

**Capitol Hill Restoration Society Board Meeting
Minutes for February 20, 2018
Capitol Hill Townhomes Community Building, 750 6th St. SE
Washington DC**

The following members were present:

Elizabeth Nelson, Monte Edwards, Susan Oursler, Joanna Kendig, Tina May, Susan Burgerman, Janet Quigley, Steve Kehoe, Beth Purcell, Chuck Burger, Greg Holeyman, Gary Peterson, Undine Nash

The following members were absent:

Adam Apton, Patrick Lally, Michelle Carroll, Lisa Dale Jones, Nina Tristani,

Also present were: Carl Spier and Angie Schmidt

Denise Pitts, attorney for a party opposed to a North Carolina Ave. NE Zoning case, appeared before the Board.

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm.

Minutes

Susan O. presented the minutes from the January 16 meeting. Janet made a motion to approve the minutes as read and Joanna seconded the motion. The minutes were approved without amendment.

Treasurer's Report

There was no treasurer's report.

President's Report

Elizabeth reported that 700 Constitution had asked CHRS to submit a letter of recommendation in support of their application to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Richard H. Driehaus Foundation National Preservation Award. Gary pointed out that a letter from CHRS would demonstrate the goodwill of the community, but would not guarantee the award. Beth reminded the board that 700 Constitution had been cooperative with HPRB. Gary made a motion that the Board agree to send a letter in support of 700 Constitution and Chuck seconded the motion. The motion was agreed to.

Dick Wolf Lecture

Monte reported that there were four submissions for the Dick Wolf award. The winner is a local archeologist Christine Ames who will focus on the findings in the trash pit behind the "shotgun" house at 1229 E Street, SE. Three special guests will discuss the major points of her lecture. They are: Architectural Historian and former archaeologist Stephen Hansen, Architect Emma Seabright, and Archeologist and former member of Historic Preservation Review Board Bob Sonderman. The lecture will take place on March 23, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Hill Center.

A CHRS Member's meeting will be held immediately before the lecture at 6:45.

Historic Preservation Committee

Beth updated the board on a proposal at 400 D Street, SE to install a parking structure in the interior of the block. The original proposal would have required a curb cut and an access road. A revised proposal has been submitted which would eliminate the parking structure, but would still require a curb cut and access road.

Other HPRB proposals were routine.

Zoning Committee

Gary reported on cases regarding properties at 1226 North Carolina Avenue, NE; 1511 C Street, SE, 656 Independence Avenue, and 218 D Street, SE.

Denise Pitts, attorney for a neighbor opposed to the North Carolina case, addressed the Board. After the Zoning Committee voted to approve this variance, Ms. Pitts' client objected to the variance on the grounds that the addition would block her sunlight. The case was reconsidered and both sides were asked to provide a shadow study. Neither side submitted a study by the February 8 meeting, but the applicant provided a study, subsequently.

Greg made a motion to send the measure back to the zoning committee for further review. Chuck seconded the measure. Monte amended the motion to further direct Gary to make a determination based on the CHRS Zoning Committee's findings. The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

Gary also reported on a request by the Capitol Day School for a zoning variance to use a property on D Street, SE for middle school classrooms. Board members expressed concerns about the property being used as a drop off and pick up point, and the Board agreed to support the measure provided that we receive further assurances that the building not be used for pick up and drop off.

Preservation Cafes

Joanna reported on plans for the March, April, and May Preservation Cafes. The series will focus on sustainability, including the Sustainable DC Plan, Solar Energy, and sustainable design.

Comprehensive Plan

Monte reported on Mayor Bowser's legislation, which would amend the Framework Element of the District's Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan (CP) is the District's primary land-use document. The Framework Element (FE) is the "definitions" section where the terms are laid out. The Office of Planning (OP) periodically undertakes an updating of the document. A commitment was made that, following an extensive comments

period during which many individuals, ANCs and other civic groups provided input, the revised document would be presented, in its entirety, to the public for a required 60-day review. Instead, the FE has been broken off and sent directly to Council for their consideration. The remainder of the CP has not been released. The language in the FE appears intentionally ambiguous to make it more difficult for the community to defend itself against unwanted and/or inappropriate development. In particular, it would constrain the community's right to appeal.

The City Council will hold a hearing on the legislation on March 20.

Beth made a motion to oppose the legislation and Chuck seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote. Beth will testify on behalf of the CHRS. Chuck will testify as a community member.

Susan B. made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Undine seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.