

Cass Gilbert Society Board Meeting Minutes  
May 8, 2008 5:30 PM  
University Club of St. Paul 420 Summit Avenue

Present: Linda Bjorklund, Jim Hirsh, Nick Marcucci, Vincent Platt, , Sonja Sudheimer, Wendy Weimer, Jean Velleu

Guests: Tom Blanck, Herb Grika

Absent: Bonnie Alton, Mary Michael Connolly, Jim Groskopf, Lana Mahoney, Marjorie Pearson, Cindy Stephani, Joan Wilkosz

- The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Wendy Weimer.
- The minutes of the April meeting were approved unanimously.
- Vincent presented the financial report -- It was unanimously approved.

#### **Old Business/Upcoming Lectures**

- September 15, 2008: Ethan Anthony will speak on Ralph Adams Cram in the sanctuary at the House of Hope Church (7 PM). Bonnie Alton is the contact and will coordinate this event with Lana. A \$200 honorarium will be paid.
- September 28, 2008: Tour of Cass Gilbert-designed homes owned by architects - Nick Marcucci, Peter O'Brien and Gar Hargins have agreed to conduct tours of their homes. Les Meltzer will open his garden for the 3-5 PM event. Duffy Pierce and Peter O'Brien will host refreshments (provided by the CGS) at 5 MacKubin Street. Linda suggested that JoAnn Erickson be recruited to organize this event. Bonnie Alton has agreed to help. Linda will contact JoAnn.
- November 11, 2008: Kate Solmonson, University of Minnesota
- Other potential lecture topics were suggested: The West Virginia State Capitol and Gail Fenske (her book on the Woolworth Building is coming out soon).

#### **Committee reports**

- Marketing Strategies and Funding Plan: Wendy reported that we received a check for \$500 from HGA for the website project.
- Website Redesign Project: We will not be allowed to stream the film about the State Capitol of West Virginia. The producers, Motion Masters, will allow us to link to their website where the film can be purchased for \$39.99.

#### **New Business/Guests**

- Herb Grika talked about the USS Cass Gilbert -- a 1948 cargo ship made in Oregon. It was one of 2700 "Liberty Ships" made during WWII. It was given to Russia shortly after the war and its name was changed to the Stephan Risin; it was scrapped in 1969. In 1973 it was deleted from Lloyds of London.
- Tom Blanck talked about the Gargoyle Club. It began in 1913. In 1917 the club purchased the Bethlehem Presbyterian Church (on Ramsey Hill) where it met until 1940 when it was sold for \$7,000. This is a social club for men who are connected to construction and architecture. Many architects, engineers and contractors belong. It has had an active scholarship program. Tom suggested we have someone from the Gargoyle Club talk with our board. Jean Velleu, Tom Blanck and Jim Hirsh will arrange a preliminary meeting with the Gargoyle Club to explore the idea of connecting this organization with the Cass Gilbert Society.

Jim Hirsh is exploring a trip to Cuba. He needs a task force. Wendy will help him with this.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Bjorklund, Acting Secretary