancock County.

Erected by the Georgia Historical Society, the League of Women's Voters, Coastal Georgia, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.- Savannah Alumnae Chapter, and *The Savannah Tribune*

Mr. Mannion asked what department(s) need to be notified regarding utilities. **Ms. Michalak** stated electrical, storm, wastewater, etc.

PETITIONER COMMENTS:

Ms. Elyse Butler, GHS, had no additional comments. It is to be located across from the Carnegie Library and Colored Library Marker.

Ms. Baker asked if all markers are aluminum. **Ms. Butler** responded yes.

Ms. Watson asked if her living (residential) location can say Dixon Park. **Ms. Butler** stated that she did not live exactly there.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Roger Raines, area resident, concerned with trash usage instead of using the lane. Trash problem where the marker is proposed to be.

Mr. Monroe stated that it is out of purview.

Ms. Victoria Jones expressed concern about blight.

Ms. Butler stated there was discussion about moving the trash can; has considered moving marker to other side of the sidewalk.

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

The Commission expressed support of the marker and provided contact information for the residents regarding their trash and blight concerns.

Motion

The Historic Site and Monument Commission recommend approval to the Savannah City Council to install a historical marker in Dixon Park near the intersection of East Henry Street and Java Lane with the following condition because the proposed work otherwise meets the Master Plan and Guidelines:

1. Provide confirmation from the appropriate City Departments that the location is clear of any utilities before installation.

Provide confirmation from the appropriate City Departments that the location is clear of any utilities before installation.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Catherine D. Kostilnik, PhD

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

IV. Other Business

[3. Nominating Committee to Announce Nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary - Commission to Vote](#)

Nominating Committee: Ms. Baker, Ms. Watson, and Mr. Mannion met in December. They nominated:

Ms. Rainge - Chair

Ms. Watson - Vice (accepted)

Mr. Monroe - Secretary (accepted)

The Commission will meet in March to discuss.

V. Adjournment

[4. Next Meeting: March 2, 2023 at 4 PM- 112 East State Street: Mendonsa Hearing Room](#)

[5. Adjourn](#)

There being no further business to present before the Commission, the February 2, 2023, Historic Site and Monument Commission adjourned at 4:34 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.