

CAPITOL HILL RESTORATION SOCIETY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 15, 2013
SECOND FLOOR BOARD ROOM, CAPITOL HILL TOWNHOMES COMMUNITY BUILDING

Present

Janet Quigley, Shauna Holmes, Patrick Crowley, Lisa Dale Jones, Kelly Vielmo, Beth Purcell, Elizabeth Nelson, Maurice Walters, Lisa Wilson, Susan Young, Undine Nash, Monte Edwards, Ben Klay, Susan Burgerman, Gloria Junge

Mimi Wolf (observer)

Meeting Minutes: Susan Burgerman

- The minutes of the September meeting were included in the monthly meeting packet. **Moved, Seconded and Approved:** A motion to approve the September minutes. Unanimous.

President's Report – Janet Quigley (included in the meeting packet)

- Following the second Swampoodle Walking Tour, approximately 30 people stayed after to talk to Beth and Drury, expressing great interest in preservation and CHRS.
- Discussion of future Anacostia River Tours: the tour boat is booked through the rest of fall. CHRS has reserved the boat for May 17, 2014.
- The Height Act: The Mayor's Office of Planning was thought to have been working in coordination with the NCPC in preparing its plan to present to Congress. However, the Office of Planning released its report ahead of the NCPC report and the two varied in important respects. One disconcerting point was that OP's plan included permitting height increases in residential blocks within Historic Districts. NCPC has been conducting outreach in various neighborhoods to inform the public of the situation, and Phil Mendelson has scheduled council hearings on the subject.
- Zoning: Gary Peterson (not present; information included in meeting packet) will be holding a meeting on Friday, October 18, on the Zoning Regulations Review. The purpose is to define CHRS positions on key issues for circulation to the Board. The first ZRR hearing is scheduled for November 4, so decisions will have to be made in advance of the next Board meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Patrick Crowley (included in meeting packet)

- The report for the September meeting is the last of the FY and the last using the old accounting system.
- Motion to approve Patrick's signing authority on Vanguard account: Approved unanimously.
- Discussion of existing accounts: Sharon Weiss provided an explanatory report prior to the meeting and will get this to Patrick.
- Audit line in budget: audits were required as long as CHRS participated in the CFC. They were prohibitively expensive, the costs outweighed the benefits, and the Board decided not to continue in the CFC.
- Patrick has engaged a bookkeeper to sort out the existing accounts, and thanked Gloria for having meticulously tracked expenditures through them.

House Tour – Susan Young

- Three houses are committed so far. Susan is still looking for people to participate.
- Discussion of her idea to set up a promotional lemonade stand operated by children in front of Riverby Books, in order to take advantage of the Mother's Day connection.

City Planning – Monte Edwards

- Discussion of DDOT plan to remove tree boxes on 7th St near Eastern Market and replace the surrounding brick with black/brown material constructed of old tires. The Market Row Association is seeking advice on this plan from urban landscapers.
- Acoustic treatment of two walls in the Eastern Market North Hall is complete, and cuts the reverberation and noise by half. The materials are perfectly matched to the existing walls.
- Dick Wolf Memorial: The currently preferred concept involves holding a competition for best paper or presentation on historic preservation from among law students at local universities with notable preservation programs (Georgetown and GW), and/or HPO summer intern projects. This would hopefully become an annual event, and would take the public form of an annual lecture series. An alternative idea would be to use the funds to sponsor a student intern, preferably open to multiple institutions rather than a single university. Mimi Wolf recommended Goucher's preservation program as an outstanding example.

Concerning financials and administration, Monte thought that CHRS had sufficient funds from the Dick Wolf Memorial contributions already received to conduct such a program for three years and, if it were a lecture series, it would likely attract further funding from other sources that would result in an ongoing program.

Historic Preservation – Shauna Holmes

- CSX tunnel: Elizabeth has posted CHRS comments on the DEIS and CHRS's Section 106 historic preservation comments on the website under Community Issues. DDOT's and FHWA's Assessment of Effects on historic resources include adverse effects to the Capitol Hill Historic District, Virginia Avenue Tunnel, St. Paul's AUMP Church, the L'Enfant Plan of the City of Washington, and an archeological site.
- Main point: the VAT requires close monitoring with a focus on avoiding likely adverse effects rather than simply mitigating consequences. The DEIS did not test for vibration baselines in the most vulnerable, oldest parts of the Historic District.
- Monte remarked on DDOT's position that comments on the DEIS cannot be made public and will be "summarized" with the final report. The Committee of 100 has sent a letter objecting to this position and it was agreed that CHRS would do so as well.
- HPRB: 1) DDOT's car barn at Springarn High School continues to be problematic, with the latest design introducing a metal framework, which is not compatible with the historic school and campus.
2) A couple of the proposed projects involve rear additions that would be larger than what would remain of the historic buildings themselves.
3) HPRB is beginning to give more consideration to projects' effects on landscape elements such as side courts, which are character-defining features in our historic district.

Marine Corps Sites for New Quarters – Beth Purcell (report included in meeting packet)

- MC Building 20 must be moved from its present site. 4 possible alternatives have been identified (sites A-D, as shown on map). Sites A and B are inappropriate: A would entail tearing down two entire blocks of historic buildings. B is just outside of the Historic District, but would block off L St SE. C is an empty lot with contaminated soil left over from the Harris Teeter excavation. D is inside of the Navy Yard.

- The next step in the process is the drafting of a scoping letter, the due date for which was during the shutdown and therefore has actually passed.
- Decision: CHRS will pull together a position on the matter.

Newsletter –Lisa Dale Jones

- Beth and Shauna will write an article on the VAT highlighting the extent of possible damage, which should also appear on the website with links to the DEIS comments.
- Monte will write a piece on the Eastern Market North Hall acoustics.
- Beth will write a brief piece on the MC barracks issue.
- Elizabeth will do an article on the Swampoodle Preservation Cafe. The November Preservation Cafe will be a book talk.
- It would be nice to include photos from Barracks Row Day if any are available.
- Beth will write up the last Swampoodle Walking Tour with photos.
- Janet will write an update on the Height Act.
- Announcements to run in newsletter: 1) a renewed plea for a new editor; 2) a schedule of ZRR hearings, and 3) proposals for the Swampoodle Grants program can be submitted from October 31 through next April.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm