

(Note: These minutes are the first draft and have not been approved by the Executive Council. Please see next months minutes for any corrections.)

CAPITOL NEIGHBORHOODS, INC.
MINUTES of Executive Council Meeting Held Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2009.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Plotkin (President), Megan Christiansen, Ostlind, Cooper, Yarborough, Phelps, Patterson, Wurl-Koth, Mayer, Stitt, Kaufman, Schnick, Fisher, Zellers, Devitt, Berger and O'Brien.

I. Meeting called to order. There was no quorum at first.

II. TREASURER'S REPORT.

(Christiansen presented the report as the first item of business due to the lack of quorum.)
We have a bank balance of \$15,574.37; of which \$7,467.01 is in checking, and the rest is in CDs.

III. ACTION ITEMS.

Website Draft.

Phelps seeks comments and suggestions on the draft for the CNI website he sent out a few weeks ago. Please review the draft and send any suggestions to Phelps.

Garden Committee Resolution.

This still needs to be done.

IV. DISTRICT REPORTS.

James Madison Park.

Wurl-Koth reports that those who attended the district meeting this past week expressed their discontent with the alderperson's lack of response to phone calls and e-mails. When the alder attends meetings, she does not "hear" the opinions of residents on a number of issues, she added.

Long range work on the neighborhood plan continues, but the lack of connection with the alder makes it difficult (in response to an e-mail she sent the alder regarding the Edgewater Hotel, Wurl-Koth said, the alder referred to those who opposed the project as "left wing radicals").

They discussed the idea of having a monthly dinner gathering at the new Las Cazuelas Mexican restaurant in the Butler Plaza. Stitt and Plotkin agreed this would be a good idea. Stitt added this could be done in each district at a restaurant in that district.

Mansion Hill.

Regarding the Edgewater Hotel issue, Plotkin simply asked: "Do I need to say more?" Stitt suggested including as a separate "Action Item" on the agenda for the January EC meeting the threat to historic districts coming out of the Edgewater project. He urged us to discuss the threat and what we intend to do about it. Stitt suggested that we work with other historic districts. Plotkin responded that we have already reached out to Tenney-Lapham, Vilas and Marquette.

Bassett.

Ostlind reports the Plan Commission staff is not comfortable with the development proposal for 115-117 S. Bassett. As a compromise, it approved the renovation of the two houses facing the street, but ruled that the construction proposed for the rear yard must come back through the process as an amendment to the PUD. He called this a "long and tortuous process for the applicant and the neighborhood." It is scheduled to go before the full city council January 5, 2010.

The APEX proposal for Wilson St. is on hiatus. The developers will get back in touch with the neighborhood some time in January, Ostlind said.

The construction of the Hyatt Hotel on W. Wash. is moving along and they have applied for a liquor license for the café. Stitt asked about the "huge" canopy that extends out over the sidewalk on W. Wash. and spans the width of the building. Ostlind answered that the district opposed this but lost "at every level."

The Eric Minton proposal for 425 W. Wash. has been postponed. Mayer asked whether they may have to start all over. Ostlind answered: perhaps, unless they get an extension from the alder.

Mifflin West.

Plotkin has nothing to report.

First Settlement.

Christiansen reports the district met last Tuesday (12/15) and discussed opening up the district listserv to everyone, not just to residents, in the interest of transparency. They also discussed the implications for historic districts from the Edgewater project.

Problems continue at the house on 14 S. Franklin next to Joe Schnick's home. Schnick has set up a website to address it. Stitt suggested more lighting in the area.

Stitt suggested a district social dinner at the new Butler Plaza Mexican restaurant.

[There is now a quorum.]

To ensure a quorum in the future, Stitt suggested the option of a proxy for those who can't make it to the EC meeting. Plotkin said he is uncomfortable with that idea, but it is something we could discuss. Zellers suggested reminding EC members of the bylaw provisions concerning attendance and the affect of absences on membership status at EC meetings.

V. MINUTES of Nov. 15, 2009 EC Retreat are APPROVED: on MOTION by Zellers; SECOND by Patterson.

VI. MINUTES of Nov. 24 EC Meeting, are AMENDED to reflect the following corrections:
In the Mansion Hill report. Regarding the Edgewater project, the developer is the *Hammes Co.* (Not the "Dunne Corp."); they propose to add 80 rooms at a cost of \$16 million *in TIF funds* and are saying they will hire 400 hotel employees.

In the First Settlement report. Regarding a development proposal for the Rubin's Furniture building, the discussion actually concerned the "*Lake Terrace*" building.

In the James Madison Park report. To reflect the correct spelling of Jack *Holzhueter* from the State Historical Society.

In the Physical Linkages Committee report. To reflect that Eric Paulson, not Mayer, attended the Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable.

In the Old Business-Demolition Protocol update. To reflect the correct spelling of new DROC member Pete *Herreid*.

AS SO AMENDED, the minutes are APPROVED: on MOTION by Ostlind; SECOND by Patterson.

ACTION ITEMS (continued from "III" above).

Geranium Sale.

Plotkin reports that Rick and Diane Broughman have agreed to serve as co-chairs of the Geranium Sale. This will be of great assistance to Yarborough. This makes them *de facto* chairs of a subcommittee of the Garden Committee.

A MOTION by Stitt, with a SECOND by Patterson, to appoint Rick and Diane Broughman as co-chairs of the Geranium Sale, is APPROVED.

Reimbursement of Phelps for new software.

Christiansen reports that Lynn Phelps wants to update the CNI software and attend a training session for a new "Adobe" software program called "N Design." He would like to be reimbursed \$489 for this; consisting of \$199 for the new program and \$299 for the course. Patterson has used "N Design" and recommends it. He also knows of an organization that makes it available to non-profits at lower rates. He'll send out a link to that information.

A MOTION by Stitt, with a SECOND by Zellers, authorizing Phelps to purchase the “N Design” software and attend the course, after first checking out the link provided by Patterson to see if we can obtain it at a lower rate, is APPROVED.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Parking Committee.

According to Devitt, the committee’s work is done and this can be taken off the agenda. Zellers asked whether any report was prepared summarizing the committee’s work. Devitt answered there was nothing.

IX. REPORT OF THE ALDERPERSONS.

No one present.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education and City Issues Monitoring.

Patterson has nothing to report.

Program.

Julie Wurl-Koth has graciously agreed to serve as Program Committee Chair.

A MOTION by Zellers, with a SECOND by Plotkin, that Julie Wurl-Koth be appointed the new CNI Program Committee Chair, is APPROVED. Stitt and Zellers agreed to serve on the committee. Others are welcome.

Downtown Living Tour.

Cooper has nothing to report.

Membership.

Kaufman reports that updating the website is the big item these days. There has been some delay because Lodahl and Hecht are out of town for some time. The committee is discussing ideas for the newsletter such as: a “Letter to the Editor,” a “Community Forum,” a regular student column providing a student perspective and a “Meet Your Neighbor” article where a CNI member would be interviewed at random.

Kaufman agreed with Phelps’ assessment that more committee members are needed, noting that meetings have had to be cancelled because current members are gone; sometimes only Kaufman and Phelps are present, and there is no quorum.

Development Review Oversight.

Ostlind has nothing to report.

Finance.

Christiansen reports the committee has discussed the budget, but it has not progressed far enough to bring before the EC. They expect to have a finished product for the January EC meeting.

President’s Report.

According to Plotkin, Mifflin West Chair Larry Warman has asked whether Brandon Cooke could serve as a Mifflin West District representative even though Cooke lives just outside the district (in Bassett). Stitt commented that more flexibility is better. Mayer pointed out that he was a Mifflin West district representative without living in the district. Stitt provided the historical perspective: We had discussed at some length in the past the issue whether people who live across the street from a district, or just outside CNI boundaries, could be members. Zellers believes that those who desire to participate should be encouraged. If Cooke believes he can adequately represent that district, and the district believes he can adequately represent them, she would support it. Plotkin will report back to Warman that the consensus is it would be permissible for Cooke to serve as a Mifflin West representative.

Physical Linkages.

Mayer had nothing to report other than to remind people to be careful on the slippery roads and sidewalks outside.

Downtown Plan.

Berger read in the recent Bassett district meeting minutes that the city's meeting to discuss the downtown plan recommendations has been put off to February. She will find out the date for everyone. Ostlind said no date has yet been set. Ald. Verveer told him city staff intends to make a public presentation of their recommendations for the plan at the Feb. meeting. They must still get feedback from the Plan Commission before then. Ostlind believes the public will be able to attend the meeting but will not be able to comment. Zellers added that Bill Fruhling told her last week the plan has been delayed because of other Plan Commission items. She also believes members of the public will be allowed to speak at the Feb. meeting; they just won't be encouraged to do so.

Zoning Code Re-Write.

Zellers has nothing to report.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

NEXT EC MEETING: *Tuesday, January 26, 2010, 5:15 p.m., State Capitol Rm. 415 NW.*

AGENDA* for the Jan. 26th EC Meeting

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM.
- II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DEC. EC MINUTES.
- III. TREASURER'S REPORT.
- IV. REPORT ON SAFETY/CRIME DOWNTOWN.
- V. ACTION ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS.
Comments on website draft;
Garden Committee resolution;
Threats to historic districts from the Edgewater Hotel process (Stitt);
Other.
- VI. OLD BUSINESS
Housing inventory – candidates for owner/occupancy (Glen)
Other.
- VII. DISTRICT REPORTS
Bassett, Mifflin West, Mansion Hill, James Madison Park, First Settlement.
- VIII. REPORTS OF THE ALDERPERSONS.
- IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS
ASM (Student Liaison) (Hannah Karns – recently resigned), Education and City Issues Monitoring (Patterson), Garden (Yarborough), Program (Wurl-Koth), Downtown Living Tour (Cooper), Membership/Media (Kaufman), DROC (Ostlind), Development (Paulson), Finance (Christiansen), President's Report (Plotkin), Physical Linkages (Mayer), Downtown Plan (Berger), Zoning Code Re-Write (Zellers).
- X. ADJOURNMENT.

* Agenda subject to change by Plotkin.