CAPITOL HILL RESTORATION SOCIETY BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 15, 2014

SECOND FLOOR BOARD ROOM, CAPITOL HILL TOWNHOMES COMMUNITY BUILDING

Present

Janet Quigley, Monte Edwards, Lisa Dale Jones, Patrick Crowley, Chuck Burger, Drury Tallant, Paul Cromwell, Beth Purcell, Elizabeth Nelson, Kelly Vielmo, Maurice Walters, Lisa Wilson, Justine Bello, Susan Burgerman (late), Gloria Junge, Carl Spier

Meeting Minutes: Susan Burgerman (in absentia)

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

<u>Treasurer's Report</u> – Patrick Crowley (materials in packet)

• Discussion of financial documents: CHRS's overall financial situation is healthy. Regarding the budget report, it was noted that, while other institutions such as the federal government show current-year and multi-year budgets separately, our reporting system does not distinguish between them, which skews the budget report.

President's Report – Janet Quigley (in packet)

- Report topics: 1) The presentations on preservation of and recreation on the Anacostia at the Spring Membership Meeting and Forum were well-received. 2) CHRS joined other DC Historic Districts in signing a DCPL letter opposing the proposed City Council emergency resolution to build a housing development on the Big K site in the Anacostia Historic District.
- CHRS 60th anniversary, January 2015: a celebration is called for, possibly a tie-in with the Dick Wolf Lecture.
- Discussion of a possible Board summer retreat: Last year's retreat was productive. Would like to look at a date in July or August.
- The President's Party will be held on June 7 at the home of Undine and Carl Nash.

Dick Wolf Memorial Lecture – Monte Edwards

• Monte has contacted several university architecture and urban planning programs with positive results, and now must set up an organizing committee in order to follow up with the department chairs and DC Office of Planning. It is possible that the series might be ready to begin this September. Janet named the committee members: Monte, Janet, Beth Purcell, Lisa Dale Jones, Mimi Wolf. Moved, Seconded and Approved. Current budget is \$12,000, which should fund the program for six years. The committee will address raising additional funds.

<u>House Tour:</u> – Paul Cromwell (list of houses in packet)

- Contracts are signed for twelve houses and one garden. Paul is looking for an additional four house captains.
- Susan Young will coordinate the Homeowners' Reception. It will be at 6:30pm on May 1 at the Carriage Housel B&B.

- Ticket sales: Paul is scheduling Board members to sell tickets at the Eastern Market kiosk. All are requested/required to take at least one shift. A sign-up sheet is being circulated. Discussion of the most productive venue for ticket sales: last year over 1350 tickets were sold. Hill's Kitchen was the most active venue.
- Publicity: postcards are ready and will be delivered to local businesses. Paul will create an email-sized poster image that can be blast emailed to the membership list in order to boost online sales.
- House points of interest: the Wm Penn House at 515 E is a working youth hostel and is generally not open to the pubic. 606 A St SE (Susan Young's) was significantly renovated. One house with a huge collection of antiques is first floor-only for the tour, but the owner is offering private tours for two of the upper floors for donations of \$500. The same house has the third-largest observatory in DC.

Pocket Park Situation - Elizabeth Nelson

- The individuals responsible for the controversial use of the corner pocket park at 13th & Tennessee NE have submitted a permit application for the right to enclose the park with a fence, so that access is only through their own yard. This would be in direct violation of the L'Enfant Plan.
- In response to the controversy, Mary Cheh suggested at the DDOT Oversight and Budget hearings to take control of the reservations away from DDOT and give it to Parks and Recreation. DDOT has agreed to recognize that these reservations are public space and not to be used as private property, and to provide a list of the reservations now under DDOT control.
- Regarding the distinction between parking areas and reservations: Gary Peterson has previously given
 testimony at the DDOT Oversight and Budge hearings. Beth Purcell may testify before the HPRB.
 CHRS will send a letter to the HPRB focusing on the historic interpretation of the zoning regulations; it
 will not include discussions of access or mention any specific offenders.
- **Motions** 1) to send an official letter on the subject to HPRB, and 2) to provide testimony for the HPRB meeting. **Both approved**. A suggestion was made to contact Mary Cheh's staff to see if she had received from DDOT the list of triangular parks under DDOT's jurisdiction and DDOT's explanation of the transportation interest associated with each of those reservations.

Elections Committee – Beth Purcell (slate with bios of new nominees in packet)

• Slate of nominees for the next Board was presented:

President – Lisa Dale Jones

First VP – Monte Edwards

Second VP – Drury Tallant

Secretary – Susan Burgerman

Treasurer – Patrick Crowley

At-Large – Undine Nash

At-Large – Jeff Fletcher

At-Large – James E. Taylor

At-Large – Mary Wadleigh

Moved, Seconded and Approved a motion to adopt the slate.

Historic Preservation – Beth Purcell (testimony provided by email)

• Discussion of the status of Imani Temple across from Stanton Park: Janet attended an ANC meeting on the subject of turning the interior into a 200-student dormitory for a charter school. The majority of

those in attendance were opposed to the plan. The applicant agreed to withdraw Imani Temple as the location for the dormitory.

Newsletter – Justine Bello

- Another House Tour article with photos to push ticket sales Paul.
- A summary of the Members' Forum Janet.
- Preservation Cafe: Article on April Cafe. May topic will be a survey of alley dwellings, no other information available at this time Elizabeth or Greg Holeyman.
- Preservation Briefs Beth.
- Short article on pocket parks Janet.
- Possible article on local breweries: Paul knows someone who wrote an article about historic breweries in DC, and who has already agreed to do one on Capitol Hill.
- Possible article on CH boarding house that was a stop on the underground railroad.
- In the banner, committee chairs section, Beth is listed as chairing three committees, quite a load. She will withdraw as Environment Committee Chair.

New Business – Elizabeth Nelson

• A website revision should be undertaken this summer. Please everyone review the site and send comments to Elizabeth. Members of the committee to upgrade the website: Janet, Elizabeth, Paul, Donna Breslin.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm