

ASBURY PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes, Meeting of Thursday, July 17, 2014 held at the Stephen Crane House at 7:30 PM

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

Trustees Absent: Chapman, Shulman,

Approval of minutes:

Minutes from the March, April and May 2014 meetings were approved; as June meeting did not have a quorum, minutes were accepted.

Comments from the Public:

Charlie and Pam Horner are making great progress with the *Light of Day 2015* events, and are working with both *Heaven Art and Antiques* and Monmouth University to create exhibits featuring the music of Asbury Park's West Side. The exhibits will be titled: "*Asbury Park's Springwood Avenue Harmony: Celebrating the West Side's Unique Musical Legacy*". *Heaven Art and Antiques* will be the in-town exhibit venue in a show curated by Dennis Carroll. It will feature about 60 pieces of 2-D musical memorabilia. The exhibition will be on display on Sunday, January 11th, Monday January 12th and Wednesday January 15th through Sunday January 19th, when it will close. Volunteers will be needed to repair and repaint the gallery walls after the exhibit is taken down.

The exhibit will reopen at Monmouth University's Pollock Gallery, 400 Cedar Avenue, W. Long Branch on February 4th, with a reception from 6:00-8:00 PM. It will double as its Black History Month exhibit, and will run through the month of February. Security will be needed, as the exhibit will be open from 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM. Most of the reproduced photos on display will be provided by Madonna Carter Jackson. Charlie and Pam are also planning tours of the exhibit and a multi-media presentation as well. The possibility of the inclusion of live music is being explored. Additionally, the Horners plan to exhibit many rare pieces from their personal collection including Bobby Thomas' guitar, 3 of the late singer's rare 78s, acetates from the Vibranaires dated 1959 and a stand-up bass. Bob Stevens, formerly with the now defunct Asbury Park Consortium, outlined a possible fund-raising opportunity for APHS that consisted of that late organization's use of fiberglass carousel horses to be purchased, decorated and adopted by various donors, then displayed around the city. The 2002 campaign

was called “Reaching for the Brass Ring”. Each “blank” horse was available at that time for \$1,700.00. The trustees took this information under advisement.

President’s Report:

A special trustees’ meeting to make the final decision on the purchase of the Stephen Crane House (SCH) will be scheduled within the next few weeks. Jim Henry was charged with the duty of preparing a statement outlining the financial and legal implications of the proposed sale. It was noted by Don that to date, few of the donors had an Asbury Park address. A dozen or so thank you letters mailed to donors recognized donations that ranged from \$10.00 to \$25,000.00.

The APHS will participate in the Monmouth County Archives and History Day on Saturday, October 10th. Two trustees will be selected to represent APHS at its assigned table.

The Library Square Park Fountain has been repaired painted and is in working order. The lights also work, and a cheaper source of glass globes has been located, at the cost of \$5.00/per globe. The irrigation system is said to work; the city’s DPW will be questioned as to when they might be turned on. It was recommended by Don that APHS thank the city DPW at the next city council meeting for their good work.

Budget/Finance- Treasurer: Mary Damato

Opening balance \$6,952.29

Closing balance \$7,740.46

SCH Fund \$34,003.65

Total all accounts \$41,911.45

John Grant is assisting with putting our financial data into QuickBooks. The APHS now has a debit card for APHS use.

Correction to previous minutes: Mary stated that she will not be resigning as a trustee as of 12/31/14.

Website: Jenny Shulman

All recently submitted minutes have been added to the site. APHS on Facebook now has 376 followers. Lots of them are very engaged, meaning they like and comment and share the posts we put up. Archives Day event has been added. A dropbox link has been created to share large files (pictures) for the website. The promotion for Augmented Asbury was posted on the site and to our social channels. It did well. We have begun picking out Wordpress templates for the

new APHS website. We will present options probably by next meeting (with the committee for the “template choosing” first). Problems with new memberships to be paid through PayPal are being addressed. It has been proposed to link the APHS and SCH web sites.

Archives/Artifacts & Exhibitions: Don Stine

A descendant of Uriah White, one of the city’s founders, will be donating many of his personal effects to APHS. These include furniture, letters, books and other documents. Mr. White is remembered for installing the area’s first artesian well water system.

Don proposed that APHS participate in the city-wide yard sale to be held in September to sell APHS items, presently in storage as well as vintage post cards. An event to remember the *Morro Castle* and *New Era* maritime tragedies is planned for September. Don is working with a committee of local historians, and is looking for a keynote speaker, as the Governor will be unable to attend. Also, an event featuring Kate Mellina and her AP postcard collection is planned for October.

Historic Preservation/Sites and Buildings: David Sobotka, Susan Rosenberg

The Stephen Crane House application for registration as a state historic site was reviewed by SHPO in Trenton today. The application was approved, but a few minor corrections need to be made before the DEP Commissioner will sign it. The final approval is expected to take place within a month. It is expected to take an additional 3 months for approval of the SCH to the National Register of Historic Places.

The PowerPoint presentation of the application’s material was well received by SHPO; it was suggested that this be used in presentations to other local historical societies when they seek speakers for their membership meetings.

Legal/Government Relations/Grants: Jim Henry

The APHS 50-50 raffle application is ready to file with the city. The special event application for the annual *Morro Castle* memorial service has also been prepared. Jim was charged with the task of preparing a deed and a detailed financial statement for the SCH to be reviewed by the trustees at a to-be-scheduled meeting concerning a final decisive vote on the SCH purchase by APHS. Attendance will be mandatory.

Fundraising and Special Events: Teddy Chomko

The applications and preparation for the August art show on the boardwalk are in progress; 8 applications have been received. It was agreed that this event would be featured in *The Coaster* to boost participation.

Decorative posters to be sponsored by area businesses and displayed on light posts on major city streets were proposed as a possible APHS fundraiser; they had been successful in the past.

It was proposed that an open house party to raise funds and introduce people to the SCH will be planned for August 3rd, to coincide with the AP High School Reunion.

Membership: Kay Harris

Most membership payments are renewals; three new memberships were obtained at the APHS table in the Grand Arcade. Kay noted that the table does not have to be manned continually, since donations are also made when the table is unstaffed. She noted that one \$100.00 donation had been received. It was requested by the secretary that a thank you letter/e-mail be sent to this individual if he/she can be identified.

Secretary/Newsletter: Donna Troppoli

All thank-you letters have been mailed to SCH donors; copies of the spring newsletter were enclosed.

The spring 2014 newsletters have been mailed. The board approved the motion that in the future, newsletters be e-mailed to everyone for whom the APHS has an e-mail address. Those without an e-mail or who make it known that they prefer paper newsletters will have their wishes honored. This should save money on postage and printing, as well as increase our visibility.

All programs presented by the APHS will now be posted on the NJ League of Historical Societies web site.