

Cass Gilbert Society Board Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2008 5:30 PM

University Club of St. Paul 420 Summit Avenue

Present: Bonnie Alton, Linda Bjorklund, Nick Marcucci, Marjorie Pearson, Vincent Platt, Cindy Stephani, Sonja Sudheimer, Wendy Weimer, Joan Wilkosz, Jean Velleu

Guest: Eva Cross

Absent: Mary Michael Connolly, Jim Groskopf, Jim Hirsh, Lana Mahoney

- The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Wendy Weimer.
- The minutes of the February meeting were approved unanimously.
- Wendy presented the financial report – The balance on hand is \$4,185.16.

Old Business/Upcoming Lecture

- Annette Atkins is confirmed for April 8 at the University Club. Lana is in contact with her. Potential speakers/upcoming events suggestions
- Ethan Anthony is willing to speak to us on Monday, September 15 re Ralph Adams Cram. Bonnie Alton will reserve space at House of Hope for the lecture and coffee (7 PM). Bonnie will provide contact information and Lana will make arrangements with Mr. Anthony.
- Jeffrey Toobin was suggested as a potential lecturer by Jim Hirsh. He is a writer for the "New Yorker", affiliated with CNN, and has written a best-selling book about the US Supreme Court called The Nine.
- Eva Cross suggested that Gar Hargins might talk about living in a Cass Gilbert-designed building from an architect's point of view. As Board member Nick Marcucci is also an architect and lives in a Cass Gilbert house, it was suggested that we might plan a house tour of architect -owned Cass Gilbert houses for late September (21st or 28th) from 3-5 PM. Linda Bjorklund will ask Peter O'Brien if he is willing to participate and perhaps host refreshments at his home at 5 MacKubin Street. Linda will also ask Les Meltzer (513 Summit) if the tour could pass through his garden en route to O'Brien's. Jean Velleu will talk with Gar about his willingness to participate in this event. This could be a fund-raising activity; suggested fee - \$20/person.
- Eva also suggested that we look at what the University of MN has in its archives on Cass Gilbert. Linda suggested that perhaps we could hold the Kate Solomonson lecture at the University and visit the archives at that time. Cindy – or someone on the Board who heard her lecture on 2/26 at the Mpls Central Library (entitled "Cass Gilbert: Re-Imagining the Western Landscape") will contact Professor Solmonson.
- Paul Clifford Larson might also speak about any one of several architectural topics, including his most recent book, A Place at the Lake.
- We are still considering who might give the lecture at our annual meeting in November '08.

Committee reports

- Marketing Strategies and Funding Plan: Linda reported that we have sent letters to five of the architectural firms on the list provided by Bonnie Alton in January to request funding for our website project. Our goal is \$7,500. We have raised \$3,500 to date with a commitment of \$500 from Hamel, Green and Abrahamson, \$1000 from the Nicholson Family Foundation, and \$2000 from the Cass Gilbert Society Board. Nick Marcucci said he would think about other possible contacts.
- Website Redesign Project: The new & improved website has been up and running since March 2. Thirty six of the 40 buildings are ready to go. Andy Mickel will complete this work within the month. We need a photo of 318 Summit. The film from the 90 West Street Building will also 'stream' on our website.

Marjorie will file her report to MHS on the website grant this Spring.

New Business

- Thanks to Jim Hirsh, CGS has a consulting relationship with MAP for Nonprofits. Liability, taxes, copyright, etc are a few of the issues about which they provide expertise.
- The Cass Gilbert Society will advertise the May 18th brunch at Cedarhurst in Woodbury in the next Newsletter. Participants will be encouraged to reserve their places directly with the restaurant before May 10 to ensure that the group is seated together. The cost is \$20/person. Their website is: www.cedarhurstmansion.com Owners will conduct a tour of the property after the 11 AM brunch. Cindy Stephani will be the contact for members who have questions.
- The National Board of Architectural Historians sponsors an annual study tour based on an architect's work. Marjorie reported that they are considering Cass Gilbert for 2009; this would include the Twin Cities as one leg of the tour.
- The Chicago Architectural Foundation is sponsoring a trip to the Twin Cities in Fall 2008 and would be interested in visiting Gilbert sites. Marjorie is in contact with them.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Bjorklund, Acting Secretary