

**Capitol Hill Restoration Society Board Meeting
Minutes for Meeting of 21 March, 2017
Second Floor Board Room, Capitol Hill Townhomes Community Building
750 6th Street SE, Washington DC**

Present: Elizabeth Nelson, Patrick Crowley, Susan Burgerman, Janet Quigley, Beth Purcell, Monte Edwards, Steve Kehoe, Justine Bello, Gary Peterson

Absent: Scott Davis, Chuck Burger, Patrick Lally, Joanna Kendig, Adam Apton, Susan Oursler

Guests: Brian Kraft, Carl Spier, Angie Schmidt

The meeting was called to order at 6:32.

Beth introduces guest speaker Brian Kraft (GIS Specialist — JMT Technology Group), who was invited to present about a possible grant opportunity through the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to produce high-quality interactive mapping of historic Capitol Hill.

Brian summarizes the work he and his colleagues have done previously for the District and the capabilities of geographic information systems (GIS) as it relates to capturing the historic data we have on resources in Capitol Hill and making it useful. Brian would assemble a team of architectural historians that would serve as the scholarly advisors to the project. The grant proposal will request \$400,000 and is due June 7.

Brian briefly describes the vision: to start in 1790, with the start of land ownership via lots and squares (the fundamental start of Capitol Hill). The team will consult primary documents to trace land ownership, which can be used to develop institutional histories, family histories, etc. They don't yet know the scope of geography, time, and level of detail; the budget will necessarily dictate how far the research can go. They envision that the deliverable would be a robust, multi-page website.

Minutes: *Justine*

There are no additional corrections to the minutes. Elizabeth moves to accept, Steve seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: *Adam (absent)*

There are no additional comments or questions on the report.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board revisits the zoning case concerning 646 6th Street, NE, BZA 19446 to ratify the vote that was previously conducted via email. The motion: "to overturn the recommendation of the CHRS ZC with respect to BZA19446 (support for the request for zoning relief) and instead request that the plans be redrawn to preserve the historic facade (dormer, windows, roof line)" [previously moved, by e-mail, by Patrick L and seconded by Joanna] was introduced by Elizabeth. It passes with 2 nays/abstentions.

NEW BUSINESS

NEH Grant Proposal

Beth's recommendation is that it be resolved that the President is authorized to pursue a grant from the NEH for digital projects for the public. Lisa moves, Susan B seconds.

A brief discussion follows about the mechanics of the proposed grant project, how CHRS would use it, how it would serve the mission of CHRS, and how the information would be housed in perpetuity.

The motion passes with one abstention.

House and Garden Tour: *Beth and Susan B*

All board members are reminded to sign up for House Tour ticket sales, which is being managed by Susan B.

Beth reports that most of the tour literature is being finalized, with final copy due by March 31. There are currently ~10 houses and other sites of interest on the tour (such as Naval Lodge #4 and Florida House). A walking tour of Terrace Court will also be integrated into the program.

Elizabeth emphasizes that house captains and docents are still needed. There's a brief discussion about how to manage credit card sales in a comprehensive way. People are also needed to canvass the neighborhood hanging posters; other staffing needs will come into play as the event approaches.

Dick Wolf Lecture: *Monte*

The winner is Kelsey Robertson, who will be presenting on the impact of climate change and rising seas to historic districts. The panel comprises: Tanya Stern, Tommy Wells, Gretchen Pfaehler.

A brief discussion follows about where help is still needed, such as: post-event clean-up, and someone to man the "membership" table in the hall outside the event (for sign-up, House Tour catalogs, name tags, etc).

Preservation Committee Report: *Beth*

316 G Street NE (in the Swampoodle addition): the owners propose a third story addition that the committee feels will be visible from oblique angles down G Street. The applicants also propose to close off the dogleg, which are otherwise intact on the block. The committee does not support this application.

Zoning Report: *Gary*

Gary reports on the same case as Beth (316 G Street NE), noting that his committee also opposes filling in the dogleg. He also adds that from the perspective of the zoning committee, the proposed third story addition would be set back 16 feet and as such, would not be visible or disruptive.

619 Elliot Street: The owners propose a cantilevered third floor over a dogleg. The committee does not support this application, citing that the dogleg must not have a third floor covering it.

President's Report: *Elizabeth*

Elizabeth offers many thanks to various board members for their recent efforts, including:

- Monte & his team for their efforts towards the Dick Wolf lecture
- Beth for stepping into the House Tour Chair role.
- Justine and Carl for their contributions to the recent Preservation Café, which was well attended despite foul weather.

Elizabeth also briefly reports on the work of Maygene Daniels, who has been working on “alternative advertising”—creative solutions to market the House & Garden Tour.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.