

## Minutes of the General Membership of the PCO – March 16, 2022

A quorum having been established, President Smith convened the meeting at 7:40PM.

Secretary reported that the Draft February General Membership and March Executive Minutes had been posted in advance online; there being no corrections, additions, or deletions requested.

**Motion:** To adopt the February General Membership Minutes as posted. [M/S/P Lynne Collins, Ed Krueger]

Treasurer reported an Opening Balance of \$37,159.37 and a Closing Balance of \$36,821.59 for the month of January, broken up as follows: Operating: \$19,900.16; Façade: \$12,075.00; Kirchener: \$1,414.23; Savings: \$3,432.20. Additionally, the Treasurer reported an Opening Balance of \$36,821.59 and a Closing Balance of \$35,677.48 for the month of February, broken up as follows: Operating: \$19,690.28; Façade: \$11,140.75; Kirchener: \$1,414.23; Savings: \$3,432.22. The reports will be filed for audit.

Brief discussion was held regarding the annual donation amount from the PCO to the HPF for the use of its facilities, and it was agreed by both parties that the donation amount would be \$900.

Membership Committee reported 302 members for the year, and thanked the Zone Directors and Block Captains for making this a successful year.

Beman Committee announced that it had received the Timuel Black Grant from Landmarks Illinois to complete its Façade Legacy Project to cover the facades in the northern part of the district.

**Motion** For the PCO to become a member of Landmarks Illinois for the year to allow for its receipt of the Timuel Black Grant, at a cost of \$35 and with such funds to be deducted from the Committee's Stewardship Awards Budget line item. [M/S/P Cindy McMahan, Tom McMahan]

The Committee presented its Stewardship Awards covering the past few years' façade improvement projects in the community, and thanked its Committee members for the provision of refreshments for tonight's meeting.

Education Committee announced that the new LSC would be starting up shortly, with associated elections to take place in April. Additionally, the Committee reported that students from Pullman Elementary are helping fundraise for an 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip, and that they may be going door-to-door in the neighborhood for such purposes soon.

Welcome Committee mentioned that fifteen welcome bags had recently been distributed, but that the Committee was aware of at least three new move-ins needing bags; anyone with names and addresses of the new move-ins are encouraged to notify the Chair.

Community Improvement Committee announced that the streetlights along Cottage Grove from 109<sup>th</sup> to 111<sup>th</sup> or 113<sup>th</sup> and the ones in Arcade Park that are out have been reported, and that the Chair is following-up with the Alderman regarding them. Further, the Chair announced that Sherwin-Williams would be starting its scheduled clean-up of its property along 115<sup>th</sup> soon, and the Chair would be in touch with them regarding the best, most 'important' dates to the community for them to so.

Additionally, there will be a community Clean & Green in the near future, with details to be announced at a later date.

Vision Committee announced that its final report, 'A Vision Forward: Five-Year Strategic Plan', is still available on the PCO website, and is currently in need of actions from the Membership on its findings.

Bylaws Committee announced that its review of the Organization's Bylaws is complete, but that an incorrect version of its proposed changes had been posted in this month's Flyer – a correct version was made available at this meeting, and is on the website.

Nominating Committee presented its current slate of nominees, as follows:

- President: John Lydon
- Vice President: TBD
- Treasurer: Elizabeth Mishler
- Secretary: Wyatt Ollestad
- Zone Directors: Eva Villagomez (Zone 1), Harriette Watson (Zone 2), Susan Schoephoester (Zone 3), Beatrice Hardy (Zone 4)
- Nominating Committee: Cheryl Briscoe, Wyatt Ollestad, Beverly Ash-Larson

It was announced that Beverly Ash-Larson had recently been appointed for the current Nominating Committee, but that one more position remains open, and those interested in being appointed should contact the President.

House Tour announced that it was currently working on securing houses for this year's Tour and that two had so far been confirmed. The Committee will begin meeting in April, and those interested in serving on the Committee or having their house featured should contact Cindy. Further, it was reported that the Volunteer Coordinators were already hard at work on further refining the Committee's volunteer process for this year.

HPF announced that it is currently growing its staff, including: Shameer Goss, new Outreach Coordinator, who was introduced to the community; and Rebecca Conant. Further, the HPF announced that:

- construction on the Exhibit Hall would begin March 28, necessitating that the building be closed starting then, likely resulting in some degree of interruptions or changes to PCO meetings that should be thus anticipated; and
- its Pullman Railroad Days event will take place on May 14 & 15, running 9:00-5:00 each day. Expected features of the weekend include: display of four historic train cars; debut of new tours; Jack Delano's 'Railroaders' photography exhibit; and tours of the first floor of the Hotel Florence. Events will be a mixture of ticketed and free, and the latest updates will be posted to [pullmanil.org](http://pullmanil.org). Volunteers and donors are currently being sought, and those interested in volunteering should contact Rebecca Conant at [rconant@pullmanil.org](mailto:rconant@pullmanil.org); additional details regarding volunteer opportunities will be further disseminated through PCO channels as the weekend draws nearer.

Discussion was held regarding how the Exhibit Hall might still be used for PCO meetings, and if it could still be used for Election Day, with the HPF assuring that the latter will indeed be doable. Discussion will be ongoing regarding the PCO's potential use of the building, and how the building's long-term use might take shape.

National Park Service announced that:

- a contractor is being interviewed to prepare a Situation Assessment, which is itself a precursor to a General Management Plan;
- a grant had been received to help expand the Monument's educational programming, and that new jobs related thereto would be posted soon. Those interested in applying are encouraged to first get set up on [usajobs.gov](http://usajobs.gov), and then be on the lookout for the postings on [nps.gov](http://nps.gov);
- staffing for seasonal programming is underway, with Sara Holding recently having been hired for such a purpose;
- programming for National Park Week is currently being planned, with events so far anticipated including Yoga In the Park on April 16, a Clean & Green on April 23, and an outdoor program on April 24. Those interested are encouraged to keep an eye on the Calendar at [nps.gov/pull](http://nps.gov/pull) for the latest; and
- Metra is planning a media event the morning of May 12, so any media crews spotted in the neighborhood that day will likely be for that event.

For Old Business:

- Open volunteer opportunities remain

For New Business:

- Passion of Pullman Community Garden will be hosting a presentation on March 26 from 10:00-1:00PM in the multipurpose room of the Visitor Center, with the future plans for the Garden being presented at that time.
- The PCO has received a donation from Amazon, and the President recommends that an Ad Hoc Committee be convened to further flesh out the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion goals laid out by the Bylaws Committee via its recommended changes to said Bylaws, the Vision Committee; et. al. Anyone interested in furthering that effort along should contact the President at [pcopres@gmail.com](mailto:pcopres@gmail.com)

During Open Forum,:

- Garden Club announced that it will be having a Garden Walk this year, sometime in June, and that a speaker event at the State grounds surrounding the monument is currently in the works. Details will be forthcoming.
- It was recommended that the Membership keep in mind concerns that lie outside of the community but that significantly effect it nonetheless, including access to better biking & recreation, and the environmental issues being experienced in the 10<sup>th</sup> Ward.

Split the Pot was \$30 and Norma Zarris was the winner.

**Motion** to adjourn at 8:39PM [M/S/P Tony Dzik/Patrick Watson]

Submitted,  
Wyatt Ollestad, Secretary