

**Capitol Hill Restoration Society Board Meeting  
Minutes for 18 October, 2016  
Second Floor Board Room, Capitol Hill Townhomes Community Building  
750 6th Street SE, Washington DC**

**Present:** Elizabeth Nelson, Patrick Crowley, Susan Oursler, Gary Peterson, Monte Edwards, Undine Nash, Adam Apton, Greg Holeyman, Beth Purcell, Joanna Kendig, Susan Burgerman

**Absent:** Lisa Dale Jones, Janet Quigley, Scott Davis, Steve Kehoe, Patti Martin, Patrick Lally

**Guests:** Carl Spier, Justine Bello (acting secretary), Angie Schmidt (newsletter editor)

The meeting was called to order at 6:33.

Susan O moves to accept the previous meeting's minutes, Susan B seconds; the motion passes unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report: *Adam***

Adam presented a special report that closes out the 2016 fiscal year, that shows how CHRS's year ended in comparison to previous years.

Overall, we've maintained our revenue base over the last few years; our expenses have, unfortunately, gone up. Our endowment remains invested in secure investments (Vanguard account) to keep us sound for years to come. Monte inquired about what the return on that account was; Adam did not have that exact information. Undine clarified that the interest earned on that investment remains there to "fill in holes" in our operating budget, should we need them—but this year, we did not need them. Susan O commended Adam's great work on managing this budget.

**Membership: *Susan O***

The forthcoming membership drive letter is at the printer; the timing of the letter was discussed in relation to the slew of election-related mail coming through in the next 2 weeks.

**Office Manager's Report: *Carl***

This is a new report to be included in the monthly meeting packet. Carl's report outlined the current membership status, including expired, renewed, and new members. Carl reported on the status of the membership database and email system, which is improving in its capacity and completeness.

**President's Report: *Elizabeth***

The annual DCPL membership meeting will be held November 10 at the Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia; Elizabeth cannot attend. Elizabeth reported that Michael Helabian was excited about CHRS' presence at Hilloween and will be donating \$250 to that end; Elizabeth used some of the funds to purchase new CHRS pencils, which will be accompanied by handouts of candy, stickers, beads, etc.

Beth reported on the House Expo. Chuck had done a lot of work towards arranging vendors. Patrick C arranged for all of the various speakers, including cues with music. Susan O reported enthusiastically about engaging with vendors; one comment included that it was a very busy weekend with many competing events and that in the future, if we were to do it again, we should consider scouting out possible dates with less competition. Patti has volunteered to reach out to vendors to find out how many new customers they generated by this event. Elizabeth reported on a positive presence on social media associated with this event as well. Nearly all the money has been received at this point, with the exception of Merlino Construction Group. Of note: neither local hardware store (Frager's nor Jenks) participated.

A draft contract for the proposed house tour manager (Olivia Merlino) was circulated and discussed. Patrick spoke to the proposed incentivized bonuses; Joanna commented that the delegation of responsibilities in this document is unclear. The proposed cost management incentive was discussed at length. The delegation of other various responsibilities (such as, who would write the house histories; or who selects the houses for the tour) were also discussed. In order to fully parse the details of the contract, Elizabeth proposes an offline discussion of the terms of the agreement, and a decision on the agreement be tabled for a full vote at the November meeting. Susan O offers to synthesize the group's offline comments in a revised draft; Beth follows that it can be voted on offline, then ratified in November. Of note: the first House Tour Committee meeting is this Thursday, October 20.

### **Preservation Committee Report: *Beth***

The second Emerald Street walking tour was held on October 8, with 30-40 attendees.

The legislation discussed at last month's meeting about the role of ANC's has not been reported out of committee yet, to the full council; Monte reports that the language that was not favored by CHRS restricting CHRS' ability to testify before the HPRB may have been, or will be, dropped.

Elizabeth reported that Patrick Lally attended a lower 8th Street meeting (Chuck had attended in the past); Patrick is absent tonight and has not yet provided notes to speak to that meeting. A representative of the church that owns the “blue castle” (8th and L Street, SE) and Michael Stevens (BID) met with Elizabeth, separately. They are seeking support for raising the height limits to 65-85 ft. in that area. The church wants to build an addition atop the Blue Castle. Gary notes that such development of that site is inconsistent with the comprehensive plan. Gary and Beth are designated as CHRS representatives to future meetings on the future of Lower 8th Street.

### **Zoning Committee: Gary**

Gary reports on the procedural issues associated with the first BZA case (BZA # 19337) and recommends opposing the appeal. Voted to oppose the case. Gary moves, Monte seconds. Passes unanimously

### **Old business**

The subject of partnering with the Capitol Hill Village (CHV) is brought back to the table. The board supports participating in the meetings and finds that it would be acceptable to promoting positive community relations between the two groups, such as putting their symposia on the CHRS calendar. Several members note that there is a healthy overlap of membership between the two organizations.

The meeting is adjourned at 8:20.