

Minutes of the Executive Board of the Pullman Civic Organization – November 9, 2022

In Attendance: President John Lydon, Vice President Kathy Lynch, Treasurer Elizabeth Mishler, Secretary Wyatt Ollestad (also Beman), Zone Directors Harriette Burks-Watson, Lynne Collins, Susan Schoephoester (also Hospitality), and Margaret Kania; HPF Representative Jim Badali; Claudia Flores (Membership), Lorraine Brochu (Communications), Cheryl Briscoe (Education & DEI), Tom McMahon (Safety), Pat Brannon (House Tour); Rachel Smith, Beverly Ash-Larson, Debbie Newman

A quorum having been established, President Lydon convened the meeting at 7:38PM.

PCO Committees with regard to the Community Interest Survey results and the stated PCO goals of 2022-2023 were discussed, including an overview of current and interested members for said Committees; the discussion also yielding the following:

- Andy Bullen, Debbie Newman, and Sandy Melnyczenko are also members of the Communication Committee, and that Committee continues to meet the first Monday of each month at 7:00PM;
- Diahann Sinclair is a member of the DEI Committee; and
- House Tour is a joint Committee of the PCO and HPF.

Upcoming Events and Initiatives were detailed, yielding the following:

- President Lydon has printed the programs for the Veterans Day event, the wreath for said event is being worked on, and reimbursements for the wreath, flags, and food will be requested of the General Membership for approval. Refreshments will be part of the post-ceremony to be held at 614 E. 113th St., Gavin Armour will be featured in this month's Flyer article, and President Lydon has met with Mark Doyle of Veterans Roasters regarding a community-generated exhibit of the neighborhood's veterans for their upcoming site. Mr. Doyle is also slated to attend the upcoming General Membership meeting.
- Potential locations for the PCO holiday party were discussed, with the ArtSpace gallery likely being the best possible venue, given also its proximity to the solstice labyrinth event being put on by Quinn of the NPS that evening. Other locations considered included One Florence Boulevard and the Florence Lowden Miller Historic Pullman Center.
- DEI Committee announced that it had secured a facilitator in Jeanne McInerney, whose program 'Pull Together Pullman' [see attachment] will be presented to the General Membership meeting this month and implemented beginning in January 2023. The PCO DEI Committee is partnering with the HPF's DEI members on the event, with the first step being to secure 20-22 participants from both organization's Committees and their associated invitees, including from north of 111th St., to then help grow and expand the program to involve more of the community. Additionally, an MoU has been secured between the PCO and fiscal agent Benford Brown & Associates to handle the Amazon donation funding the program.
- Black History Month programming is currently being brainstormed, with the Hospitality Committee Chair seeking participants. Cheryl Briscoe, Lynne Collins, and Beatrice Hardy have so far expressed interest in participating.

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

Motion: To adopt the October Executive Board Minutes as posted and read. M/S/P (LC/KL)

Treasurer reported an opening balance of \$32,055.31 and a closing balance of \$32,290.74 for the PCO account for the month of October. The report will be filed for audit.

Additionally, the Treasurer reported an opening balance of \$28,579.88 and a closing balance of \$42,303.44 for the House Tour Fund for the month of October, with a mention made that its statement balance is \$45,947.86 but with \$3,644.42 in pending transactions.

Safety Committee reported that the next CAPS meeting will be Tuesday, November 15 at 6:00PM at the Greenstone, with the Committee itself likely meeting just prior to at the same location, at 5:30PM. A representative from the House of Hope is likely to attend the CAPS meeting to address the recent incident at that property, with other probable topics of discussion for the meeting also including the continued theft of catalytic converters, and recent vandalism of windows in the neighborhood.

Beman Committee announced that the Application and Guidelines for its 2023 Façade Reimbursement Program are now available and will be on the PCO website shortly, and reminded those gathered that the deadline for the Applications is December 31.

Communications Committee reported that a new Facebook page has been built and a moderator for it is currently being sought. Further, the Committee reported that Substack is being considered as a method for getting e-blasts, etc. out, and subsequent discussion was held regarding if such communications should be limited to PCO members or not, with the consensus being that they should not. Additionally, the Committee reported that the PCO website is currently being worked on and the community's interaction with it is being researched. Discussion was held regarding the posting of the PCO budget on the website, with the Committee planning to discuss the issue further.

Membership Committee reported that there are 222 members to date.

Education Committee reported that work continues on Pullman Elementary.

Welcome Committee reported that 1 welcome bag still needs to go out, but otherwise all welcome bags have been disseminated to all known new residents.

Community Improvement Committee reported that the lights in Arcade Park are back on, but that the one south of the Hotel and those on Forrestville remain out.

House Tour Committee reported that this year's House Tour was a success, and thanked all those who volunteered for the event.

HPF announced that the current photo exhibit at the Visitor Center should be removed by the end of the year, and that the next exhibit will be based around the 50th anniversary of the Foundation. It was further mentioned that there would be no Candlelight Walk this year due to lack of venue for the reception.

For Announcements & Appreciations:

- the Trunk or Treat event was a success, with about 500 trick-or-treaters attending and a nice array of decorations on display;

- congratulations were given to the HPF and NPS on their receipt of the 2022 Landmarks Illinois Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Award for Rehabilitation, for the Monument clock tower building;
- The NPS' Yoga In the Park will resume, now taking place indoors, at 10:00AM on Saturday;
- ArtSpace will be hosting a pop-up event on December 3 from 4:00-8:00PM;
- the format of General Membership meetings with regard to the Pledge of Allegiance was discussed, with the Board making no recommendation regarding the current Motion regarding such; and
- the Greenstone will be hosting an Energy Forum on Friday from 4:00-6:00PM.

Motion to adjourn at 9:43PM M/S/P (SS/KL)

Submitted,
Wyatt Ollestad, Secretary