

CLEVELAND PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of Board of Directors' Meeting
September 26, 2006
Cleveland Park Congregational Church

In Attendance: Claudia Alderman, Andrew Aurbach, Alison Barr, Kimberly Durham Bates, John Buchanan, Camilla Carpenter, Maria Casarella, Eleni Constantine, Jane Treacy, Patrick Gonzales, Christine Rose, Joan Habib, Ann Hamilton, Diane Hartley, Rachelle Levitt, Susan Lynner, Danna McCormick, Lois Orr, Peggy Robin, Lewis Simons, Carol Simons, Carol Lynn Ward-Bamford, and Gwen Wright.

President, Joan Habib, welcomed all present and called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. She introduced the Board to Kimberly Durham Bates, the new Activity and Administrative Coordinator. Joan also presented the *Voices* newsletter, which has a new look and is intended to be published quarterly. Carol and Lewis Simons spoke a bit about the changes and asked that members please submit articles for the newsletter. The newsletter will go to everyone in the database. Danna McCormick has been establishing a database of all residents of Cleveland Park. At present, the database is comprised of about 1400 residents, and Danna hopes to incorporate many of the residents of apartment buildings in Cleveland Park soon.

Lois Orr updated the Board on the house tour. It will be held on Sunday, October 29th from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. There are 8 houses on the tour with 3 on Newark Street and 5 on Macomb Street. Gwen Wright agreed to oversee finding docents for the house tour. The Board felt that 2 docents per house per shift would be sufficient, as well as 3 volunteers at the first house to handle the tickets. Lois will post a notice about the house tour on the list-serve and will work to have articles in the *Current* and *Post* about the house tour. At the very least, Lois will have a notice posted in both newspapers under the Calendar of Events. The Board agreed that it would not be necessary to pay for advertising in the newspapers. Lois will write up the house tour brochure, and Carol Lynn Ward-Bamford agreed to edit and proofread.

Rachelle Levitt presented the financial statement, which showed that CPHS's revenues were slightly ahead of its expenses. CPHS switched its banking accounts from Bank of America to Chevy Chase Bank but still needs to closeout the ROMP account.

Eleni Constantine explained that the laws regulating historic or conservation easements have been changed to stem the abuse of this program. One change requires that the easement apply to all four facades of a structure (not only the front façade) making alterations to any part of the structure more difficult. A filing fee has also been added to the new law. Eleni proposed holding a panel discussion with panelists who have both a local and national perspective in early December to discuss the changes in the Easement laws. Eleni also proposed writing up a brochure and videotaping the panel discussion.

The National Trust does have information regarding the changes in the law posted on its website.

Andrew Aurbach asked that the Board consider passing a resolution in support of the proposed Comprehensive Plan for the District of Columbia. He presented Tersh Boasberg's testimony before the city council and asked the Board to consider supporting Mr. Boasberg's testimony in favor of adopting the Comprehensive Plan. The Board agreed to consider voting on a resolution to support the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan emphasizing support for the Preservation Element incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan within 2 weeks via email. The Board did not want to vote immediately on a resolution without understanding the objections to the Comprehensive Plan. The city council plans to open hearings on the Comprehensive Plan in October, and the entirety of the Comprehensive Plan can be found on the CPCA website.

Joan and Camilla Carpenter are working on a short film of the history of Cleveland Park.

New Business

Lois Orr and the ARC are working on new architectural guidelines for the historic district. Lois proposed inviting an architect in to evaluate the historic district and flag issues in preservation that have arisen in the last twenty years under the ARC review.

Joan presented mock-ups of 2 proposals for a new CPHS website. Danna McCormick's proposal includes building a new Cleveland Park website with a new graphic design and regularly updating the website. Melissa Allen's proposal includes a website design but would hire a website developer to build the website. Once Danna had explained her proposal to the Board in detail, she excused herself from the meeting so that the Board could discuss the proposals freely. Following a discussion, a motion to select Danna McCormick's proposal with a direction to Joan Habib to negotiate with Melissa Allen to potentially provide Allen's graphic designs pro bono for the website was heard and seconded. Further discussion followed. An amendment was added to agree to an hourly rate as proposed in McCormick's contract up to a cap of \$3,000. Further discussion followed regarding clarifying the scope of the work proposed in the contract. Another amendment was added delegating to Joan Habib the duty of negotiating the contract terms with Danna McCormick especially with regard to backdoor capabilities for the website and pricing if the graphic design elements are provided pro bono.

The motion passed.

The meeting ended at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Barr