

CAPITOL HILL RESTORATION SOCIETY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 16, 2014

SECOND FLOOR BOARD ROOM, CAPITOL HILL TOWNHOMES COMMUNITY BUILDING

Present

Lisa Dale Jones, Monte Edwards, Patrick Crowley, Mary Wadleigh, Beth Purcell, Elizabeth Nelson, Gary Peterson, Larry Pearl, Chuck Burger, Jeff Fletcher, Undine Nash, Carl Spier

Guests: Kate Henvey, Ronja Roberts, Cindy Hays (DAR); Alia Khan

Meeting Minutes: Elizabeth Nelson (*kudos!*)

- The minutes of the October 21, 2014 meeting were included in the monthly meeting packet. **Motion** to approve the October 21 minutes, **seconded and approved.**

Treasurer's Report – Patrick Crowley

- The bookkeeper is nearly finished with her review of and adjustments to the CHRS bookkeeping records.
- The Swampoodle grant disbursements were removed from the income statements due to the fact that the funds are not CHRS's, but rather are being managed by CHRS on behalf of the grantor. Therefore, the funds are not properly CHRS's expenditures and should not be in the CHRS expense reports. The associated administrative expenses were reallocated to the general operating accounts.
- The Swampoodle grant fund itself does remain in the balance sheet because the money is in the CHRS bank account, but is offset by the contingent liability to disburse funds to those who qualify for the grant.

President's Report – Lisa Dale Jones

- 60th Anniversary: Lisa sent out a request for proposals (RFP) to produce a series of articles about CHRS history and its influence on community development to a number of well-regarded local researcher/writers. The initial responses to the RFP were not within the budget. Proposals from two writers, John Muller and Lucinda (Cindy) Janke, were accepted in a second round. Muller will write twelve articles for Hill Rag on successful CHRS projects. Janke will write human interest stories for the newsletter and website. These materials may be used in other ways as well.
- The January Members Meeting will have an anniversary theme. It will be held January 28 in Baxter Hall at St. Mark's, 3rd and A St SE, beginning at 6:45 pm. CHRS will provide cake and possibly festive beverages for attendees. There will be a question and answer session during which longtime members will be speak about their past experiences of CHRS community activism. Janke and Muller might speak about their research. Board members are asked to provide suggestions for speakers and "VIP" guests.
- Membership: In order to build membership, the committee needs to develop a new fee structure that both emphasizes the benefits of membership and adds to what we currently offer. Chuck, Jim, Undine, Patrick, and Janet will work on this, and bring a proposal to the Board for the January meeting.
- Carl reported on renewal notice efforts and responses. Jim and Lisa suggested that renewal notices be emailed and that these emails include a direct link to the website where the task can be completed online.

- Public Image: discussion of concerns that many of the more recent members of the community view historic preservation as a nuisance (“preservation police”). Lisa recommended that we should be conscious of opportunities to change this impression.

Grants Committee – Larry Pearl

- Discussion of how to deal the still-open case in which a proposal had been approved with the understanding that the work would be historically appropriate, but when completed turned out to be inappropriate. Should the grant money be disbursed? **Moved and seconded:**
 - a) The grant committee should disburse a partial payment, not to exceed \$2,000, but take the payment out of the grant administration account rather than the grant funds account.
 - b) Draft a letter, to be signed by both the owner and the CHRS president, releasing CHRS from further obligation.

Approved 10-2.

