

CAPITOL HILL

Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2017

ISSUE NO. 3

FEATURES

A FOND FAREWELL

Goodbye Devon

We bid adieu to our co-founder Devon Olson and wish her luck.

SECOND MEETING SUMMARY

Take-aways & Next Steps

Our meeting at the Montlake Library proved productive and action-oriented.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

New Feature

UPDATES

Meeting & Agenda

Next meeting: Sunday, March 12, from 1PM-3PM at the 12th Ave Arts building.

More Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board Information from Rob Ketcherside.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Tom Heuser

A vignette about John "Second Chance" Quinlan, part of a longer series in Tom's story, 1827 Broadway: A Story of Iron and Blood.



Image: Seattle Municipal Archives, Ladies & Dog on Capitol Hill. Taken at the site of a landslide at 17th & Garfield. Pictured at Academy of the Sacred Heart (now home to Seattle Hebrew Academy), circa 1934.

– A FOND FAREWELL –

GOODBYE DEVON OLSON

We wish Devon Olson goodbye for now, and great luck in her new career and chapter in her life.

"CHHS is proud to announce that our co-founder and recent MLIS graduate Devon Olson accepted a one-year librarian position at the University of North Dakota Health Sciences Library. She left Seattle for Grand Forks on February 24th and this new chapter in her life and career officially began on March 1st. We wish her the greatest success and thank her for all of her hard work and valuable contributions.

CHHS wouldn't be where it is today without her and we will miss her dearly. But never fear, she hopes to continue assisting us remotely however she can after she settles in." –Tom Heuser



Devon Olson, photo courtesy of Jack Lambert

– SUMMARY –

MISSION STATEMENT & TAKE-AWAYS

OUR MISSION at Capitol Hill Historical Society is to gather, preserve, and share the history of the communities that have shaped Capitol Hill.

The February 12th meeting at the Montlake branch was well-attended with 15 members.

Takeaways

1. Devon is leaving
2. Agreed on mission statement (see above)
3. Listed out committees for CHHS
4. Members signed-up for committees
5. Discussion around physical CH landmarks and committee determination

Initial Committees List

Projects

- Natural & Geological
- Underserved Communities
- Early History
- Built Environment
- Arts & Culture
- Politics & Social Action
- people and stories

Management

- Governance
- Communications
- Outreach & Events
- Access & Archives

As planned, we've formed eleven CHHS sub-groups or, project & management based "committees". The idea being that smaller groups will provide a focus for projects and goals based on the individual group's interest. Members can join multiple committees and some groups may have cross-over interests.



We encourage members to begin to think about projects and sign-up for the committee that sounds right for your interests and skills. The next step for individuals or groups is to write a project proposal (similar to an abstract for research, or a creative brief), we can provide a template to help you realize your project goals and deliverables.

Abstracts differ in the amount of emphasis they give to objectives, methods, results, and conclusions of projects. Depending on your particular project, you and your group can decide which of these aspects you will emphasize.

Communications

We're working on solidifying a brand for CHHS: a Style Guide, a Tone of Voice document, and other branding elements as we further define our group.

– UPDATES –

NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY, MARCH 12
1PM-3PM 12TH AVENUE ARTS BUILDING

Meeting Details

Sunday March 12, 2017 @ 1pm-3pm

Location: 12th Avenue Arts Building

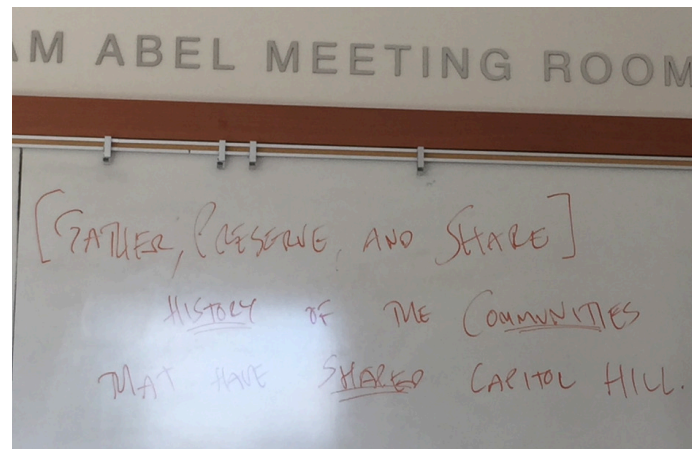
1620 12th Ave, Seattle, WA 98122

CHHS Meeting Agenda

Preliminaries

- Approve previous meeting's minutes
- Designate a note taker
- New Attendee introductions

- InterUrban HALA (Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda) + HP Community Forum at Washington Hall
- Discussion of the sale and possible landmarking of the Ford building
- Update from Rob: letter of support for the People of the Central area
- Topical break-out session and project brainstorming
- Determine what we can accomplish by the end of the year (short and long-term goals)
- Start writing project abstracts



CHHS meeting mission statement from Feb 12 meeting

For the upcoming meeting we've allotted most of the time for break-out sessions, so we can get straight to work, get to know fellow committee members, come up with project ideas, and perhaps begin project abstracts.



