

Meeting of the Asbury Park Historical Society (A.P.H.S.) Stephen Crane House (S.C.H.)/Arbutus Cottage

Thursday, February 20, 2020

MINUTES

Vice-President Jim Henry called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Eileen Chapman, Tom Chesek, Teddy Chomko, Kay Harris, Jim Henry, Susan Rosenberg, Andy Skokos, Susan Skokos
TRUSTEES ABSENT: Mary Damato, Jennifer Schulman, Dolly Sternesky
PUBLIC ATTENDEE(S): **Members:** Meghan Carroll, Charlie & Pam Horner, Helen & Hank Kaye, Joe Lemme; Donna Vieiro, **City Manager;** Mike Manzela, **Assistant City Manager**

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- **Joe Lemme** expressed concern that donation monies collected at the S.C.H. should benefit the A.P.H.S. and not other non-profits, e.g., A.P. Little League
- **Charlie Horner** announced the launch date of his book Springwood Ave. Harmony, Vol. 1: Unique Musical Legacy of A.P.'s W. Side, 1871-1945 - March 12 : 7:00P.M. A.P. Public Lib.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Vote for **slate of officers:** Kay Harris, President; Jim Henry, V.P., Andy Skokos, Treasurer; Susan Rosenberg, Secretary. Unanimously in favor.
- At 7:11 P.M., **newly-elected president, Kay Harris**, took over the meeting.
- A.P.H.S. wants to coordinate with **Springwood Avenue Rising** celebrating the 50th Commemorative Anniversary of the riots, July 4-10, 1970. **Charlie and Pam Horners' book presentation, March 28**, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, will be one of the events.
- **Horners' book launch:** Mar. 12, A.P. Public Lib., 7:00 P.M.
- A.P.H.S. will commemorate Jennie Razaf's "**Honeysuckle Rose**" house where Thomas Wright "Fats" Waller visited (1928) and wrote the popular song. In coordination with Springwood Avenue Rising
- Kay Harris, simultaneously president of the newly-evolving **Asbury Park Museum**, described an impending A.P.-pre-history exhibit, spring 2020, A.P. High School.
- A.P.H.S. and A.P. Museum will retain respective **501C I.D.s** and support one another
- Kay plans to restructure the A.P.H.S. meetings to attract members to attend and participate. Suggested: I-Grew-Up-in- A.P. storytellers, historians.

- Daniel Wolff and Walter Gleason will be discussing “Changing Asbury Park in Context,” 6:30-8:30, High Voltage Cafe, 808 Springwood Ave., 3/19 the same night as the monthly A.P.H.S. meeting. It was proposed that the A.P.H.S. Bd. meet earlier that night so members could attend both. Majority vote: to meet as usual, 7:00. Several trustees will attend the presentation instead of the board meeting.
- Anticipate being part of A.P.’s forthcoming anniv. celebration, including members

STEPHEN CRANE HOUSE:

- Donations of 1880’s furnishings are being sought.
- Work ahead: gutters, steps, handicapped access, plumbing, brick driveway (1,300)

MINUTES: Nov. and Dec. 2019 Minutes - approved

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget/Finance: Andy Skokos, Treasurer

- As of Jan. 31, 2019: A.P.H.S.checking - \$11,526.39; gaming - \$548.00; S.C.H. checking - \$5,579.12; money market - \$47,712.18 **Grand total: \$65,365.69**
- Paid quarterly taxes: \$623.88, sewer: \$121.50
- Completed 2019 tax return (Golda & Golda)
- Completed raffle license application with City of A.P. (end date Nov. 19, 2020)
- Compliant with State Charities, N.J. Div. of Consumer Affairs
- Monies received: Light of Day (\$510 contribution), 645 Film LLC (\$200)

Archives/Artifacts & Exhibits: Don Stine

No report. Need to know what has been archived.

Website/Social Media Technology: Jennifer Schulman

- No report
- **Test Web site** is ready for committee, i.e., Kay, Andy
- Trustees have not been receiving **email blasts** sent to members

Grants: Jim Henry, Dolly Sternesky

- 1/29 received grant notification from Mon. Cty. Historical Comm.; **\$2,615**; work in the lecture room to be completed by Nov. 1.
- Susan R. to represent A.P.H.S. at grant proceedings in Freehold, 2/24.
- Tom suggested A.P.H.S. join Monmouth Arts Council and be eligible for mini grants

Legal/Gov't. Relations: Jim Henry

- **Nominating Committee:** Jim, Dolly, Mary to prepare slate of trustees for Jan.Re-Org.
- Jim suggested Kay appoint a new chair in Sept./Oct.
- **Frank D'Alessandro's carriage house**, Unit 3, will be going on the market; A.P.H.S. could purchase and rent it out; major fundraising would be needed to reduce the mortgage costs; Jim will pursue the details

Special Events/Fundraising: Teddy Chomko, Eileen Chapman

Hol. Lights Tour 12/2019 - successful; 2 busses

Upcoming: 8/16/20 "Art on the Brdwk."; Awards Din., fall; Dec.: Hol. Lights Tour,(NYC)

Programming: Tom Chesek

1/11: partnered with Light of Day; scenes for "645" film, directed by Craig Singer, are being filmed at the S.C.H.; 1/26: Mrs. Crane portrayal - fundraiser for The Center; 2/8 DIALOG group meeting; 2/22 Lorraine Stone portrays Harriet Tubman/Black History Month(fundraiser for A.P. Museum); 3/28: Cora Crane portrayal/Women's History Month(A.P.H.S. fundraiser); Mon. Univ. Eng. profs. will present feature films(fundraiser)

Membership: Susan Skokos

As of 1/2020: **48 members including 11 trustees** (62 in 2019, including 11 trustees)

Need to retain members and reach out to more

Need to give member benefits; Teddy: discount cards; a get-together

Goal: 75 members by end of 2020

Newsletter/Outreach/APHS Archives: Susan Rosenberg

Updated blurb was submitted for Weekend in Old Monmouth, May 2,3 brochure

Next newsletter: April

Docents:

Tom has greeted stoppers-by Sundays, 12 - 2

Weekend in Olde Monmouth: packets will be prepared for anyone interested in learning about Stephen Crane, the Cranes, the S.C.H. and Asbury Park

Meeting Adjournment: 9:17 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Rosenberg, Secretary

NEXT MEETING: March 19, 7:00 P.M. Jim will preside in Kay's absence.

