

Cass Gilbert Society Board Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2008 – 5:30 p.m.
University Club of St. Paul 420 Summit Avenue

Present: Nick Marcucci, Marjorie Pearson, Cindy Stephani, Jean Velleu, Wendy Weimer, Vincent Platt, Bonnie Alton, Mary Michael Connolly

Absent: Jim Hirsh, Joan Wilkosz, Linda Bjorklund, Jim Groskopf, Lana Mahoney, Sonja Mason, Jane Tschida

Wendy Weimer called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved as amended.

Vince Platt presented the Treasurer's report.

Old Business

Lectures/Events:

Dr. Katherine Solomonson, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the School of Architecture College of Design at the University of Minnesota, will give a lecture entitled "Cass Gilbert: Re-Imaging the Western Landscape" at the University Club on Tuesday November 11 at 7 p.m. This will follow the CGS Board's Annual Meeting which begins at 5 p.m. The Board approved allowing all college students – with identification – free admission to the lecture.

The 'Home and Garden' Walking Tour/Lecture on Sunday 9-28-08 was a big success! We appreciate the hard work of the planning committee, chaired by JoAnn Erickson, ably assisted by Linda Bjorklund. Thank you notecards will be sent to the architect/home owners of the 3 Cass Gilbert-designed residences, the owner of the beautiful garden on Summit which was open during the tour, and the reporter with the "Villager" who wrote such an excellent article about "Living with Cass." Most of the tour participants had read the article and made their plans accordingly. There was no publicity in the *StarTribune* or *Pioneer Press*.

The unsold books about Ralph Adams Cram, by author and architect Ethan Anthony, were returned to the publisher for credit. CGS has purchased a copy for the archives.

There was a discussion by the Board regarding future lectures. Due to the high cost of airfare and lodging, it was suggested that we think creatively and seek out local experts to speak to members and friends of the Cass Gilbert Society at future lectures. Two of the many names that were mentioned included Paul Clifford Larson and David Lanegan.

Marjorie has not received confirmation from Gail Fenske, whose book on the Woolworth Building in NYC was recently published. Ms. Fenske has been invited to present the February '09 lecture. She makes her home in Winchester, Mass.

Committee Reports:

Marketing strategies and funding plans – There has been no recent contact with the Gargoyle Club.

Website Redesign Project – www.cassgilbertsociety.org The Board agreed to publish the CGS by-laws and articles of incorporation on the website. This is common practice by non-profit organizations.

Jim Hirsh, legal advisor to the Cass Gilbert Society, has sent an email to the University of Minnesota Press indicating that we hope to amicably move forward re “Notes on 189 Works by Cass Gilbert in Minnesota.”

New Business

Nominating Committee Report

The Board accepted three new CGS Board members and officers for the 2009-2010 term. They will be officially introduced at the November 11 Annual Meeting.

Other

There was a discussion of several ways that the Cass Gilbert Society might commemorate the celebration of Cass Gilbert’s 150th Birthday in November 2009. It was suggested that we develop a theme related to our mission, *‘To preserve our cultural heritage through advancing scholarship in and appreciation of Cass Gilbert’s influence on American architecture.’* Our activity could relate to the restoration of the MN State Capitol and involve Helen Curry and Brian Pease, new Site Manager at the Minnesota State Capitol Historic Site. A committee was formed to begin the planning process. Committee members are: Marjorie Pearson, Nick Marcucci, Jean Velleu, Cindy Stephani, and Wendy Weimer.

It was moved to offer Brian Pease a complementary membership in the Cass Gilbert Society.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

The Cass Gilbert Society will conduct its Annual Meeting on November 11 at 5 p.m, followed by a buffet dinner, and the lecture at 7 p.m. by Kate Solomonson.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Weimer, acting secretary