

**CAPITOL HILL RESTORATION SOCIETY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES FOR MARCH 20, 2012**

SECOND FLOOR BOARD ROOM, CAPITOL HILL TOWNHOMES COMMUNITY BUILDING

Present

Beth Purcell, Michelle Carroll, Shauna Holmes, Janet Quigley, Sharon Weiss, Lisa Wilson, Elizabeth Nelson, Paul Cromwell, Maurice Walters, Drury Tallant, Chuck Burger, Barbara Eck, Gary Peterson, Monte Edwards, Lisa Dale Jones, Kelly Vielmo, Gloria Junge

Observer: Larry Janezich

Meeting Minutes – Janet Quigley

- The minutes of the February 21st meeting were included in the monthly meeting packet. **Moved, Seconded and Approved:** A motion to approve the February minutes passed on voice vote.

Financial Report - Sharon Weiss

- A report was included in the monthly meeting packet that included the balance sheet as of 2/28/2012, income statement for February broken out by committee, and February check register. Sharon will check on a \$500 deposit expected from the Hill Center.
- Escrow funds in the amount of \$27,000 have been accepted on behalf of ANC 6A for the H Street, NE study.
- The annual audit results are expected in the near future.

President's Report – Beth Purcell

- Hill East Waterfront / Reservation 13 – She attended a meeting on March 19 for local residents hosted by ANCs 6A, 6B, 7A and 7D01. Councilmembers Wells and Alexander were present. Mayor Gray will hold a meeting March 22 at the Armory to discuss the future of Reservation 13 and the status of the previously developed use plan.
- Membership Forum: March 27 at Maury Elementary School. Catherine Buell, HPRB Chair, will speak. The subject of the summer membership meeting will be the Hine development. Beth will begin arrangements to book the Hill Center.

House Tour – Paul Cromwell

- May 12-13: Tour dates. There are contracts with 11 houses so far. The tour route is about a one mile walk.
- Photos are being posted on the web site. Writing for the brochure and media are in progress. Ad revenues are starting to come in.
- An 8"x10" poster will be posted in local shop windows. There will be 8 ticket outlets.
- Volunteers are needed for the ticket sales tent. A signup sheet has been created in Google docs <http://bit.ly/CHRSHouseGardenBoothStaffing2012> and was circulated at the meeting.
- April 26: Homeowners' Reception, 17 5th Street, NE. Michelle's daughter can frame house photos for appreciation gifts again.
- June 10: President's Party, 3-5 pm at Michelle Carroll's.

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Web Site – Paul Cromwell

- **Volunteers needed:** Alternate webmasters for September and October.
- **Web Design Update:** The board approved funds in the 2012 budget for a redesign. Paul has been talking with Martha Huizenga. The web committee will be resurrected, to include Elizabeth, Shauna, Catherine and Janet.
- **Survey:** There was interest in a survey of members. Kelly volunteered to coordinate using Survey Monkey. Volunteers will be needed to help develop questions.
- **E-mail Outreach:** Gloria has a list of 240 addresses of members.
- The residents of Square 944 have requested CHRS to support their alley restoration. **Moved, seconded and approved:** A motion to refer the request to the Historic Preservation Committee for proper response to the appropriate venue was unanimously approved.

Postcard Permit – Drury Tallant

- There was discussion about unscrupulous contractors charging high fees for unnecessary permits, for example a simple disposal installation.
- Drury broached the subject of postcard permits in the historic district with HPO, but response to date has been weak.

Auction – Michelle Carroll

- Michelle will investigate holding the 2012 fundraising auction at Eastern Market's North Hall.

11th Street Bridge / Recreation Bridge – Monte Edwards / Shauna Holmes

- Office of Planning held a meeting March 12 regarding the old span that is being retained. Patricia Zingsheim presented a concept for a "recreation bridge" like the High Line in New York City. It would have restaurants and development on the banks, ziplines and skateboards. It is estimated that design and funding would take three to five years to finalize.
- The 11th Street Bridge contract specifies reuse of the old bridge piers to offer walkouts for bird watching and fishing. It is approved and paid for. Skanska needs to start construction in 45 to 60 days or the opportunity will be lost.
- **Moved, seconded and approved:** A motion to encourage the City to proceed with the plan that has been permitted and approved, passed unanimously.

Virginia Avenue Tunnel (VAT) – Monte Edwards

- Study of alternative routings continues. CSX owns the train bridge that crosses the Potomac and is used by Metro and VRE. If CSX's traffic increases, it would take priority over Metro and VRE crossings, impeding public transit.
- NCPC and the Fine Arts Commission have noted that CSX's outlook toward projects is segmented, addressing only one location and set of regulations at a time. For example, CSX trains are diesel powered. A segmented approach could prevent VRE and Amtrak, which use electric power, from connecting to the

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L'Enfant Plaza Metro stop. This would preserve CSX's status quo but would be a loss for public transit users.

- On April 20, City Council will hold annual oversight hearings on the Office of Planning. This is an opportunity to comment on the need for comprehensive planning.

Historic Preservation / Preservation Cafe – Shauna Holmes

- Preservation Café: March 21: Amanda Molson, HPRB staff member. Subject: Historic Preservation Office's recently adopted Window Guidelines. No Preservation Cafes have been scheduled in April or May.
- Volunteer needed: To take over coordinating and publicizing Preservation Cafes. Otherwise the café will have to end.
- The DC Preservation League has approached CHRS to co-host a Historic House Toolbox contractor fair in late May or early June. There would be two learning sessions. The previous one, in Mount Pleasant, was well attended.
- At March HPRB meeting, Shauna will testify on 700 Constitution (MedLink) development; 700 A Street, NE (stained glass windows in Epworth Church); and 1321-23 and Constitution NE.
- Stanton Eastbanc will discuss the Hine plan at the Historic Preservation Committee April 2, and HPRB will review the revised concept review April 26.
- The board discussed 700 A Street, NE including the stained glass windows and trees that were cut down without a permit. CHRS participation might be indicated but it was felt more information was needed. **Moved, seconded and approved:** A motion authorizing the President to examine construction matters relating to 700 A Street, NE, and a motion authorizing the President to appoint a committee to look into said matters, were approved with 10 yea's and one nay.

Newsletter – Lisa Dale Jones and Kelly Vielmo

- Articles for the April edition: House tour, Window guidelines, 11th Street Bridge, HPRB cases, Reservation 13 plans.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

The next scheduled Board Meeting is April 18, 2012.