

**Capitol Hill Restoration Society Board Meeting
Minutes for 20 September, 2016
Second Floor Board Room, Capitol Hill Townhomes Community Building
750 6th Street SE, Washington DC**

Present: Elizabeth Nelson, Patrick Crowley, Patrick Lally, Adam Apton, Beth Purcell, Scott Davis, Susan Burgerman, Steve Kehoe, Joanna Kendig, Susan Oursler, Lisa Dale Jones, Monte Edwards, Chuck Burger

Absent: Gary Peterson, Janet Quigley

Guests: Justine Bello (acting secretary), Angie Schmidt (newsletter editor), Molly Singer (Capitol Hill Village)

The meeting was called to order at 6:30.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were recorded by Beth. Adam moves to approve, Susan B seconds; the minutes are approved unanimously without amendment.

Due to a full agenda and the attendance of a guest speaker, Elizabeth rearranged the delivery of certain reports/new business in order to accommodate these priorities.

Ratification of DDOT letter re: Maryland Avenue safety zones and lighting

CHRS had previously been asked by Scott Price, ANC 6C chairperson, to write a letter to DDOT in response to DDOT's redesign of Maryland Avenue as it pertains to their lighting plan. In particular, the letter raised concerns about shielded vs unshielded lights on the proposed Washington globes. The letter was written with some urgency last month when it became known that the letter had to be submitted by the comment deadline in late August. Submission of the letter had previously been approved by the board by e-mail only so was therefore presented for formal ratification by the board at this meeting. A brief discussion ensued about the procedural nature of the ratification action. The letter was ratified unanimously with no abstentions.

Treasurer's report: Adam's report showed CHRS is on pace to break even this year. A brief discussion followed about the source of extra revenue and how much of it could have been generated by the Dick Wolf lecture (a small percentage) versus the Vanguard investment account (a large percentage). Adam remains available for additional questions should they arise. Point of order: the treasurer's report does not require Board approval.

Guest speaker: Molly Singer, Executive Director of Capitol Hill Village (a neighborhood non-profit and social services organization). Ms. Singer's goal was to introduce herself and to look for partnering opportunities between CHV and

CHRS. In the short term, CHV is sponsoring a series of symposia (the first of which already occurred) for which she is seeking informal support from CHRS, such as event cross-promotion. Ms. Singer suggests partnering with CHRS in a more substantial, longer-term way; a discussion follows about what the nature of such a partnership might look like, how it would be mutually beneficial, what might happen when the mission of each organization might be at odds, etc. Not all questions can be answered at this time; Ms. Singer sees much in common between the missions of CHRS and CHV and hopes to explore those commonalities further. Discussion will be held at the October meeting.

Communications:

New talent has been engaged to bump up efforts in social media, list-servs, etc. In response, there has been a recent spike in “likes” on Facebook. Beth ran a very successful Emerald Street tour (~50 attendees); the same tour will be repeated on October 8. The most recent Preservation Café speaker was Gary Barnhart, who compared/contrasted historic vs new construction materials (~30 attendees). Patrick L. will help Greg organize the Preservation Cafés in the future, taking over the work Elizabeth had been performing. Volunteers are needed for Barracks Row day (Saturday, September 24) and the house expo (Sunday, October 16 at the Hill Center).

Letter against proposed changes to Historic Preservation Act: *Beth*

The proposed letter drafted by Beth opposes proposed legislation that would bar community organizations such as CHRS from testifying before the HPRB. Susan moves to send the letter as it was written, also authorizing written or oral testimony if necessary, Lisa seconds; the motion to authorize Beth to send the letter is approved unanimously without amendment.

Letter re: treespace beautification regulations: *Steve*

Steve proposes CHRS support the proposed ruling and better outreach to the public on this topic. As a follow-on to this, Chuck suggests developing a “cheat sheet” of the do’s and don’ts of tree boxes; the audience would be the general public (anyone with tree boxes). Susan B moves to accept the letter with minor changes, as discussed, Patrick C seconds; the motion to authorize Steve to send the letter is approved unanimously.

Preservation Committee: *Beth and Joanna*

CHRS remains a consulting party through the refinement of plans for the new, 90,000 SF Marine Barracks building. Through on-going meetings, the details of a programmatic agreement will be fleshed out; the decision of where to put the building is basically settled at this point.

300 8th Street NE: Concerns have been raised about vehicle access and the potential for vibration damage to neighboring homes. Plans for the rehabilitation of the shotgun house (1229 E Street SE) continue to progress. Updates were provided on both the Watkins School renovation (within the historic district) and the Buchanan School redevelopment (immediately to the east and just outside the historic district). Watkins is not a contributing structure in the historic district but regardless, there are no perceived concerns with the work being designed. There are similarly few concerns with the Buchanan Park development; the developer has been forthcoming with information in the spirit of transparency.

Zoning Committee: *Elizabeth/Beth on behalf of Gary*

Elizabeth/Beth present issues related to proposed changes to PUD (planned unit development) regulations. Beth explains the current PUD system and that the proposed change (lobbied for by developers) would eliminate the current threshold of 15000 SF for a developer to seek relief from zoning regulations in return for providing “community amenities.” The board reviewed Gary’s proposed letter; a discussion follows about the language of the letter. The motion to authorize Gary to send the letter passes, with one nay and one abstention.

President’ report: *Elizabeth*

There is a brief review of the Derelict District Properties act as it pertains to the proposed transfer of 4 derelict properties in Anacostia to the L’enfant Trust with the intent of renovating them into “workforce housing.” A brief discussion followed; Beth described that they are in very poor condition and rehabilitating them would likely be very expensive. Other reservations were expressed. Elizabeth moves to table, Monte seconds. Note that the hearing is October 6, before the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

House Tour: *Patrick C*

They are trying to get an early jump on planning this year. He recommends that the woman who served as the director for the event last year fill the same role this year, which she is willing to do. This being an anniversary year, the tour is tentatively slated to return to a stretch of East Capitol.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.