

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

Present: Elizabeth Nelson, Patrick Crowley, Justine Bello, Steve Kehoe, Joanna Kendig, Susan Oursler, Beth Purcell, Patti Martin, Gary Peterson, Larry Pearl

Absent: Patrick Lally, Adam Apton, Susan Burgerman, Scott Davis, Janet Quigley, Lisa Dale Jones, Monte Edwards, Chuck Burger, Greg Holeyman, Undine Nash

Guests: Carl Spier

The meeting was called to order at 6:29.

In order to facilitate a quick and expedient meeting, the highest-priority items on the agenda are addressed first.

Steve has prepared a draft letters that addresses the installation, by Washington Gas, of unsightly bollards in front of residential gas meters on Browns Court (SE). Reportedly Washington Gas did not pursue more historically sensitive bollards because they did not consider Capitol Hill to be “historic.” Beth will provide language that refutes this claim. A brief discussion about the language of the letter follows. Joanna moves to accept and send the letter, Gary seconds; the motion passes unanimously. Elizabeth thanks Steve for his efforts thus far and adds that he will remain the point person on this issue going forward.

The Grants Committee recommends the approval of a pending application for an energy grant for 226 G Street, NE in Square 752 (eligible for such a grant). The total cost of the applicant’s project is \$9270; the Committee recommends a grant of \$4635. In advance of the meeting Larry Pearl had provided to the board, by email, information concerning the application. After some discussion online and in person, the Board is satisfied that the application is consistent with the letter of the published grant requirements and the intended purpose of the grants program. Gary moves to approve and award the grant, Susan O seconds; the motion passes unanimously.

Secretary’s Report (minutes): *Beth*

Beth prepared last meeting’s minutes in Justine’s absence—thank you! There are no additional comments. Elizabeth moves to accept the minutes, Gary seconds; the motion passes unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report: *Adam*

Adam is absent. Patrick asks to see a full balance sheet at the next meeting. Elizabeth will follow up with Adam about this possibility.

President's Report: *Elizabeth*

A new multi-purpose tablecloth with the CHRS logo has been purchased, which can be used at various events.

House Expo: Elizabeth reported that the accounting is largely, though not totally, complete. One reason for the delay is that the income and some of the expenses had to be re-allocated to a new accounting code created for this event; a few items remain outstanding. The revenue but also the expenses were lower than projected, meaning that there will be a small profit (somewhere between \$500 and \$1600). This is a positive outcome from the first iteration of this event.

Charles McMillion and Drury Tallant will be acting representatives concerning Union Station activities.

Preservation Committee Report: *Beth*

Beth reports on several recent cases.

516 6th St NE: There have been ongoing issues with this property and its developer, which seeks to build a large third story addition, and needed to correct the plans previously submitted to HPRB. CHRS thought that the developer had done this. Because of concerns by the adjacent neighbor and the architect's inability to respond to some questions about the project, the board required the proposed addition to be scaled down to a two-story addition, and be clad in brick (not siding). The building is a shell, and HPRB hopes that the developer will submit suitable plans, so that the building can be rehabilitated as soon as possible.

417 4th Street SE: This is one of a pair of houses on this block built concurrently in the 1850s. Previously, the owner of the other house, 419 4th Street, had sought to build a three-story addition; this was denied, but the board allowed a two-story addition, and objected to plans for a three-story addition at 417 4th Street. This owner of 417 4th Street is now also seeking to build a three-story addition; this was approved, but the addition (including a rear porch) must not extend beyond the addition at 419 4th Street.

Planning Committee: *Gary*

Gary reports on several recent cases.

Cluss Court (SE): a large lot may be subdivided for two structures. Because the existing alley is only 15 feet wide, a special exemption is required.

Gary has received successive complaints about reported office activities in the 200 block of A street NE, a residential block. The complainant alleges that an office is being operated out of one of these residences by an internet news organization. Gary proposes to write a letter to the organization informing them that if true, they are not in compliance with the zoning regulations. CHRS cannot enforce zoning regulations, and few hard facts are known at this time.

Dick Wolf Lecture: *Monte*

In Monte's absence, Elizabeth noted that Monte's report had been circulated electronically in advance of the meeting. No board action is required but Monte requests additional assistance with the event.

House Tour: *Patrick C.*

Patrick reported that Olivia Merlino has signed the contract and will be the 2017 Tour Manager. Letters have gone out to at least 200 home owners in the proposed footprint. There has been some positive response but nothing definite yet. Beth and Joanna made a second round of walking the area to collect additional addresses of possible sites. Letters will be sent to these in the new year.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.