

CAPITOL HILL RESTORATION SOCIETY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES FOR MAY 20, 2014
SECOND FLOOR BOARD ROOM, CAPITOL HILL TOWNHOMES COMMUNITY BUILDING

Present

Janet Quigley, Monte Edwards, Patrick Crowley, Chuck Burger, Undine Nash, Drury Tallant, Paul Cromwell, Beth Purcell, Elizabeth Nelson, Gary Peterson, Larry Pearl, Susan Burgerman, Gloria Junge, Carl Spier

Meeting Minutes: Susan Burgerman

- The minutes of the April meeting were included in the monthly meeting packet. Motion to approve the April minutes **as amended** to include the names of all 2014-2015 Board nominees: moved, seconded, passed.

Treasurer's Report – Patrick Crowley (in packet)

- May 20 report did not include all of the House Tour revenues and expenses. Revenues generated by the House Tour in April are in the report - \$14,000 from ticket sales, advertising, and underwriting. Patrick will prepare the House Tour financial report and send to Board members by email.
- In reference to ticket sales, there was a discussion of the fees charged for credit card and PayPal transactions, but at this time there is no way to track which are more burdensome.
- Administrative expenses for the Swampoodle grant have been charged to the general account to date; the funds will be transferred from the Swampoodle account to the general account at a later date.

Budget Report – Paul Cromwell

- Paul, working in coordination with Patrick, will present a first draft of the 2014-2015 CHRS budget at the June Board meeting.
- Committee chairpersons should send any requests or suggestions for budget items to Paul before the next meeting. Patrick will send the current expense report to committee chairs so that they can see what is and is not budgeted at this time. Paul suggests that an important item for the next fiscal year would be to revise, rewrite, and reprint the CHRS Historic District Guidelines.
- House Tour programs: there was a surplus of 410 programs, even though participation was very high. Many people were sharing a single program among themselves, and many had downloaded the information to their phones. It was generally agreed that we should order fewer programs next year.
- Graphics: the CHRS logo should be sharpened, perhaps simplified. The possibility of having different-sized logos for various purposes was discussed.

President's Report – Janet Quigley (in packet)

- 10 people signed up to assist with the House Tour and other CHRS activities at the May 10 Capitol Hill Community Foundation Volunteer Fair. Janet thought that it might be interesting to undertake Habitat for Humanity-like historic preservation projects using volunteers from the Fair next year.
- June Members' Meeting and Forum is scheduled for June 4 at Hill Center. Board election results will be announced at the meeting. Ellen McCarthy, the new Director of the Office of Planning, will be the guest speaker.
- Church windows 700 A St SE: all of the historic stained glass has been reinstalled. CHRS supported the neighborhood coalition that opposed removal of the stained glass windows.

- Public access to pocket parks: DDOT issued a revised policy April 30 which is consistent with CHRS's position on the subject. The new policy incorporates measures that CHRS suggested by letter to Mary Cheh last month: 1) free and open access; 2) ANC review of permit requests from private parties wishing to alter pocket parks; 3) DDOT will consider transferring jurisdiction of certain pocket parks to the Dept of Parks and Recreation.
- The Height Act compromise only permits buildings to add up to 24 inches for penthouses.

House Tour – Paul Cromwell

- This year the House Tour netted nearly \$53,000; approximately 1,600 people participated. A huge number of tickets were sold the weekend of, many at the doors.
- Hills Kitchen accounted for \$4,000 in ticket sales, an all-time high for a single venue.
- There was discussion of better clarifying the rules for house captains and sponsors, particularly concerning promotional materials.

Grant Committee – Larry Pearl (in packet)

- Janet has assembled a list of all properties that are eligible for the Swampoodle grant. CHRS will distribute grant materials to all owners, either by mail or by hand. Administrative funds from the grant program will be used for the purpose. As Dru Tallant plans to paper the same four squares in June, in advance of a decision on Historic District status, he will also distribute grant materials at that time.
- Discussion of application to repair damaged front staircase: owner sent quote from a (non-local) contractor who does not ordinarily work in cast iron. Some on the Board considered the quote exorbitant for the proposed work. Resolved: the Committee will request that the applicant get more estimates, and in future will do the same if a bid appears too high. For the next grant cycle, applications will require at least two bids.
- The Committee approved two energy grants, both for improved heating/cooling systems, and four facade grants. Motion for the Board to approve the list: **approved** as amended with the qualification that the applicant noted above get a second bid.

Historic Preservation – Beth Purcell (documents provided to Board members by email)

- Beth provided testimony to the HPRB for three projects: 1) proposed rear addition at 313 9th St NE; 2) proposed addition at 630 A St SE; 3) proposed addition at 640 Lexington Pl NE.
- The proposed changes to the church at 9th and D St NE will be reviewed again at the next HPRB meeting.
- Public access to pocket parks: application to install a fence around the pocket park at the corner of Tennessee Ave and 13th St SE, which would prohibit free public access to what is a public space, will not be taken up at the next HPRB meeting, but might be reviewed in the future.

The policy statement that DDOT issued on April 30 did not explicitly invalidate its prior (Oct 2013) ruling that reservation spaces should be treated the same as the “public parking” in front of rowhouses. CHRS Historic Preservation Committee will now focus on clarifying the regulations by obtaining an administrative order from DC that will give legal definitions to distinguish between public parking and reservations. The administrative order could then be issued as a regulation governing the issue, which could not be summarily overruled by another policy statement from a future director.

- Condo project at the Specialty Hospital (Medlink) at 7th and Constitution NE: the developer has made the roof deck compliant with zoning by putting up a second penthouse and connecting the two by a trellis. So not a roof deck, just two penthouses.

Community Development – Chuck Burger (handout of The Hub executive summary)

- The Hub at Eastern Market Metro Plaza: making progress. At this stage, the planners need a design drawing within 30 days. They are looking to partner with a local organization to create iPOST information booths at Metro Plaza and three satellite locations, which will use iPOST software to provide business and visitor information, both wireless and at the booths – a “virtual chamber of commerce.” They are also considering installing an ATM, which could generate thousands of dollars in revenue per month.
- HPRB approval of Metro Plaza plans: not necessary, as Metro Plaza is city property, like bus shelters.

City Planning – Monte Edwards

- Need for a citywide rail plan: the lack of coordination between different rail-related transportation projects administered by DDOT results in terrible inefficiencies. Mary Cheh will submit a proposal to the Council that allocates \$500,000 to create a rail plan.

Zoning – Gary Peterson

- Six cases were considered at the last Zoning Committee meeting. Three were interesting: 1) a pop up around the corner from SE Safeway – the Committee voted to oppose the project on the grounds that it would be visible from both sides; 2) two pizza parlors on 8th St and on Potomac Ave – the Committee voted to oppose both; 3) developer is proposing four buildings at 1333 M St SE, two would be 100ft and two 90ft – the Committee found these heights problematic right above the Anacostia.

Newsletter – Janet Quigley

President’s Column – Janet
 Recognition of outgoing Board members – Elizabeth
 Preservation Notes – Beth
 New pocket park policy - Beth
 Zoning Briefs – Gary
 House Tour wrap up – Paul
 Preservation Cafe – Greg Holeyman
 Reinstallation of 700 A windows – Janet
 Height Act change – Janet
 Evergreen article (if needed) – Beth

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm