

Capitol Hill Restoration Society Board Meeting

Minutes for March 19, 2019

Capitol Townhouses Community Building, 750 6th Street SE, Washington DC

Member Present

Beth Hague, Beth Purcell, Monte Edwards, Joanna Kendig, Gary Peterson, Nina Tristani, Angie Schmidt, Michelle Carroll, Janet Quigley, Elizabeth Nelson, Tina May, Jim Thackaberry

Members Absent

Susan Burgerman, Undine Nash, Maygene Daniels, Susan Oursler, Chuck Burger, Patrick Lally, Lisa Dale Jones

Also Present

Jill Cullinane

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Minutes

The February minutes were corrected to change a small error in the House Tour report. Corrected minutes were approved being moved by Michelle Carroll and seconded by Joanna Kendig.

Treasurer's Report Jill Cullinane in Susan Oursler's absence

The Dick Wolf and Swampoodle accounts are getting separate check books. The reworked financial report is in a much easier to follow format. Committees now have separate listings in the report. The treasurer's report was accepted.

President's Report Elizabeth Nelson

Elizabeth presented a Partnership for Regional Growth information piece. CHRS may want to participate in the Partnership. She will circulate the information piece to board members by email.

The property at 1387 North Carolina Avenue NE was recently sold. The property needs to be watched for the possibility of redevelopment plans.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church has requested a letter of support from CHRS for an application for a DC Preservation League grant they are applying for to do further restoration work on their church. CHRS has given letters of support for DCPL grants given in the last year. The letter of support must be voted on tonight. The Board voted to send the letter of support on a motion moved by Gary Peterson and seconded by Beth Purcell. The text of the letter of support is as follows:

On behalf of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society, I am writing to express our support for St. Mark's Episcopal Church's proposal seeking a grant from the Dc Preservation League's Religious Property Bricks and Mortar Fund to assist with the cost of repairing historic masonry on the exterior of this landmark building.

Located at 3rd and A Streets SE, across from the John Adams Building of the Library of Congress, St. Mark's holds a significant position within the Capitol Hill Historic District. It is one of the District of Columbia's oldest and most beautiful churches, with a long association with Capitol Hill's community. Its history tells us a great deal about the history of the Hill and it stands as both an individual landmark and a contributing resource to the Historic District. The property was individually landmarked in 1964 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

The 19th century Sanctuary and the 1920s Parish House provides space for numerous activities, extending the church's role in the community beyond that of simply a religious institution. The congregation sponsors many adult and youth educational, cultural and arts-based afterschool and Saturday classes. St. Mark's Players, a community theater group, has used the church's sanctuary as its base for over 25 years.

Following the identification of brick and stone damage and deterioration last spring, the congregation promptly began the immense task of restoring this beautiful masonry structure. The church completed the first phase of work with assistance from DCPL Preservation Initiatives Grant funding in late 2018. They are continuing this effort with the restoration of the façade and distinctive corner tower; however, their work is far from over. Continued support from DCPL for the next phase of work would be of great help to the congregation in its effort to continue its stewardship of this important building.

We believe that St. Mark's is a worthy recipient of a DCPL's Preservation Initiative Grant for Bricks and support their funding request; the funds would be put to good use.

Dick Wolf Lecture Monte Edwards

The lecture by John Hillegass is March 29th at the Hill Center and will be followed by a panel discussion with three panelists – Andrew Trueblood, Director of the DC Office of Planning, John DeFerrari, author of Streets of Washington blog, and Uwe Brandes, associate professor in Urban and Regional Planning in the masters program at Georgetown University. Audio-visual problems were being worked out for the beginning of the lecture presentation. There was a run-through of the planned graphics for the lecture. Press releases were sent out and posters printed and posted around the Hill. Additional posters are available at the meeting tonight to take and distribute around the Hill. The lecture program has been printed and copies were presented at tonight's meeting. An overflow room is being provided for overflow crowd that can't get in the main room to listen to the lecture.

Historic Preservation Report Beth Purcell

224 C Street NE – an existing one story garage that proposes to add a second floor above the garage. Committee supported HPRB approval with the caveat that the proposed color of the siding be a more complementary color.

326 A Street SE – the Historic Preservation Office required new plans to be filed that showed the extent of the actual demolition and the actual new restored building structure plans.

209 C Street SE - a stop work order was issued by HPO to prevent excavation of the front yard prior to consideration and possible approval of the proposed front yard excavation. Committee opposed approval of the project and urged issuance of the stop work order.

620 C Street SE - a proposed third story pop-up third floor addition to rise from the front wall of the existing historic two story building. Committee opposed the additions as not compatible and urged a redesign.

Zoning Report Gary Peterson

The February 21, 2019 meeting report was sent by email to the board members. The next meeting is on March 21st. Reports on future meetings will be sent out by email several days after the meeting has occurred.

Little League Sponsorship Angie Schmidt

CHRS is sponsoring a AA team named the Restoration Nats. The team is for children 7 and 8 years old. The games will be played in April and May with the season ending June 1st. The game schedule has not been published yet as of the time of tonight's meeting.

Newsletter Angie Schmidt

A summary of the articles for the upcoming newsletter was given. There will be a recap of the Dick Wolf lecture, House Tour articles and photos and maps as well as an order form for House Tour tickets. Zoning reports in the newsletter will lag the meetings by two months. The first three place winners in the photo contest will be in the newsletter. The submission deadline for the photo contest is March 25th.

House Tour Report Michelle Carroll

There will be ten houses on the tour. Houses docents still have to be selected. But house captains have to be selected first.

Eastern Market Reopening Commemoration Monte Edwards

The commemoration event will take place on June 10th which is a Monday. Docents are needed and will need to be trained. The docents will lead tours of the Market which will be about 45 minutes long.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

