

**CAPITOL HILL RESTORATION SOCIETY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 21, 2014**

SECOND FLOOR BOARD ROOM, CAPITOL HILL TOWNHOMES COMMUNITY BUILDING

Present

Lisa Dale Jones, Monte Edwards, Drury Tallant, Susan Burgerman, Patrick Crowley, Chuck Burger, Undine Nash, Jeff Fletcher, Jim Taylor, Mary Wadleigh, Beth Purcell, Elizabeth Nelson, Gary Peterson, Larry Pearl, Janet Quigley, Greg Holeyman, Carl Spier

Guest: Mimi Wolf

Meeting Minutes: Susan Burgerman

- The minutes of the September 16, 2014 meeting were included in the monthly meeting packet. **Moved:** A motion to approve the September minutes. **Seconded and approved.**

Treasurer's Report – Patrick Crowley

- CHRS has hired consultant bookkeeper: Christine Hoffman, “Bookkeeper on The Hill,” for \$650 per month. She began familiarizing herself with the books prior to the meeting, and has already identified some data entry inaccuracies. Therefore, this month’s financial report will be delayed.

President's Report – Lisa Dale Jones

- Greg Holeyman has agreed to serve as at-large board member to replace Ben Klay, who resigned from the board in September. A **motion** to approve his nomination was **seconded and approved unanimously.**
- Lisa noted that the September members’ meeting was well-attended – possibly offering refreshments helped to increase attendance. The Casey Trees presentation was informative, particularly the information that all Pepco customers can get two trees for their residences for \$100.
- The DAR has offered significant assistance with the 2015 House Tour. Like CHRS, DAR is seeking to attract younger members.
- 202Designs has begun developing the 60th anniversary logo.

Public Inquiries – Carl Spier

- Inquiries mainly come by email, very few by phone; occasionally there are requests for referrals to various services, but it’s nothing like the heavy email traffic around the time of the House Tour.
- Carl invites board members to come by the office and see the new, comfortable, look.

Grants Committee – Larry Pearl

- 625 3rd St NE: work completed (new front door). **Motion** to release grant funds **seconded and approved.**
- **Motion** to approve proposal from owner of 616 4th St NE to bring cast iron stairs up to safety and historic preservation standards **seconded and approved unanimously.**
- Dru has left grant information at all single family residences in the grant area.

Swampoodle Historic District Update – Drury Tallant

- The EHT Traceries “Beyond the Boundaries” report for the Swampoodle district was full of formatting and other errors that needed to be cleared out before it could be submitted to the HPRB; Carl took care of that.

- Dru has met with the planning person at HPRB. Once the proposal has been accepted, it will go before an HPRB hearing. After that, it will be presented at a public meeting.

Zoning – Gary Peterson

- The final draft of the new zoning regulation is supposed to be made available in the near future.
- Issue with parking: the Office of Planning has proposed lifting residential parking regulations, which require developers to provide a minimum number of spaces for their tenants, on major thoroughfares and within a quarter mile of metro stops. If passed, new apartment buildings built on major thoroughfares and near metro stops will not be required to provide parking for their tenants.

Community Outreach – Elizabeth Nelson

- The November Preservation Café will be the last held at Ebenezer Cafe. Kaiser (2nd and G NE) offered a conference room. Kaiser has committed to six dates next year, with no financial commitment. Greg is scoping out possibly more congenial venues.
- CHRS will have a table at Eastern Market for Hilloween, 5:30-7:30. Susan and Lisa will apply temporary tattoos.

