



Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room, 112 East State Street
October 5, 2023
4:00 p.m.
MINUTES

October 5, 2023 Savannah Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kristopher Monroe, Chair
Lisa Watson, Vice Chair
Eileen Baker
Catherine Kostilnik
Nicholas Henry
Sean Mannion

STAFF PRESENT: Pamela Everett, Assistant Director
Leah G. Michalak, Director of Historic Preservation
Caitlin Chamberlain, Senior Planner
Bri Morgan, Administrative Assistant
Hind Patel, IT Assistant

I. Call to Order and Welcome

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

[1. Approve the September 7, 2023 HSMC Meeting Minutes](#)

[📎 09.07.23 MEETING MINUTES.pdf](#)

Motion

The Historic Site and Monument Commission motioned to approve the September 7, 2023 HSMC Meeting Minutes as presented.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Nicolas Henry

Second: Eileen Baker

Kristopher Monroe - Abstain

Sean Mannion - Aye

Lisa D. Watson - Aye

Eileen Baker - Aye

Catherine D. Kostilnik, PhD - Aye

Nicolas Henry - Aye

III. Regular Agenda

[2. Petition of Visit Savannah | 23-004742-PA | City Market | Sculptural Letter Installation](#)

📎 [Submittal Packet - 23-004742-PA - City Market.pdf](#)

📎 [Staff Report - 23-004742-PA 232 W St Julian St - Public Art Recommendation.pdf](#)

📎 [Public Comment- Ardis Wood.pdf](#)

Ms. Caitlin Chamberlain presented the petitioner's request of approval for a sculptural letter installation at City Market, at approximately 232 West St. Julian Street and Jefferson Street.

Per the applicant:

“The proposed SAV sculptural letter project is an ambitious endeavor that is set to become an iconic symbol in Savannah. Comprising the letters “SAV,” the acronym stands not only for the widely recognized and beloved hashtag for Savannah but also represents the Savannah airport code. Crafted from aluminum or similar metal material, the letters will exude a sleek and modern appeal capturing the essence of the city.”

The overall height of the letters is 4’9” and the overall width of the sculpture is 13’8” which will be set atop an aluminum mounting plate and bolted into the concrete.

PETITIONER COMMENTS:

Mr. Joe Marinelli, petitioner, stated the intent is provide photo ops for those utilizing the convention center and City Market. The City Market location was deemed to be the best location for the signage. The background would capture the beauty and essence of City Market. It is not intrusive with pedestrian traffic flow. He stated the project will go to City Council.

Ms. Baker asked about the design process. **Mr. Marinelli** stated it is the airport signature code and the font is used often in 'Savannah' advertising.

Ms. Kostilnik asked who will clean graffiti and underneath. **Mr. Marinelli** stated there is an agreement with City Market: the tourism agency will pay for and gift to convention center and City Market. It is made of somewhat indestructible material. The cleaning will be the responsibility of the Convention Center and City Market. It is in writing between the tourism agency and City Market.

Mr. Mannion expressed concern about it being destroyed and why this location with all of the foot traffic and high probability of damage/vandalism. **Mr. Marinelli** stated the vibrancy of City Market, and the foot traffic is the very reason for the location selection. **Ms. Watson** liked the sample maintenance schedule provided. She stated the back view is odd; can something be put there. **Mr. Marinelli** stated that was considered and thought that would encourage attention to it and result in taking pictures.

Ms. Kostilnik asked about liability when parents put their children or unattended children on the letters. **Mr. Marinelli** stated he had no answer for that - can happen on anything downtown.

Ms. Kimberly Phillips, City Market, expressed excitement about the project. There will be fulltime maintenance staff to make sure it remains clean.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Andrew Jones, Oglethorpe Plan, requests denial because it is not in harmony with Oglethorpe Plan. It obstructs the street; it is not a courtyard. Streets are mentioned in historic status letter from NPS. He stated inappropriate materials are proposed.

Ms. Ardis Wood, citizen, stated the location does not support the Oglethorpe plan or the viewshed sightlines. Requested denial.

Mr. Steve Edwards, Downtown Neighborhood Association expressed that the money spent on this can be better spent on other programs. This project is not necessary or appropriate.

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Mr. Henry stated City legal representation should be had. Many issues brought up. **Mr. Monroe** stated he was not aware the property is the City's. **Mr. Mannion** states he likes it but thinks it will be an impediment of traffic.

Motion

The Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby continue the application to install the sculptural letters at 232 Jefferson Street to the December 7, 2023, Historic Site and Monument Commission Meeting, to provide the applicant time to address the following:

1. Legal documentation for the maintenance of the proposed sculptural letters.
2. Measurements of space on either side of the proposed sculptural letters.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Catherine D. Kostilnik, PhD

Kristopher Monroe	- Abstain
Sean Mannion	- Aye
Lisa D. Watson	- Aye
Eileen Baker	- Aye
Catherine D. Kostilnik, PhD	- Aye
Nicolas Henry	- Aye

IV. Other Business

[3. Masterplan and Guidelines - Civil War Monument Text](#)

📎 [HSMC Master Plan & Guidelines - Civil War Monument Text.pdf](#)

This project was determined to be complete.

[4. Civil War Memorial - City Website Text Update](#)

📎 [Civil War Memorial - City website updated text.pdf](#)

Mr. Monroe stated the text should be improved.

Ms. Luciana Spracher stated there is a legal limbo - starting on the historical aspect. The second task force has not voted and formally/officially approved. Staff cannot do anything at this time.

[5. Additional Sculptural Letter Installation - 1 International Drive](#)

📎 [Sculptural Letters - 1 International Way.pdf](#)

[6. Staff Decision for the Petition of City of Savannah | 23-004795-HM | Taylor Square | Text revision of existing ground marker](#)

📎 [SIGNED Staff Decision- 23-004795-HM Taylor Square.pdf](#)

[7. Staff Decision for Petition of City of Savannah | 23-004798-MON | West River Street \(African American Monument\) | Infill script on monument](#)

📎 [SIGNED Staff Decision 23-004798-MON - West River St.pdf](#)

V. Adjournment

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

[9. Adjourn](#)

There being no further business to present before the Commission, the October , Historic Site and Monument Commission adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Caitlin Chamberlain
Principal Planner, 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.