

ASBURY PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

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

Trustees Absent: Shulman

Approval of minutes:

Minutes from the October, November, December 2013 and January and February 2014 meetings were approved.

Comments from the Public:

Werner Baumgartner expressed the opinion that the organization *Restore by Design* should take a stand on historic preservation in Asbury Park. Jim Henry stated that he was not aware of any such plan; Don Stine claimed he did not know what their stand on preservation might be. Charlie and Pam Horner met with Leon Trent regarding the *Light of Day 2015* events, and are working with Monmouth University to create an exhibit there. *Heaven Art and Antiques* is also being considered as an in-town exhibit venue for Asbury Park West Side music memorabilia. Madonna Carter Jackson has agreed to lend copies of her father's photos that pertain to this era. Charlie has established that Duke Ellington worked as a dishwasher at the Plaza Hotel in Asbury Park in 1914; Count Basie also worked in the city. The location of the late Hong Kong Inn is still being sought.

President's Report:

Sunday, June 8th-event: Paranormal Books to donate all proceeds to the AP Historical Society. Letter to be sent to Gov. Christie to attend 80th anniversary of Morro Castle disaster this September.

Budget/Finance- Treasurer: Mary Damato

Opening balance \$8116.95

Closing balance \$7990.24

SCH Fund \$7672.13

Total funds, all accounts \$15,828.71

Mary has announced her intent to resign at year's end.

Website: Jenny Shulman (presented by Don Stine)

Jenny submitted her most recent work on the APHS website via e-mail.

Archives/Artifacts & Exhibitions: Don Stine

The APP delivery wagon was installed in the city's transportation center on Friday, March 12th; installation included a protective fence. Don requested that thank you letters be sent to Lowy's and the city's engineering office.

Don also mentioned that if the sign from the former *Turf Club* is to be restored, about \$7,000.00 would need to be raised.

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

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 also requested information on renovations to the SCH through its history, which spans 10-15 owners. A table of information that included the date, grantor, grantee, deed book information and costs of the SCH was prepared by Susan Rosenberg and shared with those present. The difficulty in obtaining complete information about conveyance of title and changes to the original structure are important reasons why this application took many months to complete.

Susan suggested that the APHS participate in the annual Monmouth County Archives Day. Susan is the contact person to receive the application in June. The APHS would have a table with materials about, e.g. Morrow Castle, Stephen Crane House. Solicitations for donations and memberships could be made; books could be sold.

Susan met Mary Conte, niece of the former owner of the Monte Carlo Pool. Mary has old photographs. Susan suggested that we begin to archive photos (scan) and that this might be done in conjunction with the Ocean Township Historical Museum and perhaps pool Asbury Park photos. Susan will speak with Peggy, the founder.

Legal/Government Relations/Grants: James Henry

A report of operations will need to be submitted by the St. Patrick's Parade Board.

The tax exempt status for the SCH needs to be decided by the city tax assessor's office. Jim further elaborated on the SCH title report presented earlier in the meeting. Jim will obtain the city tax exemption forms next week; the application will be submitted by autumn.

Don, Eileen and Jim spoke about the planned endowment fund for the SCH; the packets which will be sent to prospective donors will be mailed out soon. This campaign will attempt to raise \$250,000.00, and a publicity campaign is planned to begin in April. Grants and grant writers will also be sought for this effort.

Fundraising and special Events: Eileen Chapman and Teddy Chomko

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 plans to feature a volunteer outside of her shop during the Easter weekend to solicit new members and donations. It was requested that an e-blast be done to solicit help from membership and supporters.

Secretary/Newsletter: Donna Troppoli

Jim Henry supplied a new application for non-profit bulk mail privileges. The Winter Newsletter has been posted on line and has been mailed to paid members and others in the AP community who might become future supporters of the organization. Those present were asked to recommend others who might be interested in receiving a copy.