



FOREST HILL HOME OWNERS INC.

14 JUL 2021

In person and Virtual meeting (Courtyard of Rockefeller Building)

Attending in person: Gretchen Mettler, Beryl Tishkoff, Jacqueline Kelly, Ann Ghazy, Tom Winston, Bob Charlick, Tony Rupcic

Attending remotely: no one

Absent: Chris Hubbert (excused); Ron Ramsey (excused), Sam Kohn (excused)

Gretchen called the meeting to order at 7:10.

June minutes were approved as submitted. Gretchen moved, Ann Seconded.

Treasurers report

Tony reported that FHHO had more revenues YTD 2021 compared to 2020. He received \$13k insurance settlement money from the water leak at the Blue Cottage. After multiple quotes, the work will be: put in all electric Heat/AC (mini-splits) and remove the old boiler, pipes and radiators, fix the toilet, repair cracked walls and windows.

PK Wadsworth will do the HVAC and asbestos removal; Gordon Hay and Bryan Thomas from East Cleveland Parks Association will remove the old heating system materials; Tim Welsh will do window repair and Winston Electric will do the electrical work.

Guest Speaker

Patty Choby presented on how to accomplish a project like saving the Blue Cottage. She is a long time work colleague of Beryl. Her company, Cobalt Group, works with all sorts of organizations with urban and project planning.

Not a sales pitch - here at the request of Beryl to share experiences and knowledge

Cobalt Group does a lot of work with these kind of "opportunities". They usually work with transdisciplinary teams.

This kind of work is not easy - reached out to CH planning director, haven't heard back yet

CH zoning map is almost all residential. It is important to look historically at the composition and conditions of neighborhood; plus there is a regional perspective.

7-8 years ago Cobalt Group worked in NE Ohio on a vibrant roadmap for regional development involving 400 jurisdictions in 12 counties. They collaboratively developed a common framework with a common sustainable vision that connects resources. Cobalt Group still uses that framework for all their projects

For FHHO, the Big Takeaway is

- Think about the history of Rockefeller neighborhood
- The neighborhood is resilient
- Working on the Blue Cottage is an Opportunity to put a face on our neighborhood

Should reach out to CH about what to do with property

Just demoing the cottage “would be ridiculous”

We need to plan for not only

- How do we restore it,
- how will it be used,
- what could it be used for,
- can we place it differently on the site?

Opportunities possibly exist to use the little cottage as a connector because people know the Rockefeller homes like they know Lakeview cemetery

She strongly suggested that we should not follow the Pattern of allowing an old structure to languish until it's torn down.

Mark asked about funds?

There are funds out there if we have a “wow” story on what we want to do. We should convey the story visually

Visioning Possibilities include maybe a special FHHO session to include a pro bono architect, a current conditions map, Consider placement (closer to the street?) parking, ADA accessibility

What are possible uses? Visitor center? Offices? Small museum? If it becomes a public benefit, more funds are available.

Tony - no way to get \$73 from each resident to cover costs (referring to \$73k estimate of cost for making a foundation) with 1000 residents. His opinion is that so many don't care and benefit off all of us

Patty – There are always some who don't care, but there are Multiple levels of outreach.

A good vision will always help

Beryl with enough buzz, maybe get interest from outside the neighborhood

Bob - we have not been able to generate an appreciation for what we do, don't have a much to think of as a "Result" of what we do - it's a problem with perspective. If we had \$75k, we would not be appreciated for spending it on the Cottage (i.e. potholes more important) Beryl - potholes not in our purview) Bob continues - we won't mobilize political and economic support until we can convince people we are of value to residents of the community.

Ann questioned what Blue Cottage is used for during normal times?

FHHO meetings?

Other uses are Historically it used to be open several days a week for residents to come in to talk, Repository of records, Knitting group until 2020, EC parks Association meetings, Cleveland Button Group.

Tom - we should identify sources of funding. Beryl - we have some sizable commitments. Patty you need to think of this project as a long term investment, not a short term project

Beryl reminded the group how the schoolhouse on Superior and Euclid heights was saved and what it is now used for.

Patty asked for permission to reach out to CH planning commission to discuss opportunities to bring resources and attention to this project. The Board agreed by verbal consensus

Tentatively set to bring additional stakeholders for a discussion at September FHHO Meeting

Membership

Barbara emailed yesterday about leave of absence or resignation.

Gretchen – assumes she hasn't drafted the welcome letter. Gretchen will work with Sharon to get the letter written, printed and sent. She is thinking she will try to get Ron to be the chair.

She hopes to have letters sent by the end of this weekend

Preservation

Bob presented Home Repair Resource Center (HRRRC) information. Bob and Sharon Leary went to HRRRC and met the Executive Director. They receive federal funding from HUD. They have a Tool Library - 1000 pieces of equipment with a membership fee of \$25 a year. And they had lots of capability to serve more people. Bob proposed that FHHO can focus on two activity clusters HRRRC works on: Grants and Education programs. We could work with them for them to educate FH residents

Gretchen asked if they have income caps for the grants and loans. Bob doesn't know. Gretchen also wondered if the education programs are limited to residents of participating suburbs.

Tom - this is a good tool for houses we find in deteriorating condition to give them resources

Gretchen the HRRRC brochure should go in welcome letter and bag

Updating standards needs to begin.

Marketing and Communications

Ann is talking to Samantha, need to update donors; Learning website from Sam so she can take over web site management; Want to do video with a professional team about the neighborhood. Some signs are out to various parts of the neighborhood.

Last month Gretchen made sets of names to and addresses for board members to distribute signs. Jackie took a list. There have been three requests for signs after doing the thank you for our donation letter

Bob – Anyone can post on Nextdoor about how you love the neighborhood

Bylaws

No update

Social event committee

Mark reported on the Plant sale. They report a small amount of money was made. They need to Plan what to do with leftover plants when the sale is done because Gretchen had to deal with them, and she scolded NEXT time - pick up after themselves.

Plans are underway for new membership events. Gretchen suggested that they avoid Saturdays for Jackie's participation.

Litter pickup

Mark: proposed next time in two weeks; all agreed that was fine. Will schedule for a Sunday (August 1) to help include Jackie.

Other

Discussion of last night's CH historical guidelines meeting draft; lots of input from Ohio History Connection. Tony reports this is a very comprehensive document drafted so far.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Mark Madland, Board Member