

Capitol Hill Restoration Society Board Minutes

Minutes for October 22, 2020

Meeting held remotely on line

Members Present

Beth Purcell, Beth Hague, Elizabeth Nelson, Nick Alberti, Gary Peterson, Joanna Kendig, Alison Ross, Undine Nash, Angie Schmidt, Maygene Daniels, Jim Thackaberry, Monte Edwards

Members Absent

Chuck Burger, Christine Mullins

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

There were no minutes from a previous Board meeting to be approved.

President's Report Beth Purcell

Public Space case – A proposal to build an 8x10 ft. storage building and 4-6 ft. fence on public parking at 205 15th Street NE, a corner lot at North Carolina Ave. If allowed, this would set a precedent for construction being allowed on public parking. Elizabeth Nelson argued that CHRS should send a letter of opposition to the shed/accessory building to DDOT (with a cc to others including ANC 6A). A motion authorizing the letter of opposition was made and approved. Elizabeth will help prepare the letter of opposition. No position was taken on the fence.

Beth Purcell has researched and authored a book on Capitol Hill's built history entitled Capitol Hill Past and Present. The book is to be released in early November and all royalties will be donated to CHRS. Beth asked for a motion to do a write up on the book in the next newsletter. The motion was made but the sense of the Board was that no vote was necessary on the motion and that the book will be discussed in the next newsletter.

Beth Purcell nominated Elizabeth Nelson to serve as House Tour Chair. A motion confirming the appointment was made and approved.

CHRS sent a letter commenting on the Union Station Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Elizabeth Nelson mentioned that a notice regarding a November Pottery on the Hill virtual event at the Hill Center was placed on our website. She suggested that we also put a notice regarding it in the next newsletter.

Treasurer's Report Nick Alberti

The budget financial report was emailed to Board members prior to the meeting. Nick made the report and highlighted detail of the financial report. No approval was necessary.

House Tour Report Elizabeth Nelson

Elizabeth reported that our virtual house tour was very well received and got good publicity for CHRS. However, since we could not sell tickets for an actual in person tour, there was no revenue brought

except for whatever sponsors and underwriters we already had. No more income is expected to come in on the virtual tour. Elizabeth estimates that we have lost at least a year's worth of revenue and possibly two years' worth of revenue if we are unable to have an in person house tour in this coming year. At this point, Elizabeth is not sure that we will be able to have an in person house tour this coming year. Maygene Daniels suggested that the Board needs to think creatively about how we can successfully have another on line virtual house tour again this coming year if the pandemic persists well into the new year.

Preservation Café Elizabeth Nelson reported for Chris Mullins

The next Café being held tomorrow night is titled Homicide on the Hill and will be given by Robert Pohl. We will be using the Webex conference facility to hold the presentation on line. Maygene Daniels suggested that for future Café presentations we might want to consider using Zoom because she thinks that that is more accessible to users. Beth Purcell suggested that people who have problems using Webex should contact her by email to describe the problems they encountered.

Historic Preservation Committee Joanna Kendig

1382 East Capitol Street NE - A third floor addition is proposed to the existing two story building on the corner of 14th Street SE and East Capitol Streets and will be visible from across the street on both streets. The proposed addition doesn't meet the Historic District setback requirements. The project designers are going to submit revised plans to the Historic Preservation Review Board. The committee will look at this revised plans and render advice to the project designers.

Membership Report Maygene Daniels

CHRS has lost many members and needs to think about ways to increase our membership significantly. Renewal requests are being sent out by email to members with expiring memberships to encourage them to renew their memberships.

Emerald Street Outreach Beth Hague

A letter has been prepared to send to the residents on Emerald Street to invite them to become CHRS members. Beth Hague and Elizabeth Nelson suggested that the letters be personalized with hand written notes at the bottom of the letter.

Zoning Report Gary Peterson

No report to be made for tonight's meeting but there will be a report ready to go in the next newsletter in the time for the newsletter submission deadline.

Newsletter Angie Schmidt

The next issue will be the November issue with a submission deadline for articles of October 25, 2020. Some of the articles for the issue will be:

Preservation Café – a recap of the just about to be held café and a preview of coming attractions in future cafes; Historic Preservation report; Zoning Committee report; a general fundraising appeal letter from Beth Purcell; an article describing and briefly reviewing Beth Purcell's Capitol Hill Past and Present book.

In closing Beth Purcell indicated that a Hill East group may soon disband and give its remaining funds to CHRS.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM