

Minutes of the Executive Board of the Pullman Civic Organization – February 8, 2023

In Attendance: President John Lydon, Vice President Kathy Lynch, Treasurer Elizabeth Mishler, Secretary Wyatt Ollestad (also Beman), Zone Directors Darrel Hill, Harriette Burks-Watson, Lynne Collins, Susan Schoephoester (also Hospitality, Black History Month), and Margaret Kania; HPF Representative Jim Badali; Claudia Flores (Membership), Lorraine Brochu (Communication), Tom McMahon (Safety); Beverly Ash-Larson, Debbie Newman

A quorum having been established, President Lydon convened the meeting at 7:58PM.

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

Motion: To adopt the January Executive Board Minutes as posted. M/S/P (KL/DH)

Treasurer reported a closing balance of \$36,162.13 for the House Tour Fund for the month of January, and an opening balance of \$39,990.22 and closing balance of \$38,671.87 for the PCO account, pending an outstanding check payment.

Nominating Committee reported that Wyatt Ollestad had been appointed as its Chair, and that the Committee has so far met twice with Margaret Kania having joined and Ben Stanley having been invited to its meetings.

Hospitality Committee deferred its reporting to that of the Black History Month Ad Hoc Committee.

Beman Committee reported that approximately 50% of its Façade Legacy Project documentation for the northern half of the Pullman Historic District had been completed, and that the Committee was thus submitting the associated invoice from aMa Architecture for work completed, as well as requesting an ACH form for Landmarks Illinois to make its Timuel D. Black Grant deposit. Discussion was held regarding if the PCO should continue its membership with Landmarks Illinois, with the consensus being in the affirmative.

Communication Committee reported that it had completed an 'elevator speech'-style overview of the identity of the PCO that can be used to communicate simply what the Organization is about and what it does for the community. Concerns were expressed about the lack of mention of the PCO by the NPS at its recent Historical Park event.

Safety Committee reported that there would be a catalytic converter 'marking' event on Saturday, February 11, from 10:00AM-12:00PM at the 005th District Police Station, and that those interested in signing up for having their catalytic converter marked should call 312-747-3100 in advance. Further, the Committee reported that the next CAPS meeting would take place on Tuesday, February 21, at which a limited quantity of steering wheel clubs would be distributed, and the Sherriff's Department's recent initiative to 'register' vehicles in order to combat theft would be discussed. Caution was given to residents that license plates and stickers have recently been being stolen in the neighborhood, and that the vandals who had been breaking windows in the community have not recently been active.

Membership Committee reported that there were 240 members to date, and announced that Patrick Watson had become the Block Captain of the 112th Block of St. Lawrence, West side, taking over from Harriette Burks-Watson.

Black History Month Committee announced that Susan Schoephoester had become its de facto Chair, and that the Committee will be contributing to an event taking place at the Greenstone Church February 25 starting at 2:00PM and featuring author Miriam Thaggert, as well as a Black History scholar from the University of Chicago, in addition to community-sourced displays and exhibits. The Committee is partnering with the Historic Pullman Empowerment Organization, National Park Service, and Historic Pullman Foundation on the event. The Committee requested an allocation of \$500, to cover the shortfall from the Black History Month carryover budget item from previous years, in order to pay for supplies and food for the event. Following discussion, it was agreed that the \$500 should come from the Monthly Celebrations, Special Events, Holiday Budget line item.

Concerns were expressed regarding the nature of donation solicitations made by the PCO.

DEI Committee [John Lydon] reported that its sessions remain ongoing, and those interested in participating in the next cohort should let Cheryl know.

Garden Club announced that its next Lecture would take place on Sunday, February 26, at the Visitor Center.

Historic Pullman Foundation noted that its Railroad Days event this year would take place May 20 & 21.

President Lydon reported back on his, the Vice President's, and the Treasurer's attendance at the recent Chicago Neighborhood Summit, with prime takeaways being positive networking events with other neighborhoods and community leaders.

President Lydon announced that Mark Doyle is likely to be a guest presenter at the February General Membership meeting.

Discussions were held regarding potential destinations for the PCO Summer Outing, with further details to be forthcoming.

It was announced that:

- the Pullman Morris & Sword team would be participating in the University of Chicago's festival this weekend; and
- a desire for a 'training session' for newly elected members of the Executive Board has been expressed.

Motion to adjourn at 9:14PM (DH/LC)

Submitted,
Wyatt Ollestad, Secretary