

ARTICLE 2.0 REVIEW BODIES AND ADMINISTRATORS

Sec. 2.5 Historic Preservation Commission

2.5.1 Establishment

The Historic Preservation Commission (hereinafter Historic Preservation Commission) is hereby established in accordance with O.C.G.A. §44-10-21 (“Georgia Historic Preservation Act”), as amended. The Historic Preservation Commission is the review authority, as described in this section, for all local historic districts, properties in the city of Savannah, and conservation districts (Sec. 7.9, Sec. 7.10, Sec. 7.11, and Sec. 7.15) with the exception of the [Savannah Downtown Historic Overlay District](#). The review authority for the Savannah Downtown Historic Overlay District is the Savannah Downtown Historic Board of Review (Sec. 2.6).

2.5.2 Powers and Duties

The Mayor and Council shall create the Historic Preservation Commission with the following powers and duties:

a. General Authority

- i. The Historic Preservation Commission shall perform related duties as directed by the Mayor and Aldermen.
- ii. The Historic Preservation Commission may exercise additional powers as may be described elsewhere in this Ordinance and as permitted by the City Code of Ordinances, as applicable.
- iii. The Historic Preservation Commission is responsible for preparing and maintaining an inventory of all properties within its jurisdiction having the potential for designation as a historic district or historic property.
- iv. The Historic Preservation Commission may seek out local, state, federal or private funds for historic preservation, and make recommendations to the Mayor and Aldermen concerning the most appropriate uses of funds acquired.
- v. The Historic Preservation Commission shall submit to the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources information on pending designations of historic districts and historic properties.

b. Review Authority

With respect to this Ordinance, the Historic Preservation Commission may review and make recommendations to the Mayor and Aldermen regarding:

- i. Any application for a text amendment to the following articles or sections of this Ordinance:
 1. Sec. 2.5, Historic Preservation Commission;
 2. Sec. 3.16, Local Historic District Designation;
 3. Sec. 3.17, Local Historic Property Designation;
 4. Sec. 3.18, Certificate of Appropriateness for Local Historic Properties and Local

Historic Districts;

5. Sec. 3.20, Proactive Preservation;
 6. Sec. 7.7, Historic Property Overlay District; and,
 7. Any historic overlay district identified in Article 7.0, Overlay Districts, with the exception of Sec. 7.8, Savannah Downtown Historic Overlay District.
- ii. Any application to designate a local historic district or to amend the boundaries of an existing local historic district, with the exception of the Savannah Downtown Historic Overlay District (see. Sec. 2.6, Savannah Downtown Historic Board of Review); and
 - iii. Creation of and amendments to local historic district height maps and contributing resource maps in all local historic districts, with the exception of the Savannah Downtown Historic Overlay District.

c. Final Authority

With respect to this Ordinance, the Historic Preservation Commission shall be responsible for final action regarding:

- i. Certificates of Appropriateness for local historic districts and properties;
- ii. Special exceptions as identified in Sec. 3.12, Special Exceptions. and
- iii. Variances (as identified in Sec. 3.21, Variances).

(Ord. of 10-10-2019(2), § N/A) Effective on: 10/10/2019

2.5.3 Composition and Terms of Office

a. Composition

The Historic Preservation Commission shall be comprised of nine (9) members who are selected by the Mayor and Aldermen.

b. Terms of Office

Each member shall serve a term of three (3) years, and terms shall be staggered. Members shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms.

2.5.4 Residence of Members

Members of the Historic Preservation Commission shall reside within the city limits of Savannah.

2.5.5 Implementation

If the newly created Historic Preservation Commission is not constituted by February 29, 2020, a temporary Historic Preservation Commission shall be created comprised of the chair of the Savannah Downtown Historic Board of Review or designee, chair of the Metropolitan Planning Commission or designee, and City appointed representative from the Metropolitan Planning Commission. Once the Mayor and Aldermen have appointed the initial members of the permanent Historic Preservation Commission, the temporary review board shall be abolished.