ASBURY PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes, Meeting of Thursday, February 20, 2014 held at the Stephen Crane House at 7:30 PM

Trustees Present: Chapman, Damato, Harris, Henry, Schulman, Sobotka, Stine, Troppoli (quorum achieved)
Trustees Absent: Chomko, Moor, Rosenberg

Approval of minutes:

Don Stine requested that minutes from the October, November, December 2013 and January 2014 be resent electronically to the trustees to review. Approval vote to be taken at March 2014 meeting.

Comments from the Public:

Were interspersed throughout the meeting; no independent concerns were introduced.

President's Report:

Don Stine stressed the importance of forming committees to enact the items on the newly-approved Five Year Plan, and presented information about Neptune's Timeless Treasures-an effort to scan images and preserve artifacts. This link may be put on the APHS web site.

Don also spoke on the downtown historical district and Trinity Church applications to SHPO for historical site status, which was presented at a public meeting on Friday, February 14th. The downtown application was prepared by Carter Sackman. Eighty percent of the buildings in this proposed district were erected between 1870 and 1960. The historic site designation allows 20% of a one-time renovation to be used as a federal tax credit and restricts government changes and improvements in the area to be or appear to be historically correct. It does not restrict the use of the building by the owner. The Savoy Theater, owner by Carter Sackman, is in this proposed district. Don proposed that the AP Historical Society send a letter of support to SHPO for these applications.

Budget/Finance- Treasurer: Mary Damato

Opening balance $7478.73
Closing balance $811.95
SCH Fund $7672.13
Total funds, all accounts $15,955.42

Don will train Mary on QuickBooks. AP Historical Society will renew its memberships with the Ocean Grove and Ocean Township historical societies, at a level comparable to their commitment to APHS.

Website: Jenny Schulman

Web hosting fees will total $450.00 for the upcoming five years. Due to the construction of our web site, including a calendar may be more difficult than anticipated. A picture gallery is proposed as an addition to the site, as many empty pages exist. The log-in codes will be shared with the secretary for continuity reasons. Future on-line fundraising for the SCH will be included in the web site; links to other related organizations will be included. Additional web site revisions are planned.

Archives/Artifacts & Exhibitions: Don Stine

The APP delivery wagon will be installed in the city's transportation center on Friday, March 12th. Don also spoke about the need to plan future programming and to create an inventory for those artifacts to be retained by Monmouth University.

Historic Preservation/Sites and Buildings: David Sobotka

The Stephen Crane House application for registration as a state historic site is expected to be submitted for SHPO review by March 31st. SHPO has requested information on Mary Helen Peck Crane's writings. SHPO has also requested information on renovations to the SCH through its history, which spans 10-15 owners.

Legal/Government Relations/Grants: James Henry

A report of operations will need to be submitted by the St. Patrick's Parade Board. Jim suggested that this board send trustees to an APHS meeting to inform us of their progress, as they are using the APHS gambling license to do so.

Jim has also ordered a title search for the SCH, which he will share with David Sobotka for the SHPO application and is inquiring about tax exempt status for this structure with the city tax assessor.

Don spoke about an endowment fund for the SCH, and shared a draft document that will be sent to prospective donors with the trustees. This campaign will attempt to raise $250,000.00, and a publicity campaign will begin in about a month.

Fundraising and special Events: Eileen Chapman

An annual recognition dinner, with recognition going to such friends of APHS as the Horners and Nicky Addeo, who were instrumental in making past APHS sponsored concerts a reality. More "meet and greets" (similar to APHS Chamber of Commerce functions) are recommended to create interest in the APHS.

The Morro Castle 80th Anniversary memorial will be held on September 7th (a Sunday) or 8th (a Monday). Social media has indicated an interest in this marine tragedy. It is hoped that the governor will be able to attend this event.

Membership: Kay Harris

Kay stated that there are 14 new members and 20 renewals from the general membership meeting in January. She plans to send letters to recently lapsed members, and feature a volunteer outside of her shop during the summer to solicit new members and donations.

Secretary/Newsletter: Donna Troppoli

It is suggested that the Newsletter be used as a marketing tool to attract new and lapsed members, and available to all electronically and by regular mail, as preferred. This preference can be listed on the membership application. Jim Henry has a prior application for non-profit bulk mail privileges, and will share it with Donna to pursue this option. The Winter Newsletter is ready to be posted on line and to go to the printer.