

**CAPITOL HILL RESTORATION SOCIETY BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES FOR MARCH 17, 2015**

SECOND FLOOR BOARD ROOM, CAPITOL HILL TOWNHOMES COMMUNITY BUILDING

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**Present**

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

**Meeting Minutes** – Susan Burgerman

- The minutes of the February 17 meeting were not included in the packet and will be submitted for approval at the next meeting.

**Treasurer's Report** – Patrick Crowley

- The Treasurer submitted the monthly Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss Statement, and bank reconciliation report. Mr. Crowley noted that the savings account 7080 is being drawn down to repay the general operating checking account for Swampoodle grant disbursements.
- Mr. Crowley was asked for information regarding the \$60.00 balance in A Street funds seen on the balance sheet. These funds are the remainder of funds held for other concerned citizens in the A Street project. The project has come to a conclusion. A motion was made to merge the \$60.00 into the general savings account after confirming that the concerned citizens group had no objection. The motion passed unanimously.
- It was clarified that the new membership rates go into effect March 15, 2015.

**President's Report** – Lisa Dale Jones

- Dick Wolf Lecture: Lisa has been working with Monte, Michelle, and some volunteers to determine the format, participants, promotion efforts, and the actual meeting logistics. The public meeting begins at 7:00 pm. There will be a brief members' meeting at 6:45. An announcement that nominations are now open for next year's at-large board members and officers will be made at that meeting.
- DDOT Oversight Hearing March 6: Lisa delivered testimony (prepared by Beth and Monte) before a Council hearing chaired by Mary Cheh with comments and suggestions for DDOT under the new leadership of Leif Dormsjo. CHRS thanked DDOT for their work on public safety, experimenting with permeable sidewalk surfaces, and pocket park regulations. DDOT was asked to finalize the pocket park regulations with amendments, to halt the proposed Southeast Boulevard project except for pedestrian and bike improvements, and to hold off on granting any permits for the CSX tunnel construction until the pending lawsuit is concluded. Chairman Cheh had no questions.
- Swampoodle addition to the Capitol Hill Historic District: HPRB will hear the case (#15-01) on April 23. Lisa thanked Dru for his amazing work on this; he drafted the excellent letter that Lisa emailed to the Board last week. That letter was sent to HPO last Friday.
- Volunteer Capitol Hill, May 2, 10am – 1pm: Elizabeth and Chuck have volunteered to staff the CHRS table at this event at the Hill Center, designed to help Capitol Hill nonprofits connect with potential volunteers (and members). While the timing doesn't help with volunteers for the House Tour, it's good for community relations and membership.
- Nominations Committee: The nominations committee is providing job descriptions for board positions, so candidates know what will be expected of them. At-large board members' main functions are "boosterism" and fundraising - helping to disseminate information to potential new members and helping in a meaningful way with the House Tour. The two vice presidents will be responsible for overseeing membership and fundraising, which will relieve a good portion of the president's workload so the presidency isn't an unpaid full-

time job. As much as possible, elected board members should not also be appointed committee chairs. This would increase the size of the Board.

- Board member Undine Nash and her husband Carl have won the 2015 District of Columbia Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation for their conversion of an old warehouse into an amazing living space! CHRS was one of the nomination's supporters. The award ceremony is on May 6, and Lisa took part in a three-minute video that will be shown during the ceremony, along with the Nashes, their contractor and their architect.

#### **Nominations Committee Report – Patrick Crowley**

- Mr. Crowley presented an update from the Nominations Committee, made up of Beth Purcell, Elizabeth Nelson and Patrick Crowley. Of the current officers, Lisa Dale Jones, Patrick Crowley, and Susan Burgerman will stand for re-election. The 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents will not stand for re-nomination, nor will the three At-Large board members.
- Mr. Crowley has reached out to several community leaders for leads on possible candidates for the nomination slate.

#### **House Tour Committee Report – Patrick Crowley**

- Mr. Crowley presented an update on the House Tour progress. 300 to 400 homes were contacted in the Stanton Park neighborhood inquiring whether their homes might be available for the 2015 House Tour. Twelve homes were offered. Beth Purcell, Paul Cromwell, and Patrick Crowley visited seven homes, six of which were accepted for the tour. Beth and Paul visited three more, all of which were accepted for the tour.
- Mr. Crowley engaged an artist to do a rendering of a typical Capitol Hill townhouse English Basement stairway for the promotional artwork.