CHHS meeting discussion around mission statement

– UPDATES –

THE CITY OF SEATTLE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION BOARD INFORMATION

Here is some information from Rob about how the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board's process works if you or your committee are interested in getting involved in the designation of a landmark building site.

Rob Ketcherside and the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board

For the last four years CHHS member Rob Ketcherside has served on Seattle's Landmarks Preservation Board. The board reviews nominated buildings and reviews proposed alterations to them. Until his term ends later this year he'll keep apart from official CHHS positions on landmarks issues. But he's available as a resource to help us understand how to effectively interact with the board and give them feedback. He's provided some information for educating CHHS on getting involved.

"It is a two phase deal. The first phase is the "nomination" hearing. Board members may vote to nominate buildings simply because they want to have a first-hand look at them, or because they feel that there is information missing in the report. Or they may vote yes because they strongly feel the building should be a landmark. Or they may vote no because they think it's clear.

Lack of certainty usually leads to a nomination. If a majority of members vote for nomination, the building passes to the next phase.

Six to eight weeks later is the *designation* hearing. A majority of appointed board members must vote to designate. The building must be designated for very specific reasons. There are six criteria and it must meet at least one. The board's vote must detail which of the six criteria have been met.

So -- even if people miss the deadline to send a letter for nomination, and even if they can't attend... if the building is nominated, they can still voice their opinion towards designation. And further, even if someone sends a letter or attends to nominate, there is still a need to remind board members at the time of designation exactly why they should vote in favor or against designation." (continued)

– UPDATES –

THE CITY OF SEATTLE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION BOARD INFORMATION

"The criteria are listed here, under "General Questions". They're listed as an unordered list, but we refer to them as an ordered list, criteria A through F.

A. It is the location of or is associated in a significant way with an historic event with a significant effect upon the community, city, state, or nation

B. It is associated in a significant way with the life of a person important in the history of the city, state, or nation

C. It is associated in a significant way with a significant aspect of the cultural, political, or economic heritage of the community, city, state or nation

D. It embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style, period, or a method of construction

E. It is an outstanding work of a designer or builder

F. Because of its prominence of spatial location, contrasts of siting, age, or scale, it is an easily identifiable visual feature of its neighborhood or the city and contributes to the distinctive quality or identity of such neighborhood or city

There's another consideration that sit above these criteria: Does the building have enough integrity to convey its significance?

Anyone can say anything they want about the buildings. But, the board will only be considering evidence that reflects on these six criteria.

This is how Seattle's landmarks law works. Framing feedback in terms of these six criteria makes it much easier for the board to interpret and apply the feedback."On behalf of the property owner Seattle Central College, an architectural historian has prepared backgrounds of the two buildings which will be presented to the Landmarks Preservation Board at the meeting. The material is interesting in and of itself: there are maps, pictures, personal histories and of course the history of the buildings themselves. It should be read with a sense of urgency though: Is the case made to preserve the buildings?" –Rob Ketcherside

– THIS MONTH IN HISTORY –

NEW FEATURE

In this new addition to the CHHS newsletter, we will explore interesting people, important events, and otherwise curious goings-on in Capitol Hill's History for the current month. This month's feature by Tom Heuser.

Employees of Utility Garage, 1827 Broadway, get mixed up in Police Extortion attempt.

Between February and March 1929, two Utility Garage employees were beaten at or near the garage after reporting and giving testimony on a police officer's attempt to involve them in the extortion of \$50 (worth over \$700 today) from a drunk driver. The Civil Service Commission ultimately dismissed the case due to conflicting testimony and lack of evidence. However, the prime suspect, Patrolman George Huntley, lost his job over the beatings. [Read all the 1929 Seattle Times articles on the investigation.](#)



Don Mader, the victim, 1929



1937 WA State Archives, 1827-1829 Broadway



INQUIRY PRINCIPALS—George A. Huntley, dismissed patrolman, right, figures in police extortion investigation in which Patrolman George F. Reynolds, left, has been exonerated by police.

Image: Seattle Times, circa 1929

Send stories that you would like to see featured to: capitolhillpast@gmail.com

– RECENT PUBLICATIONS –

AN ARTICLE BY TOM HEUSER

1827 Broadway: Johnny “Second Chance” Quinlan

A story of love, booze, and business. Click the title link above to read about a saga on Broadway. Tom Heuser’s deep dive into Seattle character, John Quinlan: entrepreneur, problem drinker, litigious drama-monger.

This is a fascinating look into how a local scoundrel cleans up his act and survives a series of unfortunate events (further instigated by his foul mouth and bad temper), only to ... well, I'll let you read the article.

It has something for everyone, a down-and-out-lout, a generous and lenient wife-cum-business partner, recovery, and the community's long-standing, documented distaste for towing cars on the hill. This story of John Quinlan is a vignette for the minor character in Tom's story, a two-part series: [1827 Broadway A Story of Iron & Blood](#).



Cap Hill vs. the Tow Companies, a long-standing battle.



Images from Tom Heuser's Story, John Quinlan



Helen Quinlan (née Boyd)