Membership Committee – Janet Quigley

- The first meeting was held last week, with one attendee, who offered to do personal outreach such as tables, maintain sign-in sheets, post flyers, etc. One idea: having an information table at the various farmers' markets.
- The office is out of promotional materials, they need to be re-ordered.
- The January members' meeting will coincide with the 60th anniversary of the first CHRS board meeting. Janet suggested holding it at a special venue and ask longtime members to speak about Capitol Hill's last half-century. Mimi Wolf suggested the East Room of the Botanic Gardens; also discussed were the Folger and the Library of Congress.
- Chuck recommended taking a more mass campaign approach to membership, possibly web-based, and suggested having brochures at local realtors' offices. Elizabeth remarked that she receives information on new homebuyers and send them an offer of a free six-month membership. However, no reminder is sent at the end of the six month period. It was suggested that a reminder sticker could be placed on their last free newsletter.
- It was also observed that there should be more leftover recent newsletters to hand out at events.
- Jim volunteered to serve on the Membership Committee. Chuck also volunteered, if the committee could come up with a more systematic strategy.

Virginia Avenue Tunnel Update – Monte Edwards

A series of concerns are being considered in the debate:

- the impact of construction and eventual hazardous materials on residents, in particular vulnerable sectors (senior, children, people with disabilities);
- the lack of a proper rail safety review and lack of a DC Rail Safety Office;
- the adverse impact on other rail systems, for example the planned high-speed DC-Richmond for Amtrak and the expansion plans of MARC and VRE;
- the fact that DDOT awarded a grant to study modernizing the Long Bridge, which concluded by recommending two spans that would serve all needs. The Committee of 100 is lobbying to separate the spans in order to support commuter needs by separating freight from passenger rail operations. As of now, the Long Bridge is the only means within seventy miles for trains to cross the Potomac.

- Next steps: the C100 has appealed the Final Environmental Impact Statement in federal court; the responding briefs from FHA, other federal agencies, DDOT, and CSX are to be filed by December 15.

The Dick Wolf Memorial Lecture – Monte Edwards

- Student papers and projects from Historic Preservation Office summer interns will be selected according to a) quality of the work, b) suitability of the subject matter for a public lecture format, and c) ability of the student/intern to present the paper, determined by giving a summary presentation during their interview with the selection committee. As a first cut, papers will be recommended and submitted to CHRS by the faculty members. The CHRS committee will make the final cut, which will then be voted on at the February board meeting. The audition is an essential part of the selection process, since this is a lecture series.
- The submission deadline will be the end of the fall semester. Monte expects that there will be six papers, so selection will not be an enormous time burden.
- Undine expressed concern about the panel composition: will it be only CHRS, or will faculty also be on the panel? Faculty should not be on the panel, as they have an interest in selecting their own students and promoting their own programs. Decided: the panel will be composed of CHRS members, with a preference for architects and other experts in the field. Dru noted that there should be non-experts as well to ensure that presentations will appeal to a general public.
- Resolved: Monte and Lisa will get letters out to faculty in participating programs as soon as possible. Students should have the fall semester to develop their projects and have them ready to submit at the end of the semester.

Historic Preservation – Beth Purcell (sent by email)

- 12th and D St SE: owners are proposing to turn the derelict garage in the alley at the rear of their property into a storage unit, while retaining as much as possible of the original garage. The proposal is uncontroversial, although they plan to turn a one-story garage into a two-story unit, and neighbors may have concerns.
- Shotgun house: as of last week, DCRA was still looking for a contractor to stabilize the building.

Beyond the Boundaries – Beth Purcell

- The map is ready to be loaded onto the website.
- The history of Capitol Hill East (Traceries) is almost complete.
- Public meetings are scheduled for each ANC to discuss the expansion of the Capitol Hill Historic District to include Capitol Hill East.

Newsletter – Lisa Dale Jones

- Lisa – President's column (with help from Beth and Dru), a notice about CHRS's FB page, a brief on the September members' meeting, and an announcement of the January's members' meeting
- Monte – Update on the VAT and an announcement of the Dick Wolf lecture series
- Elizabeth/Greg – Preservation Café
- Beth – Beyond the Boundaries Meetings and an evergreen story
- John Franzen – Overbeck lecture announcement (already in)
- Carl – members and calendar

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm