CAPITOL HILL RESTORATION SOCIETY BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR JULY 15, 2014

SECOND FLOOR BOARD ROOM, CAPITOL HILL TOWNHOMES COMMUNITY BUILDING

Present

Lisa Dale Jones, Drury Tallant, Susan Burgerman, Patrick Crowley, Chuck Burger, Ben Klay, Undine Nash, Jeff Fletcher, Jim Taylor, Paul Cromwell, Beth Purcell, Elizabeth Nelson, Larry Pearl, Carl Spier

Meeting Minutes: Susan Burgerman

• The minutes of the June meeting were included in the monthly meeting packet. **Moved, seconded and approved:** A motion to approve the June minutes passed unanimously.

Financial Report – Patrick Crowley (included in packet)

• With the end of the fiscal year and presentation of a new FY budget approaching, CHRS's financial position continues on a healthy trajectory. All income and expenses from the House Tour have been accounted for; the final net income was \$53,166.

President's Report – Lisa Dale Jones (included in packet)

- Lisa attended the July 7 Historic Preservation Committee meeting, and plans to attend meetings of the other CHRS committees. She also hopes to attract volunteers for tasks other than the House Tour, especially to serve on the committees.
- September Members Forum: Lisa is waiting for a call back from Casey Trees. If that falls through, the
 next option will be to invite Ruth Trocolli, City Archeologist at HPO, to speak on Congressional
 Cemetery.
- Justine Bello is on the Board of the Washington Conservation Guild, which holds a series of meetings in coordination with similar organizations. Justine has offered to nominate CHRS to partner with them on an activity next spring, perhaps a presentation.
- Moved, seconded, and approved: that Ben Klay will Chair the Budget and Administration Committee.
- Moved, seconded, and approved: that Susan Burgerman will Chair the Communications Committee.
- Three committee chair positions are currently open: House and Garden Tour, Environment, and Membership.

Grant Committee – Larry Pearl (included in packet)

- Results from the last committee meeting: one additional grant payment was approved for disbursal; two facade proposals were approved. Both were approved by the Board.
- The grant process is moving slowly. A request to "paper" the area using regular mail was reiterated; the main impediment is the lack of volunteers to stuff envelopes.
- Question from a Board member: could the grant program fund the removal of bricks that cover over a property's parking area? The answer was yes.
- Question from another Board member: the proposal to make Swampoodle a historic district will come up for vote on July 22 will that affect the grants program? The answer was no.

Update on new technology for the Eastern Market Metro plaza – Chuck Burger

- The iPosts that are being considered for use by residents and visitors are already operating in NY Herald Square. In addition to being ATMs, they provide users with information on local tours, restaurants, and retail; they also enable the user to make reservations and print maps to destinations.
- The intention is to bring foot traffic to local businesses, drawing visitors to Capitol Hill and away from the usual tourist sites. It would assist in branding the neighborhood, and could serve as a local bulletin board.
- Chuck is proposing three iPosts: at the Navy Yard Museum, Eastern Market, and the Capitol Visitor's Center. They would be self-funded through revenues from ads and ATM fees.

DDOT Proposed Rules on Pocket Parks – Elizabeth Nelson

• Beth drafted questions and comments that can be used as the CHRS statement on the subject. Main points:

The proposed rules give ANCs 30 days to decide on pocket park cases brought before them – they should have 60.

There is an important definitional question that remains unresolved: what of "triangle parks" that are not triangular? The current definition is based on street intersections; a better idea would be to refer to the original L'Enfant plan and surveys from the 1970s, before Capitol Hill achieved historic district status.

- A Board member recommended that CHRS call the DDOT's legal counsel and run the question by them
- Proposed: that Lisa will formulate a letter based on Beth's draft. **Moved, seconded, approved** unanimously.

Historic Preservation – Beth Purcell

Beth discussed the following cases that came before the Historical Preservation Review Board at its last meeting:

- 706 North Carolina SE: the owner proposed putting a shed in front of the building; HPRB did not approve.
- 1001 South Carolina SE: owner proposes to build a 15-foot tall shed at the rear of the property, which could easily be seen from the street and would block neighbors' views. The neighbors strongly oppose the proposal, speculating that the owner intends for the shed to be a rental unit, as the structure would be large enough. HPRB encouraged the ANC to work with the owner to arrive at a compromise, but that seems unlikely.
- 1220 Potomac SE: former Habitat for Humanity building is being restored by new owner. Owner wishes to retain the curb cut on Potomac Ave and possibly add a new one on I St. Preferable to eliminate the existing curb cut and not add a new one.
- A case that will likely be coming before the HPRB: 630 D St NE. New owners want to create a ground floor entrance by knocking down a section of the retaining wall and clearing a walkway to a new entrance under the stairs leading to the existing front entrance. This is in anticipation of future age and

infirmity. The proposal violates three published HPRB rules, and is opposed by ANC6C. The question of "aging-in-place" modifications to people's homes may become a common problem in the next few years. The HPRB website does have a section on ADA and Fair Housing Act compliance.

FY14 Budget Discussion and Vote

- Discussion focused on format and ease of use.
- **Motion**: to authorize and direct the President and Treasurer to prepare a budget as per the discussion in advance of the September Membership Meeting. **Moved, seconded, and approved** with one nay.

New Business – Lisa Dale Jones

• A coalition of historic preservation organizations is putting together a questionnaire for the upcoming mayoral debates. CHRS is invited to add ten questions, which could be published in the Hill Rag and sent to the candidates before their campaigns heat up in September.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm