

Minutes of the General Membership of the PCO – March 15, 2023

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

Brief greetings were performed, with an emphasis on meeting new neighbors and celebration of Women's History Month.

A video interview between President Lydon and Mark Doyle of Veteran Roasters was presented, in which Mr. Doyle answered questions collected from the community at the previous General Membership meeting.

Motion: That the PCO write a letter of support for Veteran Roasters as it makes its way through City Council. [M/S/P Lorraine Brochu, Andy Bullen]

Brief discussion was held regarding the possibility of the Veteran Roasters building incorporation some of the Pullman Gas House history into its design, given that it will sit on at least part of the same plot of land as that historical building.

Upcoming events were detailed, including:

- Garden Club and National Park Service's 'What's In Your Soil?' lecture;
- a community meeting to be held by Alderman Beale's office;
- an alert that street cleaning will resume in April;
- a neighborhood cleanup hosted by the NPS and presumably co-sponsored by the PCO; and
- a Paul Vallas rally at the Pullman Community Center Saturday, March 18 from 9:00-11:00AM, and for which RSVPs may be necessary.

Nominating Committee presented its slate for the 2023 PCO election, as follows:

- President: John Lydon
- Vice President: Kathy Lynch
- Treasurer: Elizabeth Mishler
- Secretary: Lynne Collins
- Zone Directors: Darrell Hill (Zone 1), Sue James (Zone 2), Mike McMahon (Zone 3), CJ Martello (Zone 4)
- Nominating Committee 2024: Beverly Ash-Larson, Rachel Kovarsky, Claudia Flores

Secretary reported that the Draft February General Membership and March Executive minutes had been posted in advance online.

Motion: To adopt the February General Membership minutes as posted. [M/S/P Lynne Collins, Darrell Hill]

Treasurer reported a closing balance of \$36,162.26 for the House Tour Fund for the month of February, and a closing balance of \$34,671.61 for the PCO account for the month of February, broken down as follows: Operating: \$17,066.93; Façade: \$12,757.95; Kirchner: \$1,414.23. The report will be filed for audit.

Brief discussion was held regarding the possibility of the PCO opening a CD in order to hopefully receive higher interest yields than its current savings account offers.

National Park Service announced that its neighborhood cleanup is co-sponsored by the PCO, and will take place on Saturday, April 15. Additionally, NPS announced that Alex Rubinstein had recently been hired to help facilitate educational programming.

Historic Pullman Foundation announced that its next exhibit, 'From Wrecking Ball to National Park', will be opening in May. Additionally, HPF announced that additional events and programming over the course of the year will be in celebration of the HPF's 50th anniversary. And finally, HPF announced that Railroad Days would be taking place May 20 & 21 and that volunteers are needed for that event.

Garden Club announced that its next lecture, 'What's In Your Soil?', will take place on March 26 from 2:00-4:00PM in the NPS Visitor Center Multipurpose Classroom.

Black History Month Committee announced that its recent event was a success, and gave thanks especially to Tasty Teeny Catering for their rush supply of refreshments for said event.

An informal survey of those gathered was taken regarding the proposed destination of Starved Rock for the PCO Summer Outing, with many expressing support.

Beman Committee thanked those who participated in its recent Permit Workshop, and announced that Keith Goad of Berkshire Hathaway was tentatively scheduled for a presentation regarding historic preservation and property values on April 22.

Safety Committee announced that the next CAPS meeting would be Tuesday evening at the Greenstone Church.

Member Andy Bullen announced:

- the Pullman House History Project, available at pullman-museum.org, has added data from the 1950 census to its available information;
- a search is on for all issues of the Pullman Flyer for compilation into neighborhood archives, with residents encouraged to contact Andy if they are in possession of any back issues;
- that he would be presenting a lecture on Sunday, April 30, starting at approximately 2:00PM at the NPS Visitor Center Multipurpose Classroom and focusing on the Hotel Florence, entitled 'The Most Important Building In the World'; and
- he and Dr. Jane Baxter will be leading a 10-week course about how to build a house history database.

It was announced that the Chicago Area Runners Association would be hosting two 5Ks at Big Marsh this year, on May 13 and July 1. Considerations about also having a neighborhood-set 5K were expressed.

The possibility of the PCO sponsoring a City of Chicago landlord training session was presented, if said sessions are not now strictly virtual.

The Taste of Chicago pop-up in Pullman will be on July 15.

Guest Ruth Sussman from Unite HERE Local 1 expressed concerns about the proposed Hampton Inn not currently planning for sustainable provisions for its hospitality workers, and announced that a petition related thereto is currently available online at unitehere1.org/pullmanhotel, and will remain so for the foreseeable future.

Member Tom Shepherd relayed the development of a desire to have Patty Lawson's 'From the Dining Car' Pullman Flyer columns assembled into a booklet, with a request thus made to the PCO for permission to include said columns into a published work. It remains yet to be determined if the booklet will be made for sale at any point, but any proceeds resulting therefrom in such an event will be given to the HPF and/or PCO.

Motion: That the PCO permit the publishing of Patty Lawson's 'From the Dining Car' articles into a booklet. [M/S/P Tom Shepherd, Lynne Collins]

The recent community meeting at Pullman Elementary was reported upon, yielding in the following:

- the management team from CPS has acknowledged and apologized for the noise, among other, complaints;
- new allowed construction hours are 6:00AM-8:00PM;
- dumpster delivery/pickup between 4:00AM-6:00AM has ceased;
- construction is now scheduled to be completed in December of 2023, with most of it planned to be finished by the end of summer; and
- communications and updates from CPS will be given via flyer to Principal Salter – members emphasized the importance of ensuring the community also receives at least the content of those flyers.

Additionally, member Arlene Echols has the email of the project manager should a resident wish to reach out, and residents are encouraged to report any health or safety violations resulting from the construction to an appropriate authority.

It was announced also that the garbage baskets at the southeast corner of the school's property and along Forrestville had been reinstalled.

Split the Pot was \$42 and CJ Martello was the winner.

Motion to adjourn at 9:12PM [M/S/P Darrell Hill, Susan Schoephoester]

Submitted,
Wyatt Ollestad, Secretary