House Tour

- Cindy Hays, Chapter Regent of the DAR chapter on Capitol Hill and former Chair of CHRS’s House Tour Committee, attended the meeting on behalf of DAR to explore ways for DAR to participate in the 2015 House Tour with an eye to increasing the younger membership of both organizations.
- DAR members Kate Henvey and Ronja Roberts presented ideas for how DAR could contribute to the House Tour’s operations: staff one of the houses, write house histories, assist with the refreshment break, possibly recruit sponsors and seek relationships with local businesses. Further, they could help with getting homeowners to volunteer their houses by asking DAR members who live in the tour footprint if they would want to nominate theirs. In return, we would recognize and express gratitude for their contributions in the newsletter, on the website, and in tour materials.
- The tour footprint will be the area between Stanton Park and Lincoln Park, from 5th to 11th Streets NE, along Massachusetts Ave.
- Patrick reported that he had combined the Congressional Cemetery address list with the CHRS list to contact homeowners living in the tour footprint who are members of either organization.
- Alia Khan, House Coordinator and local realtor, explained that the process she is using to get homeowners to volunteer their home or the home of a neighbor focuses on encouraging community participation. She is contacting residents through local listservs and address lists, using email blast and direct mail.
- The committee has developed selection criteria, and will send a diplomatically-worded version to prospective homeowners. A more stringent version will be used for the actual evaluation. The deadline for nominations is the 3rd week in January, though it’s likely that houses will be considered after that time, as has been done in the past.
- Lisa noted that the House Tour Chair position remains vacant.

Dick Wolf Lecture – Monte Edwards

- Monte reported that responses to the call for projects have been slow, possibly due to the end of the academic year and holiday season. The Board agreed that the deadline should be extended to January 5.
- Lisa created a one-page flyer for professors to share with students. Professors have been asked to submit nominations from among their students' projects. The committee (Lisa, Mimi, Greg, Monte, Janet) plus some outside experts will choose from the pool of nominations. Final selection will be ratified at the February board meeting.
- A public event must be scheduled for the Dick Wolf Lecture presentation. Jennifer Cate, a CHRS member, has volunteered to be the event coordinator.
- The following faculty members have been contacted, and have indicated an interest in the lecture program:

Uwe Brandes, Executive Director of the Masters in Professional Studies, Urban and Regional Planning
Georgetown University School of Continuing Studies

Richard W. Longstreth, Director of Historic Preservation
George Washington University
Columbian College of Arts & Sciences (yes)

Peter Byrne, Associate Dean, J.D. Program
Georgetown University Law Center (yes)

Ralph Belton, Chair
Department of Urban Architecture and Community Planning
University of the District of Columbia. (yes)

Harry G. Robinson III, Professor of Urban Design and Dean Emeritus
School of Architecture and Design
College of Engineering, Architecture and Computer Sciences

David Maloney, State Historic Preservation Officer
District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office (yes)

Ellen McCarthy, Acting Director
District of Columbia Office of Planning

Hazel Edwards, Chair of the Masters of City and Regional Planning Department.
Catholic University of America
School of Architecture and Planning

Historic Preservation – Beth Purcell

- An email discussion took place among board members in November 2014, concerning the proposed project at Buchanan School, 1300 block of E Street SE. Although it lies outside the Capitol Hill Historic District, the board decided, then ratified its decision, to authorize the Historic Preservation Committee chair to send the following text by email to the developer:

“Thank you for the opportunity to meet about your preliminary plans for Buchanan School. I shared those plans with the board of directors of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society, who indicated that they

support those plans, subject to zoning considerations. Please keep us informed on all aspects of the project as it moves forward.”

Transportation – Beth Purcell

- The board considered concepts A, B, and C for the Southeast Boulevard Neighborhood Planning Study, presented by DDOT and Office of Planning (OP) at a public meeting on December 11, 2014. **Moved and seconded:** a motion to authorize the President to send a letter to OP supporting concepts B or C, and advocating that the L'Enfant Plan be preserved by extending the streets at 13, 14th, and 15th Streets, SE, that the resulting intersections be controlled intersections, that any housing to be constructed on land owned by the DC government be zoned R-4, and that 30% of housing units be affordable.

Approved 11-1.

Zoning Committee – Gary Peterson

- Several cases had been brought before the committee:

18882, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, NE - Support

18883, 1251 F Street, NE - Support

18885, 1401 Massachusetts Avenue, SE – no position, in part because the owner did not send a representative.

18890, 646-54 H Street, NE - Postponed

18891, 1402-10 H Street and 1401 Florida Avenue, NE - Opposed

18909, 521 14th Street, SE – Support had been given conditional on approval from the neighbors. As the committee has since received the requisite letters of support, CHRS support is now unconditional.

Newsletter

There was no discussion of newsletter assignments because of the combined December/January issue.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at ___pm