#### **Dick Wolf Memorial Committee – Monte Edwards**

- There was a listing in the March *Hill Rag* in *What's On Washington* (page 15) and a large ad. There was also an article in the current CHRS newsletter. A second press release has been sent out announcing that Mayor's Agent Peter Byrne and Professor Tersh Boasberg have agreed to join for a discussion after the lecture. A post card about the event will be sent to CHRS members this week. The committee is working on a printed program for the event.
- While there will be no more print editions of the *Hill Rag*, the lecture could be featured in the electronic version. The committee is working with the *City Paper* to place an ad about the event and to request that they run an article.
- The press release will be sent to the participating faculty members, HPRB, Office of Planning, and the C100. This will be followed up an emailed flyer to be shared with their students and colleagues, with a request to post the 11 x 17 posters.
- Following the lecture, there will be a champagne reception, prosecco contributed by Schneiders has contributed.
- The committee has been working with Councilmember Allen's office and have drafted a Ceremonial Resolution honoring the event that hopefully the Council will adopt and can be presented at the lecture.
- An Event Committee has been formed, consisting of Jennifer Cate, Scott Davis, and Michelle Carroll working with Lisa and Monte. Michelle is orchestrating the reception. Jennifer and Scott are designing a poster and flyer.

- Jennifer and Scott have also added AIA-DC chapter, American Planning Association – National Capital Area Chapter, and American Society of Landscape Architects – Potomac Chapter to the press contacts roster.

**City Planning Committee** – Monte Edwards

- CSX and the Virginia Avenue Tunnel: We are waiting for the judge to rule on the Committee of 100’s Motion for a Preliminary Injunction. If the Motion is granted, no construction can take place until the case is decided on the merits. If the motion is not granted, the case will proceed with briefing on the merits, but CSX will be at risk that any work they do may have to be undone if the Committee of 100 prevails on the merits.
- Streetcars: DDOT Director Dormsjo’s call for “orderly thinking” about the future of streetcars goes far beyond the operational problems on H St./Benning Rd. DC needs answers to basic questions: Where is the plan to finance, govern, operate and maintain the system that the past three mayors have failed to produce? What did Mayor Gray’s high-level Streetcar Finance and Governance Task Force learn in its nearly two-year deliberations and why did it fail to publish a report? Is there a 6-8 acre site for a required maintenance facility between Union Station and Georgetown and what other uses would be precluded for this land? What are the most promising propulsion technologies for the future and how would they be phased in as the system develops? What are the pros and cons of other transit options? The new Director promises a top to bottom assessment. We should support his determination to lay a sound foundation to connect our developing city.

**Zoning Committee** – Gary Peterson

The CHRS Zoning Committee met on March 12, 2015, and considered the following four cases:

- 18957 411 H Street NE. Nando’s Restaurant requests a special exception to operate a fast food establishment. The only reason they need the special exception is because they collect the money before the food is served. The committee voted to support the special exception provided the ANC special considerations are included in the final order and a gate is provided at the access to the trash area. There are also issues regarding whether a variance is needed and whether parking must be provided. The committee voted to recognize the issue but pass on it and to support a parking variance is one is required.
- 18961 1733 D Street, SE. Erin and James Boyd need a special exception for lot occupancy to expand their garage. The property is semi-detached and they need a special exception to go from 47% lot occupancy to 51%. Adjacent property owners support the application and the committee voted to support the application.
- 18964 1220 Potomac Avenue, SE. The property is zoned R-5-B and the owner can build an apartment house on it, with the only controls on size being 50 foot height, 60% lot occupancy, and a 1.8 FAR. The property contains 2526 square feet and is improved with a non-contributing structure that will be demolished. The main part of the lot has 40 feet of frontage on Potomac Avenue and, at the rear there is a 60 foot long corridor that is 12 feet wide and fronts on I Street. Looks like my frying pan. The current issue involves the 12 foot wide curb cut on Potomac Avenue. The owners had originally proposed constructing five, two bedroom apartments and to use the existing driveway to provide the required 2 parking spaces in back. There appears to be space for more parking than the minimum. They are not allowed a curb cut on I Street instead. The problem is that HP wants the curb cut closed thereby allowing no onsite parking. Because there will be no parking, the owner believes there is no market for larger units and now proposes eight, one bedroom units. The Zoning Committee would like them to have parking and go back to the 5 unit concept. This seems to be a better land use solution. The HP Board approved with the closing of the curb cut. The Committee believed that Beth and I should try to fix this so there is parking.

- 18971 317 9<sup>th</sup> Street, SE. Nicholas Nowak requests an area variance to renovate the rear on his house and reduce the lot occupancy from 80% to to 77%. The absolute lot occupancy allowed by special exception is 70%. Because this is a reduction supported by the neighbors, the committee voted to support the request.

**Historic Preservation** – Beth Purcell

- Beth Purcell discussed the outcome of the HPRB case allowing oversize additions (additions larger than the historic house) to 1013 and 1015 E Street, SE to create a total of 10 units, because of some buildings nearby have 100% lot coverage. She also mentioned the upcoming case where Christ Our Shepherd Church seeks to replace the top of its Romanesque tower at the church building at 801 North Carolina Avenue, SE.

**Any other items?**

**Newsletter** – Justine Bello?

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at \_\_?\_\_pm