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MELROSE HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FOR MONDAY DECEMBER 2, 2024 @ 7PM

This meeting of the Melrose Historical Commission was conducted via in-person participation in the Cassidy Room of City Hall, Melrose

CALL TO ORDER

This regular meeting of the Melrose Historical Commission was called to order by Chair Kimberly Marolda at 7:00PM. Members in attendance included Vice Chair Tom Champoux, Treasurer Shane Egan, Secretary Rebecca Blumenthal, Darren Brown, George Biblos and Joseph Hunt. There were no members of the public present.

ORDERS OF BUSINESS

The first order of business was to approve the previous meeting's minutes from October 15, 2024. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

The second order of business was to open the forum for comments from the public, of which there were none.

DISCUSSION

I. *Review Public Comment Policy*

There was no need to review the Public Comment Policy as no members of the public were present.

II. *Presentation of Local Home / Building Research*

- a. Vice Chair Tom Champoux gave the inaugural presentation of local home research, an exercise designed to hone the research skills of the MHC members. Member Darren Brown will present his research on a local home at the January 2025 meeting.
- b. Tom shared his research on 61 Crescent Ave in the Russell Park neighborhood of Melrose. This Queen Anne home c. 1896 has been home to notable Melrosians including an early female cycling enthusiast from the early 20th c.
- c. Tom benefitted from previous research on this address already in the MACRIS system of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He also utilized census data, library links to

archived local papers, and general google searches of some of the previous residents. He found the online deed resources the least user friendly.

III. ***MS Clarke Historical Recognition Award***

- a. *See 6.5.24 meeting minutes for earlier discussion of the creation of an honorary annual award for the purpose of recognizing a deserving recipient for their demonstrated commitment to the celebration and preservation of the history of Melrose, Massachusetts.*
- b. The commission made the first presentation of this award to local historian Scott Macaulay at the October 2024 MHC meeting. The commission plans to present the award to the next recipient in conjunction with the City of Melrose 2025 birthday celebrations in the spring. (*See below.*)
- c. The commission discussed plans to use the press release to promote future nominations starting in January 2025. These nominations would tentatively be open from January to April 1, 2025 depending on the dates of the City of Melrose celebration events.

IV. ***Historic Home Plaque Program Project Update***

- a. *See 10.16.23 meeting minutes for a summary of the Historic Home Plaque Program.*
- b. There have been three applications received and approved so far.
- c. Joe Hunt confirmed that Markarian Sign Company is willing to turn them around in a few days without waiting for a batch of six orders. Chair Marolda requested Joe Hunt to ask Markarian if there are alternatives to the homeowners delivering the application to them in person. Can Markarian accept the applications as scanned attachments via email and/or accept payment over the phone?
- d. Applicants to date have met the guidelines to qualify for a plaque and their applications are approved. The next step is to return the applications to the homeowners at which point the homeowners place their order and payment directly with Markarian.
- e. Joe will give Markarian a heads-up to expect the approved applications shortly. He will request that they let the MHC know when the plaques are ready so a photo-op can be organized with homeowners who are willing to participate.

V. ***Research Your Home Night Recap—Spring Edition***

- a. *See 8.12.24 meeting minutes for a summary of Research Your Home Night.*
- b. Efforts continue to locate a free or inexpensive location for the next RYHN. Shane Egan has determined that the First Congregational space on West Foster St. does not meet

the MHC needs for this type of event. Rebecca contacted the Incarnation Church and determined that they do not rent space to outside organizations at their Upham St. location. Tom will reach out to the Temple on East Foster St. to determine if the MHC will be able to use their space again in this time frame.

VI. ***Update on 2025 City Birthday Celebration planning***

- a. *See 8.12.24 meeting minutes for more information on the 2025 City Birthday Celebration.*
- b. There are no updates.

VII. ***Other Business***

- a. Member George Biblos informed the MHC that the Caruso project on the corner of Main and Emerson Streets is stalled. The current owner of the property is selling the property.
- b. The Corinthian Hall will be vacated this month. Scott Macaulay has inquired if the MHC has an interest in gaining access to the interior to document it before demo commences. Shane will attempt to contact the current tenant, Dance Gallery this week.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Monday, January 6, 2025, at 7pm in the Cassidy Room of City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Marolda at 7:58pm.

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