

Neighborhood Liaison Committee

Minutes of the Meeting

March 15, 2011
1670 31st Street NW

Neighbors present:

Mary Ellen Connell, 32nd Street neighbor
Patricia Hanower, 32nd Street neighbor
Ronald Snider, 31st Street neighbor

Staff present:

Leslie Buhler, Executive Director
Lisa Thompson, Museum Administrator

Ms. Buhler welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 6:27 pm. Introductions were made.

Ms. Buhler explained the format of the Neighborhood Liaison Committee meetings, which is to update neighbors on activities and to give a forum for neighbors to express any concerns.

Update on storm damage to the property

Ms. Buhler reported that two incense cedars damaged in August 2010 heavy storms were removed in January.

Major conservation projects:

Curly maple doors

The curly maple doors in the main house have been conserved.

Waxworks

The Washington wax figures from the Fraunces tableau went to Georgetown University Hospital for imaging on February 4. The imaging highlighted the different size pins used to secure the costumes to the figurines and their locations.

Phase I archeological project and finds

Dovetail Cultural Resources Group finished an intensive Phase I archaeological survey of the entire property. The goal of this survey was to identify the location of possible past buildings, note areas with no subsurface cultural significance for future improvements, and provide comprehensive archaeological information that may be used in relation to past and future excavations.

The study concluded with the excavation of 222 shovel test pits, resulting in the recovery of 874 artifacts from 139 of the 222 shovel test pits. The survey identified the historic ground level of the main house through the discovery of an intact brick walkway. The survey also located potential remains of a burned barn and a late-nineteenth/early-twentieth century dump site in the dell. In addition, the survey identified two potential outbuilding locations: one to the south of the Circle Garden and one in the northeast corner of the Tennis Lawn. Lastly, soils to the west of the west wing of main house were found to contain many artifacts related to all phases of occupation.

Upcoming events larger than 30 attendees

Several events coming up are anticipated to have more than 30 people. These include Tudor Nights on March 31 and June 2, the Casey Trees planting on April 7, Eggstravaganza! on April 23, 19th Annual Spring Garden Party on May 4, and a private rental on May 21 for Baby Love.

Update on Preservation Plan

Ms. Buhler reported that Tudor Place staff and Trustees continue to work on the Draft Master Preservation Plan to secure approvals from the National Park Service with regard to the easement. Ms. Buhler announced that Mary Oehrlein will close her firm at the end of the month to take the position of Historic Preservation Officer in the Office of the Architect of the US Capitol.

Donation of plant material from 32nd Street and Dent Place neighbors

Ms. Buhler thanked Mary Ellen Connell for her donation of boxwood that was being removed from her residence due to construction.

Neighbor Concerns

Two complaints have been received from neighbors since the last Neighborhood Liaison Committee meeting.

Denise Taylor was concerned with morning deliveries after 9 a.m. at the 32nd street gate for an October 9, 2010 Bat Mitzvah event. She was afraid the trucks would slide down the hill into her property and that they were too loud and too big for the street. One truck was a catering truck and the other the tent rental truck always used by Tudor Place.

Ellen Claire Dryer of 31st St. noted a bus in front of the Tudor Place entrance on Sept. 25, 2010 that did not move after discharging passengers. Tudor Place staff told the driver to move and he left. All bus drivers are given instructions about not parking or idling on the street and the location of bus parking. Mrs. Dryer asked that Tudor Place not accept bus visits on weekends. As much as possible, buses are directed to discharge at 31st and R Streets.

General Comments

A neighbor noted reading about the death of the red fox on Facebook. Ms. Buhler explained that the death appeared to be caused by trauma.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.