

CAPITOL HILL RESTORATION SOCIETY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES FOR MARCH 18, 2014
SECOND FLOOR BOARD ROOM, CAPITOL HILL TOWNHOMES COMMUNITY BUILDING

Present

Janet Quigley, Lisa Dale Jones, Patrick Crowley, Ben Klay, Undine Nash, Drury Tallant, Paul Cromwell, Beth Purcell, Elizabeth Nelson, Gary Peterson, Larry Pearl, Maurice Walters, Susan Burgerman, Gloria Junge

Guests: Justine Bello (prospective newsletter editor), Mimi Wolf

Meeting Minutes: Susan Burgerman

- The minutes of the February meeting were included in the monthly meeting packet. **Motion to adopt as amended** by the following: Treasurer's Report first paragraph should read "Patrick discussed his meeting with Thomas Jenkins, CPA, who agreed that CHRS does not need to be routinely audited, although it is good to have a CPA look at the books occasionally. Jenkins and Patrick corrected some prior year entries Patrick made in establishing the new accounting system. Pending completion of the accounting review, the Balance Sheet in the meeting packet should be considered a work in progress." **Moved, Seconded and Approved:** A motion to approve the February minutes.

Treasurer's Report – Patrick Crowley (in packet)

- Swampoodle Administration funds are currently under the restricted checking account (7072), but will be transferred to the general checking account (7775).
- Line 24 of Revenues & Expenses Report, short form, is the final payment for Boundaries Project documentation. Revenue for this expense was received in 2013, and therefore creates the appearance of imbalance for 2014. We should expect the same to happen with the Swampoodle grants.
- Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual – CHRS is in good financial shape.

President's Report – Janet Quigley (in packet)

- **Nomination** of Beth Purcell to chair the Historic Preservation Committee was **ratified** unanimously.
- Board was unanimous in thanking Shauna Holmes for her successful tenure as Chair of the Historic Preservation Committee. We are grateful that she will continue to work with the committee.
- Spring Membership Forum will be March 27 at the Northeast Library. The topic will be Recreation and Conservation of the Anacostia, with speakers from AWS and Anacostia Boathouse. Sign up for the next boat tours and boating classes will be available. New trails have opened up along the river.
- Discussion of meeting about MedLink construction with ANC leaders: standing room crowd indicated much community interest. The developer's presentation was encouraging and they agreed to work on communicating with the neighborhood residents via website: 700neighbors.com.
- Call for volunteers for May 10 "Volunteer Capitol Hill" event at the Hill Center.

Grants – Larry Pearl (memo in packet)

- Discussion of the problem of grant funds being used for renovations that do not comply with historic preservation requirements: Understandable how this could happen, as the original application language was underspecified, and assumed greater knowledge of historic preservation on the part of applicants than could reasonably be expected. The language has been tightened to emphasize preservation and restoration over general property improvements. Conditions are in place to require that applicants consult with experts (Drury Tallant has volunteered as consultant) before work begins.
- Currently, eight grant applications must be revised in order to comply with standards. Dru will speak to the applicants.
- In two cases, grants were approved, the work has been completed. A façade grant was only approved for one of these cases. The other was only approved for an energy grant, but went ahead with the façade work and now expects to be reimbursed the amount requested. CHRS has no influence over noncompliant work that was done not using grant funds, and Swampoodle is not yet a designated Historic District with regulatory controls. Nonetheless, there was a sense that CHRS should do something to rectify the situation.
- Larry presented a set of options for damage control (included in packet). **Motion** to accept Larry's option #5, amended to read: "Request that the applicant agree to changes suggested by CHRS to render the façade improvements compliant with historic design standards, with the understanding that CHRS would bear 100% of the cost not to exceed \$5000 over the initial grant amount. The work would be done by the applicant's contractor." **Moved, seconded, passed** with 10 in favor and 3 against.

House Tour – Paul Cromwell

- 10 houses and 2 gardens have been contracted. Two houses are in NE, leaving the house at 9th and A SE isolated on the footprint. There needs to be some kind of bridge to connect the more far flung.
- Postcards and posters are about 90% ready.
- One outstanding house, 617 Constitution, is chock full of antiques. The owner wishes to limit the public to the ground floor, but has offered to give up to eight private tours of the upstairs, which includes the 3rd largest planetarium in DC. Private tours will cost \$500 for two people. The offer will be announced in the next newsletter.
- The tea will be at the Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, pending confirmation.
- Volunteers are needed to sell tickets at Eastern Market Saturdays and Sundays starting April 19. A sign up sheet will be circulated to Board members by email. Elizabeth suggested offering tickets at the kiosk at the membership rate as incentive to become a member (member rate cutoff is 4/18). Tickets will be offered to Mothers on The Hill at member rates without requiring membership.
- Brochure ads are selling at a satisfactory pace.
- House captain assignments are pending.

Zoning – Gary Peterson

- Only one case came before the committee this session –routine request to fill in a dogleg on a nonconforming structure. Approved.
- Meeting with DDOT on the pocket park issue was rescheduled to Friday, March 21st.

11th Street Bridge Update – Beth Purcell (in packet)

- Project is over 90% complete, on schedule and within budget. The community should expect some temporary inconveniences in the short term.

Historic Preservation – Beth Purcell (Shauna's reports sent by email attachment)

- One case was noted: 719 12th St SE, additions proposed at front and rear of the house are much too large and would certainly overwhelm the historic structure. Further, interior demolition that has already taken place has compromised the building's structural integrity, rendering it unstable and threatening the historic house next door.

Dick Wolf Lecture – Janet Quigley (in Monte Edward's absence)

- Monte has been in communication with someone who organized a lecture series at the Building Museum, is familiar with preservation issues, and is willing to advise about structuring the Dick Wolf Lecture program.

Newsletter –Lisa Dale Jones

- The April issue will feature an article on the House Tour, including pictures. Paul will write this.
- Beth will do Preservation Briefs and an update on the 11th Street Bridge.
- Lisa would like to bring in oral histories of CH residents.
- Elizabeth suggested running an essay contest for CH kids on the topic of how they think of their neighborhood.
- Sona, the new wine and cheese place on Penn between 6th and 7th, submitted a history of dairies in this region. The piece is very long and has no Capitol Hill tie-in, but possibly some portion could be used for newsletter.
- An article on Capitol Hill breweries was suggested.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.