

CAPITOL HILL RESTORATION SOCIETY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 16, 2014
SECOND FLOOR BOARD ROOM, CAPITOL HILL TOWNHOMES COMMUNITY BUILDING

Present

Lisa Dale Jones, Monte Edwards, Drury Tallant, Susan Burgerman, Patrick Crowley, Undine Nash, Jeff Fletcher, Jim Taylor, Janet Quigley, Mary Wadleigh, Beth Purcell, Elizabeth Nelson, Justine Bello, Carl Spier

Meeting Minutes: Susan Burgerman

- The minutes of the July 15, 2014 meeting were included in the monthly meeting packet. **Moved:** A motion to approve the July minutes. **Seconded and approved.**

Treasurer's Report – Patrick Crowley (in packet)

- Patrick reviewed the income and expenses statement for the 2013-14 fiscal year, and compared CHRS's financial position as of August 31, 2014 with that of August 31, 2013. Overall, total equity is slightly higher now than at this time last year.
- There continue to be minor bugs in the bookkeeping system, which he hopes to resolve by consulting with an accountant.
- Discussion of increasing transparency by separating the bookkeeping function from the treasurer's responsibilities: this is standard practice in other organizations, to inhibit embezzlement. Patrick proposed that this be accomplished by contracting a professional bookkeeper to work part-time, on either an hourly or salaried basis, for an amount not to exceed \$10,000/year.
- A question arose – there is no line in the proposed FY14-15 budget to pay for a bookkeeper, how will this new position be funded? Reply: this could be proposed and voted on at the September 25 membership meeting.
- **Moved:** Lisa and Patrick will be given the authority to circulate an RFP, review proposals, and hire a contractor according to the above terms. **Seconded and approved.**
- Conflicts of interest: Board members should sign and comply with a statement of ethics in order to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest in dealing with local vendors or other interested parties. Such a statement already exists in the files, Carl will send it around by email for member signatures.

President's Report – Lisa Dale Jones (in packet)

- CSX Hearing: Lisa and Monte Edwards both testified before the DC Council at the August 26 hearing on the proposed Virginia Ave Tunnel – Lisa on behalf of CHRS, Monte for the Committee of 100. CHRS supports the “no build” option on this matter.
- September 25 Members' Meeting: there will be an informal meet and greet prior to the meeting; light refreshments will be served. Members will vote on the proposed new budget. Guest speaker for the forum will be Mark Buscaino, Executive Director of Casey Trees; the format will be interview rather than presentation.

- CHRS 60th Anniversary: a meeting of the ad hoc committee was held, which produced a preliminary list of activities for 2015.
- Mission Statement: Lisa proposed that the Board adopt a revised version of the statement drafted at the July members' retreat. **Moved, seconded, and approved** unanimously. It will be the official CHRS Mission Statement, to be used in the newsletter, website, and publicity materials.
- House Tour Design: **moved, seconded, and approved** to renew the contract with 202Design, which has handled design needs for House Tour brochures and promotional materials for several years. Their proposed fee is \$5,775, which is in line with previous years. In addition, they will provide a logo for the 60th anniversary to be used on all publications as a branding tool.

Update on 11th Street Bridge – Beth Purcell

- The bridge project is nearing completion. Discussion centered on a subsidiary project: an 11th Street Bridge Park. This appears to be going forward, despite concerns that it will destroy existing piers and overlooks.

Update on Website Improvements – Elizabeth Nelson

- Improvements are nearly finished. The web designer should be submitting his invoice before the end of the fiscal year, so the expense would be on this year's balance sheet.

Update on Union Station and the Swampoodle Historic District – Dru Tallant

- Dru reported on the ongoing efforts of the Union Station Preservation Coalition to influence the Akridge/Union Station Redevelopment Corp's development plans.
- At its July 22 meeting, ANC 6C voted in favor of expanding the Capitol Hill Historic District to include the Swampoodle neighborhood (2nd St to 4th St, F St to H St NE). Dru is putting together a final presentation for the Council, and is gathering letters of support from notable citizens. He foresees that much effort will be needed to mobilize the support of residents, as the issue could prove contentious.

Grants Committee Report – Dru Tallant

- Only one case was up for Board approval: replacing the front door at 625 3rd St NE (a condo building). The applicant had returned to the Committee with an appropriate door, and the Committee submitted the proposal for Board approval. **Moved, seconded, and approved.**

Budget – Patrick Crowley (no Budget Committee chair at this time)

- The proposed budget for FY14-15 has been cleared to be presented for a vote at the Members' Meeting.

Zoning – Jim Taylor

- 6 cases came before the commission at the last meeting, only one of which is significant: 538 3rd St NE, Martin's Market – the owner wishes to remodel and turn it into a 4-unit residential building. The plan would violate many zoning regulations and was rejected.

Historic Preservation – Beth Purcell (in packet)

- CHRS testified on three cases: garage demolition at 518 6th St SE, significant remodeling of an historic building at 625 South Carolina SE, and alterations to the front courtyard and public space at 700 Constitution NE.

In addition, Beth presented follow ups of 2 other cases:

- 630 D St NE (from last meeting): the owner wound up withdrawing his request to cut through the front retaining wall in order to create a ground floor entrance. Of note: the owners at 625 D St SE are now proposing a very similar cut through to create a ground floor entrance; difficult to predict how the HPRB will respond, and in any case DCRA could approve it under the Fair Housing Act, despite any conflict with the DC historic preservation act.
- The shotgun house at 1229 E St SE: HPO staff recommended against a raze permit, final decision is pending.

Newsletter – Justine Bello

- In order for an article the Members' Meeting to appear in the next newsletter without pushing back its deadline, Lisa will draft the framework for an article in advance.
- Monte will write an update on the CSX tunnel.
- Beth will do the Historic Preservation Briefs and an update of the 11th St Bridge.
- There will be a call for charter CHRS members to fill in historic content for the 60th anniversary.
- Elizabeth will preview the October Preservation Cafe.
- Dru will write an update of the Swampoodle Historic District decision.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm