

Minutes of the Executive Board of the Pullman Civic Organization – January 12, 2022

In Attendance: President Rachel Smith, Vice President John Lydon, Treasurer Debbie Newman (also Pullman Flyer), Secretary Wyatt Ollestad (also Beman), Zone Directors Tom McMahon, Harriette Watson, Lynne Collins, Susan Schoephoester (also Hospitality), Megan Lydon (also Beman); HPF Representative Jim Badali; Claudia Flores (Membership), Cindy McMahon (House Tour); Beverly Ash-Larson & Bob Bushwaller (Vision), Teri Gage (NPS)

A quorum having been established, President Smith convened the meeting via Zoom at 7:42PM.

Draft December Executive Board & General Membership Minutes were circulated in advance and posted to the website.

Motion: To adopt the December Executive Board Minutes as posted. M/S/P (ML/DN)

Treasurer reported an Opening balance of \$30,929.32 and a Closing balance of \$37,159.37.37 for the month of December, broken up as follows: Operating: \$20,237.97; Façade: \$12,075.00; Kirchner: \$1,414.23; Savings: \$3,432.17. The report will be filed for audit. Further, the Treasurer reported an Opening balance of \$38,082.30 and a Closing balance of \$30,543.14 for the House Tour Fund.

Discussion was held regarding recent proposed charges for the PCO's website hosting – approval for an allocation to cover unexpectedly higher costs will be requested of the General Membership.

Membership Committee reported that there are 302 total active members to date. Additionally, the Committee will deliver a breakdown of current active members by Block Captain to Zone Directors soon.

Beman Committee announced that it is pursuing a Timuel Black Grant from Landmarks Illinois to help it complete its Façade Legacy Project to cover the historic facades in the northern part of the Pullman Historic District. The Committee also announced the recipients of this year's Façade Reimbursement Program, for which there was enough funding available to offer reimbursements to all qualifying applicants. The Committee is also planning on hosting a workshop to help those needing assistance with the City's permitting process for projects.

Education Committee [John Lydon] reported that CPS resumed classes in-person as of this date.

Discussion was held regarding recent recommendations that the PCO have a dedicated Facebook page, and the President suggested such a page be developed by volunteers. Additional discussion was held regarding concerns about PCO website access.

President reported that the Bylaws Committee had had its first meeting.

Vision Committee reported that the results from its most recent community survey had been compiled; such results were thus presented to the Board. A dedicated block of time to further discuss the findings of the Committee with the Board will be added to next month's regularly scheduled Executive Board meeting, to take place starting at 7:00PM that day.

National Park Service announced that Sarah Buchmeier and Sarah Holding had recently been hired on as full-time employees, the latter to act as Community Volunteer Ambassador. Further, NPS reported that

educational programming at the Monument will be expanding, with three new term positions relating thereto to be posted for hire soon, in addition to regular seasonal positions. Additionally, the joint General Management Plan for the Monument is still on track to be debuted in the Spring, although there will be a Situation Assessment meeting assembled regarding it before such debut. Additional details will be forthcoming.

Old Business:

- Open volunteer opportunities remain

It was announced that the Black History Month Ad Hoc Committee has decided not to program any in-person events, but will take the President's recommendation to explore other opportunities for programming under advisement.

New Business:

- Condolences were expressed to the friends and family of recent passings, including longtime Pullman resident Joe Lopez
- Opportunities for community partnerships are actively being sought and considered, among them:
 - o the Far South Chicago Coalition & Lamar Johnson Collaborative's Far South Chicago Quality-of-Life Plan Virtual Community Charette, scheduled to be held on January 13
 - o Amazon's agreement to provide a non-cash donation of \$10,000 to the PCO for the purposes of community-building, ideas for which use are currently being brainstormed
- The HPF asked that everyone mark their calendars for May 14 and 15 for the Foundation's 'railroad days', for which volunteers will assuredly be needed
- The Vice President has been in touch with a representative of Vertical Harvest, which seeks to build a greenhouse adjacent to the Pullman Wheelworks in the northern part of the District and to be completed in 2023. The representative may present further information at a forthcoming General Membership meeting, and/or at a dedicated, larger-scale community forum
- Discussion was held regarding ways to ensure local businesses keep their sidewalks cleared of snow and ice during the winter months

Motion to adjourn at 9:16PM M/S/P (LC/DN)

Submitted,
Wyatt Ollestad, Secretary