

Minutes of the Executive Board of the Pullman Civic Organization – May 10, 2023

In Attendance: President John Lydon, Secretary Wyatt Ollestad (also Beman), Zone Directors Darrel Hill, Harriette Burks-Watson, Lynne Collins, Susan Schoephoester (also Hospitality); Andreas Morgen (Community Improvement), Lorraine Brochu (Communication), Pat Brannon (House Tour); Beverly Ash-Larson

A quorum having been established, President Lydon convened the meeting at 7:36PM.

Draft April Executive Board & General Membership Minutes were circulated in advance and posted to the website, there being a request to correct 'final cohort' to 'first cohort' in the Executive Board Minutes.

Motion: To adopt the April Executive Board Minutes as corrected. M/S/P (LC/DH)

In the absence of the Treasurer, President Lydon provided an overview of the Treasurer's Report, noting that: three payments were made to Blue Island Printing this month for the February, March, and April editions of the Flyer; Landmarks Illinois' payment of the Timuel D. Black Grant for the Beman Committee's Façade Legacy Project is still outstanding, with the Beman Committee to investigate; and available CD options from US Bank for an initial balance of \$10,000 are as follows: 4.35% for 11 months, 4.45% for 15 months, and 4.55% for 19 months. The report will be filed for audit.

Discussion was held regarding the recent fire on the 114th block of Forrestville, and how best the PCO might facilitate financial support for those affected; the consensually agreed recommended options being a 'pass the hat' at the next General Membership meeting, a possible request of the Membership for funds from the PCO Budget, and the existing GoFundMe that is currently online. Discussion was also held regarding the merits of adding an Emergency Fund to future PCO Budgets for such type use.

President Lydon announced that the Exhibit Hall grounds had been secured for the PCO's May Membership Drive, which will take place from 5:30-7:15PM on Wednesday, May 17. Setup will begin at 4:45PM that day, with those able to assist with such encouraged to do so, including with the provision of games, supplies, etc.

President Lydon announced that Fernando and Claudia had stepped down as Chairs of the Membership Committee.

Discussion was held regarding and the Communication Committee reported on options for online membership management systems, with Membership Works, Substack, and Donors Box all under consideration. Further investigation is needed, especially with regard to each and any's cost-benefit to the PCO's specific needs for such kind of management.

Nominating Committee reported that the slate had been sent to the Flyer Editor for publishing in the May issue, and that the Committee's work for this year was thus completed.

Hospitality Committee reported that the permit for the PCO Summer Outing at Starved Rock had been secured, for July 29. As an update to previous reports, the Chair noted that a group tour is not available at the location, but that various other tours are and will be at individual cost. Said tours are small groups, so those wanting to participate are encouraged to express their interest as early as possible. The

price for a coach bus from Chicago Classic Bus Line is \$1600 total, yielding – with the offset of an allocation from the PCO Budget Outing line item applied to such – a price of approximately \$20 per person for the Outing. It was noted as well that bottled water is requested for the bus ride.

Beman Committee reported that its recent events had been a success, and that forthcoming events are planned to include masonry repair, interior plaster repair, and window restoration. The Committee also reported that it had discussed the Driehaus Award nomination for the Façade Legacy Project for the northern part of the District, with the consensus being that it would be indelicate to pursue, but that the Committee would support any effort by One Florence Blvd. for the Award.

President Lydon mentioned that Bruce Lange had expressed interest in once again participating in the layout of the Pullman Flyer, with the President to further pursue the matter with the parties involved.

Community Improvement Committee reported that its total expenses for snacks for the Spring cleanup totaled \$53.01, slightly above its allocated budgeted amount. The Chair thus queried whether said budgeted amount could be increased, with the recommendation being to do so when the PCO Budget is next brought under deliberation. Additionally, the Chair reported that the streetlight on the south side of the Hotel that's been out for some time is being looked at by electricians. It was also noted that a telephone pole on the northeast corner of 115th and Champlain is currently leaning on a set of wires, with the Chair to follow-up with the Alderman's office regarding it.

House Tour Committee reported that its next meeting would take place on Tuesday, May 23 at 6:00PM at the Florence Lowden Miller Historic Pullman Center (614 E. 113th St.), and that enough houses had been secured for this year's Tour but that volunteers are still needed.

Garden Club announced that it would be hosting its Garden Walk on June 24.

It was noted that the HPF is still in need of volunteers for Railroad Days, May 20 & 21.

Presentations for future General Membership meetings were discussed, including that which would detail the Roseland medical district development, and by David Collier King regarding use of the Hotel Florence, with the determination being for Darrell Hill to present regarding the former at the June or July General Membership meeting.

Discussion was held regarding House Bill 0779, relating to the allocation of funds for the development of Hotel Florence, with concerns expressed that the community was not and has not yet been made aware of the genesis or implications of such a Bill, and desires were expressed for greater transparency on this and similar matters.

Additionally, it was announced that Chicago Area Runners Association's 5K at Big Marsh will be taking place on Saturday, May 13, with registration therefor closing on Friday, May 12, and that Veteran Roasters had received funding from the City for their proposed location on 111th St.

Motion to adjourn at 9:06PM (DH/LC)

Submitted,
Wyatt Ollestad, Secretary