

**Coastal Museum Association**  
Business Meeting  
Congregation Mickve Israel  
November 6, 2019

*Meeting Minutes*  
CMA President Elyse Butler, Presiding

**In Attendance**

Jeff Freeman - Davenport House	Steve Smith – Massie Heritage Institute
Joe Stahl- Savannah Area Council of Garden Clubs, Inc. Botanical Garden	Rachel Warren – Massie Heritage Institute
Cora Morris- Individual	Claudia Christensen – Salzburger Society
Kelly Zacovic- City of Savannah Municipal Archives	Herbert Victor- Mickve Israel
Wilma Wheten- Bonaventure Historical Society	Elizabeth Dubose – Ossabaw Island Foundation
Elyse Butler- Georgia Historical Society	John Wyatt Ingram – Skidaway Island State Park
Sheila Boone – Georgia Historical Society	Laura Walker – Fort Pulaski / SHER
Dr. Deborah Johnson-Simon – CFSAADMC	Vivian Waters Price – Mighty 8 <sup>th</sup>
Glenda E.A. Anderson – GHRAC	Lynn Wright – Individual member
Gary Webb – Webb Military Museum	Lydia Moreton – CHS
Luciana Spracher – City of Savannah Municipal Archives	Travis Spangenberg - Prohibition Museum
Rita Elliot – LAMAR Institute	Joel Cadoff – Fort Pulaski
Dan Elliot – LAMAR Institute	Kara Bridgman Sweeney – GSU Lab of Archeology
Courtney McNeill – Telfair Museums	Chris Sergi – Andrew Low House
Bryan Morris – Individual Member	

**Member Introductions and Announcements**

Elyse Butler – GHS

- “The British are Coming” Lecture November 14<sup>th</sup>

Steve Smith – Massie

- Newly renovated American Indian Exhibit Open House on November 23<sup>rd</sup> 10 am – 4 pm

Glenda Anderson – GHRAC

- Award nominations open in February

Laura Walker – SHER

- Registration for Heritage Responder Training Open
- SHER is in need of board members to be elected during the December Board Meeting

Herbert Victor – Mickve Israel

- Had a successful Jewish Food Festival
- They won a GHRAC award for the Irish Display from 2018

Travis Spangenberg – Prohibition Museum

- December 5<sup>th</sup> is repeal day, repealing prohibition, so they will host a celebration
- January 16<sup>th</sup> is 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of Prohibition, so they will host a Funeral for John Barley Corn

Luciana Spracher – City of Savannah Municipal Archives

- Savannah Jazz Panel Discussion November 7<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM

### **Old Business:**

- Approval of Minutes
  - Elyse Butler asked for any changes to the minutes. None offered. Minutes approved.
- Treasurer Report- Holly Had her Baby! The report will be delayed this month
- Reciprocal Admission Cards will be distributed this meeting or mailed to those not in attendance
- The vote to change Officer positions to two year terms was taken as a voice vote at the October meeting, but since this is a rule in the bylaws, it will have to be taken as a paper vote.
  - The ballot was passed around during the meeting and the motion passed unanimously.

### **New Business**

- A CMA Happy Hour will be hosted on November 26<sup>th</sup> at Moodright's.
- Call for Reciprocal Admissions Committee recommendations about individual memberships

### **Program**

***Trash Talkin': Savannah Archaeology and Related Preservation Efforts*** – Rita Elliot and Luciana Spracher

Rita Elliot:

- Archaeology is so important as a way to know history, clues in the ground tell you information about the past
- Way to know about Native American history, Davenport family, Revolutionary War history, Central of Georgia Railroad, residential life in Savannah
- Archaeology can provide tangible direct benefits to the City of Savannah and Chatham County
  - Books, documentaries, educational materials, hands-on learning tools
  - “real” information to base the historical record off of for historians to study and museums to display
  - Outreach and Community Engagement activities to build civic engagement and pride
  - Creates events for tourists and residents alike to visit such as festivals which feed the economy

- Archeological investigations feed the economy by providing jobs, equipment purchases, services
- Also provides Indirect benefits to the community
  - Civic pride
  - Underserved communities are often given agency or sense of pride in being a part of the historical record
  - Reduces blight and gives a sense of place
  - Positive PR and marketing to the City of Savannah
  - Preserves history for the future generations before it is destroyed by development
    - If they are bulldozed first, we'll lose important historical records!
- Creates jobs and contributes to economic revitalization
- Diversifies the tourism economy
- Benefits development
- Creates local investment opportunities
- 269 Cities have an Archaeology Ordinance, but Savannah does not.

Luciana:

Ordinance Addressing Public Property:

- Publish Draft ordinance by November 4 (out by end of week)
- Accept comments thru November 15
- Publish final ordinance on November 22
- Present 1<sup>st</sup> reading of ordinance on December 5
- Present 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of ordinance on December 19

Basic Components of Draft Ordinance (currently under review with Assistant City Manager and City Attorney):

- All ground disturbance activities undertaken by City on public property, including
  - Infrastructure projects totaling a certain threshold
  - Construction projects with a building footprint of a certain threshold
  - Surplus public property sold by City
- Does not apply to private property
- Exemptions:
  - Any project deemed an emergency by the CM
  - Any agreement between City and entity which predates adoption of ordinance
  - Site has previously undergone archaeological assessment and determined no further assessment needed
- Includes Phase 1 Survey, Phase II Testing, and Phase III Mitigation, as well as what to do during construction if an unidentified site is discovered
- Addresses ownership of artifacts, discovery of human remains, and prohibition of use of metal detectors/probes on public property without permits

Establish working committee January 1:

- Archaeologists (representatives from Society for Georgia Archaeology, Savannah Archaeology Alliance, GSU Anthropology Dept)
- Coastal Museums Association
- Historic Savannah Foundation
- Chamber of Commerce
- Savannah Chapter American Institute of Architects
- Metropolitan Planning Commission
- In response to public comment add in Metal Detector association and Tribal and

## Gullah/Geechee Liaisons

### Goals of Working Committee:

- Study impacts of ordinance
- Address areas for improvement in ordinance
- Look at ways to incorporate private property development into ordinance (mandatory vs voluntary, incentives, exemptions, etc.)

Submit feedback to [planning@savannahga.gov](mailto:planning@savannahga.gov)

### **Adjournment**