

Capitol Hill Restoration Society Board Meeting

Minutes for June 18, 2019

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

Members Present

Susan Oursler, Beth Hague, Beth Purcell, Maygene Daniels, Janet Quigley, Elizabeth Nelson, Undine Nash, Angie Schmidt, Joanna Kendig, Patrick Lally, Jim Thackaberry, Gary Peterson, Monte Edwards

Members Absent

Chuck Burger, Tina May, Nina Tristani

Others Present

Jill Cullinane

Minutes

The minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report Susan Oursler

The treasurer's report was accepted as published.

President's Report Elizabeth Nelson

Volunteers are needed for the July 4th parade. Mardi Gras beads will be thrown out to the crowd. Elizabeth's garden cart is Plan B for carrying the beads if no car is found to transport the beads. The parade starts at 10:00 AM under the expressway overpass. In a Preservation Café Series update, Elizabeth announced that the City East Bookshop will be the venue for upcoming café presentations. The first presentation will be on the urban tree canopy with a representative from the Urban Forestry Administration of DDOT making the presentation.

Stanton Park Neighborhood Association Funds Transfer Patrick Lally

Unobligated fund balances from the defunct Neighborhood Association will be transferred to CHRS. The Neighborhood Association was disbanded and the unobligated funds need to be transferred. Patrick gave a short history of the organization before it became inactive. It is still a corporation in good standing with the District and their agent will make the funds transfer to CHRS. It was agreed by the Board to set up a separate CHRS account with a sunset date of five years to use the funds for land planning purposes in the Stanton Park area. Gary Peterson moved and Patrick Lally seconded the motion to establish the account.

Membership Meeting Beth Hague

The meeting will be at the Hill Center and there will be a presentation by the Office of Planning and a presentation on the Little League team that CHRS sponsored.

Request for funding for Call Box Project in ANC 6C Elizabeth Nelson

Elizabeth was approached by a representative of ANC 6C about the possibility of CHRS financial support for refurbishing old police & fire call boxes in the ANC 6C area. Possibly, Swampoodle account funds could be used for this purpose but, if so, the call boxes must be located in the Swampoodle portion of the Capitol Hill Historic District. More would have to be known before any commitment could be made. A draft letter was prepared for CHRS Board approval. The letter indicates a general willingness to collaborate but sets out many threshold conditions that must be met before CHRS will consider funding. The draft letter was amended to include a requirement for a budget for the project. The amended letter was approved by the Board in a motion moved by Maygene Daniels and seconded by Undine Nash.

Consulting Party Status Beth Purcell

A draft letter has been prepared from CHRS to the Marines requesting that CHRS be included as a consulting party in a Section 106 Review being conducted on upcoming renovations to an old commercial building at the northwest corner of 8th and I Streets. A motion to approve was moved by Susan Oursler and seconded by Undine Nash and approved by the Board to send the draft letter.

Membership Task Force Maygene Daniels

It is very important for CHRS to development better management of our membership status. We need better CHRS brochures pitching membership. We need to officially create a membership task force to work on membership strengthening options. It was the sense of the Board that the task force should move forward with various membership strengthening options. Jill Cullinane needs to go through the membership rosters for the last five years.

Historic Preservation Report Beth Purcell/Joanna Kendig

Folger Shakespeare Library - Joanna Kendig The Library is digging out the basement of the building to create a new accessible entrance and more exhibit space. As part of digging out the basement, two sunken courtyards are being created in the public space at each East Capitol Street corner of the building. There is to be an eastern accessible entrance to the theater and a western accessible entrance to the Library. The original grand architectural entrances will be maintained and the doors remain in place but the doors hardware is proposed to be removed and the doors made non-functional. The committee comments support the new accessible entrances but strongly encourage to maintain the original architectural entrances as functional and continue to use them also in addition to the new accessible basement entrances.

Zoning Gary Peterson

The Groff Court NE project adjacent neighbors have hired a lawyer to fight the proposed addition to be the back of the alley dwelling unit.

Swampoodle Grant Application

An energy upgrade grant application for the house at 732 3rd Street NE was approved by the Board.

Draft Budget Discussion

Particulars of the proposed budget were discussed at length. The formal budget will be presented at the July Board meeting.

Newsletter Angie Schmidt

The deadline for submitting items for the newsletter is June 30th.

Elizabeth Nelson announced that is no longer a House Tour Chair. The board members need to think about who should be the new Chair.

Adjournment - meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.