

CAPITOL HILL RESTORATION SOCIETY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 18, 2014, 2014
SECOND FLOOR BOARD ROOM, CAPITOL HILL TOWNHOMES COMMUNITY BUILDING

Present

Janet Quigley, Monte Edwards, Patrick Crowley, Ben Klay, Paul Cromwell, Shauna Holmes, Beth Purcell, Elizabeth Nelson, Gary Peterson, Larry Pearl, Maurice Walters, Susan Burgerman, Gloria Junge

Meeting Minutes: Susan Burgerman

- The minutes of the January 22, 2014 meeting were discussed. **Motion to adopt as amended** by the following: 1) President's Report third paragraph should note that the decision to co-sponsor with Hill Rag is for three Ward 6 candidates forums. 2) House Tour: the footprint will be D St SE to Constitution Ave, and 3rd St to 8th Streets. 3) Newsletter: no Historic Preservation Briefs, and Monte's article will cover the two meetings on the CSX/VAT. Amended minutes in meeting packet. **Moved, Seconded and Approved as amended.**

Treasurer's Report – Patrick Crowley (in packet)

- Patrick discussed his meeting with Thomas Jenkins, CPA, who agreed that CHRS does not need to be routinely audited, although it is good to have a CPA look at the books occasionally. Jenkins also found discrepancies regarding prior year closing balances and tax filings, many of which have been repaired, but noted that the Balance Sheet in the meeting packet should be considered a work in progress.
- CHRS Endowment Committee: Voted to move assets out of the Energy Fund and into a bond fund February 3 due to Asian market volatility.

President's Report – Janet Quigley

- CHRS is co-sponsoring, along with eight other organizations, the Hill Rag candidates forums.
- The spring Membership Forum will be held on March 27 at the NE Library. The Anacostia Watershed Society will be giving the presentation, with a focus on both conservation and recreation. CHRS has booked another boat tour on May 17, and Janet is also discussing the possibility of another tour should one be needed.
- Northeast Library opening was discussed. A conversation with the DCPL's Washingtoniana Division on future events was begun at the event.
- 2014 nominating committee: the Board ratified Janet's appointment of Beth Purcell, Gary Peterson, and Elizabeth Nelson to this committee.
- MedLink facility at 700 Constitution Ave NE: A permit was acquired for interior demolition, but turned out to include exterior also. It was not routed to HPO for approval. Although the plans submitted by the contractor conform with current zoning regulations, the work proceeded with no notice to the community or HPO. The ANC has called a community meeting on the subject on February 26 at the Northeast Library.
- House Tour: Susan Young has stepped down as Chair, but will continue to be involved. Paul was drafted under duress to replace her. **Motion to appoint Paul Cromwell to be Chair of the House Tour Committee Moved, Seconded, and Approved.** House Tour ads are progressing.

Grants Committee – Larry Pearl

- Only one proposal under consideration. Discussion of whether or not the proposed new door would be historically appropriate – Shauna uncomfortable with lack of specificity in the proposal and unwilling to approve grant until reviewed by historic preservation committee experts. Larry recommended that the HP committee be represented by Dru Tallant, in an advisory role; all grants for this one location will be subject to his approval. **Motion to accept the Grants Committee’s conditional approval** of proposal pending Dru Tallant’s recommendation **passed with one vote against**.

House Tour – Paul Cromwell

- Houses: 41 approached, 34 declined, 3 pending, 4 agreed.
- Ticket sales: Board members should volunteer to sell tickets over four weekends. CHRS’s credit card machine does work online. Suggestion was made to open a one-month Cricket account for the purpose.
- Brochure ads are being sold at a healthy pace. Discussion of raising the price of ads – consensus was that this would be a bad idea.
- Ideas for reaching tourists: local papers, tour companies and tour organizers, concierge industry’s newsletter (if still in existence), Trip Advisor, Daily Candy, information kiosk at the Eastern Market subway stop. Susan Young will approach hotel concierges.
- Responsibilities:
 - Chair: Paul Cromwell
 - Ad sales: Janet, Michelle,
 - Press and publicity: Susan Burgerman
 - Photography: Judy May
 - Homeowners Reception: Susan Young

Office Manager Search

- Four applications have been submitted. Search committee members – Janet, Paul, and Patrick – have begun interviewing applicants. Major criterion: internet/social media skills required to attract potential younger membership.

Zoning – Gary Peterson

- ZRR: Ward 6 meeting was snowed out, so no new information to report.
- Discussion of proposed parking facility at 1500 Penn SE
- Church at 8th & D NE owns the residences on either side, and is now converting the upper floors of the church building into apartments. They are approved for 16 units but want 30; also want to claim 6 parking spaces.
- DDOT oversight meeting on pocket parks is scheduled for March 3, CHRS testimony will be basically the same as for the September newsletter article on the subject.

Historic Preservation: –Shauna Holmes (in packet)

- Discussion of CHRS comments on the CSX (January) Draft Memorandum of Agreement on VAT construction: comments build on prior positions taken by CHRS, which is acting as consulting party in coordination with several other organizations. MoA only goes into effect if the construction goes forward.
- Question of why DC government is permitting CSX to undertake this project, given the documented real and potential hazards to the community: issue is property rights, railroads often claim right of way

ownership to all properties on either side of tracks; CSX is making this claim. Gary finds this claim unfounded and recommends that it be challenged.

Newsletter

Zoning briefs – Gary

House tour ticket announcement – Janet

Nomination committee announcement – Beth

Two paragraphs on VAT comments – Beth

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:58pm