

## **Citizens for Glen Ellyn Preservation Meeting Minutes of Thursday, February 4, 2010**

### **Attendees:**

Linda Gilbert, Eleanor Saliamonas, Marilyn Wiedemann, Jim Page, Pat Moran, Cam Page, Liz Dawson, Ian Dawson, Mike Wilson, Jeff Gahris

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Eleanor Saliamonas reported the end of year donation drive brought in around \$3200. with the cost for stationary and postage for that drive being \$354. \$100 is on deposit with the Village for room rental leaving money in the bank at \$4687.05

### **Membership's Report:**

Chris Wilson, Membership chair, was unable to attend but it is thought that current membership stands at around 150, where expectations on membership numbers are up around 400. Ian Dawson gave an update on the membership software application. This application will be used to track member details and will, with ease, be able to identify and trigger membership renewal letters for past due members. Ian reported the data from the Excel spreadsheets, previously used to track membership and dues, has been migrated to a secure mySQL database on the server used to host the CGEP website. However a lot of the data needs to be scrubbed as many entries in the renewal date field are all zeros, and some entries for membership renewal dates are captured in the notes field (but even those look invalid). At this point however, accessibility to the data is possible with the ability to view, modify, create new entries and delete. And this should be the mechanism going forward to manage the membership details. A scrub of the data is necessary however before auto generation of renewal letters can be effective (and Ian is still to write this software functionality). Liz Dawson took action item to set up a meeting between Membership chair, CGEP President, and the software engineer (Ian) for training session on current membership management application.

### **G. E. Historic Commission Update:**

Tim Loftus was unable to attend and in his absence Linda Gilbert reported that the Glenbard West District 87 school board turned down the request to consider landmarking the building. The Village board had recommended members of HPC to go in and talk to the district school board on the benefits of land marking; however, this was not done. It is hard to know if this would have helped since the majority of the school board are not Glen Ellyn residents, so it would be a hard sell. Additionally, the perception that this was just a way to stop artificial turf and stadium lighting from being installed at Duchon field kept it from being taken seriously. HPC cannot go back now for another two years. The Lake Ellyn boat house has also long been considered as desirable for land mark status. The question was raised on whether HPC should put off approaching the GEPC until after the elections when it is hoped to have newly elected commissioners who are more amenable to land marking.

CGEP will continue to promote land marking through its next newsletter as well as the historic house tour.

### **Village Board Update:**

Cam Page reported about the new format of the Village board meetings that have been effective since the beginning of the year. Now the pre-board meeting work shop is more of a brainstorming/think tank format with items on the agenda that are not related to items at the board meeting that follows. It is also now strictly held to one hour. The complete trustees packet is now to be published online and the group agreed President Pfefferman should be commended for his insistence on transparency; however, the drawback is that the agenda items come up without notice, and the audience participation time is squeezed. The format of the workshop seems to be to lay the foundation for future board meetings. Cam also reported that the Village teardowns are estimated to be approximately one per month and is down from year ago comparisons.

### **2010 Historic House Tour Update:**

Liz Dawson reported house tour planning was off and running with the kick off meeting for the Operations Committee held the evening before. The date of the house walk itself is proving difficult to finalize as the Operations committee has settled on using the Lake Ellyn boat house as the orientation center for the start of the house walk. The team learned that there was a major event planned in the park for the proposed date which is making everyone nervous that such an event would effect potential attendees. The house nominations form is now available online and everyone is encouraged to submit a nomination. It is expected nominations will run until end of March with final line-up decided no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>. Post meeting note. **October 16<sup>th</sup> 2010** is the date finalized for the CGEP Historic House walk.

### **Cool Cities Update:**

Jeff Gahris reported that he was looking forward to a joint meeting between Cool Cities and CGEP is planned for April 1. It will feature two speakers from the Illinois Coalition for Responsible Outdoor Lighting (Dark Sky) who had taken part in the CGEP green seminar last May. He stated that he was originally drawn to CGEP because it is the greenest group in the village. This special event will be advertised a month in advance. There is a problem in that it is spring break for local schools; however, College of Dupage has a different break schedule so faculty & students there will be invited.

The village is doing an inventory on their carbon emissions but the original plan to use the help of an intern has stalled. Village manager Steve Jones has indicated that once the inventory is complete, he does think the Village would be interested in signing up to the US Major's climate protection agreement. Jeff pointed out there are various ways to meet that climate protection agreement and notably tree preservation being one of them. Lombard has just recently signed. See <http://glenellyn-coolcities.blogspot.com/> website for more

information. Jeff also shared District school 89 has embarked on a capital improvement program and are working to make their buildings better and more efficient which as a conservation move is good for the environment as well as saving money. Jeff and the Cool Cities coalition are working to make a short video to promote Cool Cities and to plug the movement and the philosophy and the group want to continue to partner with other groups e.g. Naperville for Clean Energy and Conservation and the dark skies and lights outs campaigns. CGEP still needs to submit it's letter to the Village Board in support of Cool Cities, which the CGEP board voted to send last year. Linda Gilbert will finalize a short letter and send it to the board for final approval.

### **Tree Protection Ordinance:**

Linda Gilbert alerted everyone that the Village Board will be discussing the amendments to the Tree Protection ordinance on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb at their workshop meeting. The village agenda had just come out mid week (around Feb 3) and the group was curious that something that appeared to be on the back burner for village board attention has now been raised in priority for discussion, and at such short notice. Marilyn still has the information that was presented to the last Village board line up and would be happy to present this material to the current board. Linda will send an eblast to the membership to encourage attendance.

### **Other:**

Pat Moran updated the group on the status of his property on N. Park which has been hugely violated and damaged due to teardown and construction activity by builder C George on the adjacent lot. (C George has filed for personal and business bankruptcy but is still doing business in the village). Pat is observing there is no interdepartmental communications at the Village with complete disconnects in the Village inspection processes between property and buildings inspectors and the forester. The correct inspectors are not coming to the sites. The property inspector has no knowledge of the soil conditions needed for trees and did not inform the forester when it was appropriate to do so. In addition, the Village only requires insurance on a builder for demolition, but not for construction and the Village has municipal indemnity which means you cannot sue easily.

The adjacent property has two citations related to no property permit and no tree protection fencing. Pat will research the language used in the tree ordinance citation. No property permit has only a \$700 fine, hardly a deterrent. Pat has lost an estimate of \$30,000 on his property value. He lost a 75 year old Sugar Maple tree, multiple ironwood trees, a fairly rare, native and slow-growing variety, and the damage continues. Packed soil, compacted clay, was the problem and the trees were not getting enough water. Now there are dangerous situations where old trees are ripping apart and hanging over from lack of water. Pat's complaints are considered a "nuisance complaint" by the Village even when he reported wet concrete pouring off the site directly into the sewers, it was treated as a nuisance complaint. On the value of trees on a property: Pat shared that you need a certified consultant arborist to officially value a tree and was lucky to have a veteran

experienced arborist evaluate the tree conditions for free. Pat also shared there are websites available that can help. As an aside, Pat told the story of the original Glen Ellyn gas lamp that was on the demolition property – only one of two to be in existence – which had been fully restored and of working order. Pat was trying to arrange to have this gas lamp passed to a preservation group for historical safe keeping but during demolition the gas lamp was first thrown in the bushes and then later C George threw it into the back of his truck and removed it from its original site.

### **Dates to Save:**

**Thursday, April 1**, CGEP/Cool Cities sponsored Dark Sky presentation, 7:30pm at Glen Ellyn Civic Center, Clayton room.

**Thursday, March 11**, Manmade Light at Night symposium, 8:00am at Lewis University in Romeoville. See <http://www.illinoislighting.org/symposium.html>

### **Two Free Seminars:**

**Hands on Plaster Workshop, Sat. Feb 20, 10am – 12:00 noon** by Luckzak Brothers, 4052 N. Elston, Chicago. Includes decorative and flat plaster.

**Lighting Restoration: The Technical How to Guide, Wed. March 2, 5:50pm – 7:30 pm** at School of the Art Institute, 33 S. State, rm 1226. Includes lecture and site visit. Free, register by March 2.

Email [aptwglc@yahoo.com](mailto:aptwglc@yahoo.com) to register.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, March 4, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.