

Minutes of the November 16, 2014 Meeting of the Burleith History Group

The tenth meeting of the Burleith History Group was held at 3600 T Street NW on November 16, 2014 from 4:00 – 5:45 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

History Group Members:

Carol Baume	carolbaume@yahoo.com
Nan Bell	nanpbell@yahoo.com
Linda Brooks	lbrookslb@gmail.com
Rebecca Peterson	rspeterson226@gmail.com
Edgar Russell III	edgar_russell@hotmail.com
Ross Schipper	s526@erols.com
Pat Scolaro	pscolaro@verizon.net
Dwane Starlin	dwanestarlin@aol.com
Kay Twomey	kaytwomey@gmail.com

Burleith Beautification Committee Representatives:

David Bachner	davidj.bachner@gmail.com
Forrest Bachner	forrest.bachner@gmail.com
David Dunleavy	d_dunleavy@yahoo.com
Gwen Verhoff	gzverhoff@gmail.com

AGENDA

The only item on the agenda for this meeting was the History Group's Callbox Restoration Project. The Burleith Citizens' Association Board has given the History Group along with the four representatives from the Burleith Beautification Committee, the authority to pursue this project and make the decisions necessary to effect the restoration effort. The agenda was broken up into four sub-sections:

- A. Current status of the Burleith Call Boxes
- B. Preliminary Preservation of the Call Boxes
- C. The Design of the Restored Ball Boxes
- D. Cost Estimates
- E. Actions and Next Steps

A. CURRENT STATUS OF THE BURLEITH CALL BOXES

There are five existing Call Boxes in Burleith. These are all Fire Call Boxes and are located at the following locations:

- Box C1 - 35th and Whitehaven
- Box C2 - 37th and T
- Box C3 - 38th and S
- Box C4 - 36th and S
- Box C5 - 37th and R

Note: Historically, there was a 6th Call Box. This was a Police Call Box and was located on the corner of 36th and T. The facts surrounding its disappearance are a mystery. - Source *Charles Volkman*

Each of the Fire Call Boxes has three parts: *pedestal*, *call box housing* and *light pole*. The *pedestal* forms the base of the Call Box, was originally painted with dark gray or black enamel and has a *plate* that can be unscrewed to expose the innards of the pedestal. The *call box housing* was originally painted red and had a *lock door* that could be opened with a key. The *light pole* sat on top of the call

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box housing, was also painted dark gray or black, and was topped with a light bulb encased in a *glass bulb cover*.



Call Box Parts

- A. Glass Bulb Cover*
- B. Light Pole*
- C. Call Box Housing*
- D. Lock Door*
- E. Pedestal*
- F. Plate (missing)*

The Call Box at 38th and S is missing its pedestal *Plate*. The Call Box at 35th and Whitehaven is missing its *Glass Bulb Cover*. The Call Box at 37th and R is missing the *Glass Bulb Cover*, the *Lock Door* and the pedestal *Plate*. In addition, this Call Box has sunk approximately 2 feet into the ground. The Call Boxes at 37th and T and 36th and S have all their parts.

Note: Any project to restore the Call Boxes must address the issue of the missing parts and raising the sunken Call Box.

B. PRELIMINARY PRESERVATION OF THE CALL BOXES

The first step in restoring the Call Boxes is to remove all the paint and rust from the exterior of the Call Box down to bare metal. The paint on several of the Georgetown Call Box restorations (e.g. the Call Box on the south side of M Street near the entrance to the Washington Sports Clubs) has already begun to flake off because this step was not taken properly. Glen Harrison has experimented with using a wire brush and wire brush wheel to remove the paint down to the bare metal on a *Lock Door* removed from the Call Box at 36th and S and a pedestal *Plate* removed from the Call Box at 37th and T. This turns out to be a difficult and time-consuming project. While we can experiment using paint striper like *Superstrip* available from Sherman Williams, the group agreed that we would try to get estimates (at least two) from companies who have the expertise to remove all the paint and rust from the exterior of the Call Boxes down to the bare metal.

C. THE DESIGN OF THE RESTORED CALL BOXES

The group agreed that we would use plaques for the Burleith Call Box restoration instead of artwork. In addition, the group agreed that the restored Call Boxes would have *Pedestals and Light Poles painted dark-gray or black* and a *Call Box Housing painted red or reddish maroon*. The following proposed design using these colors was presented to the group:

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There were some questions within the group regarding the gilded highlights with one member recommending that they not be used at all and another member recommending that they be platinum instead of gold colored. This aspect of the design requires further discussion, but the group agreed that we could use this image in a campaign to raise funds for the project from citizens of Burleith.

D. COST ESTIMATES

The project has nine distinct tasks:

1. Raising the Call Box on 37th and R ("Shorty") to its original height (NOTE: No decision has been made regarding doing this task or not doing it.)
2. Stripping the Call Boxes down to bare metal
3. Painting the Call Boxes with a metal primer
4. Creating a facsimile of the *Lock Door* for the Call Box on 37th & R
5. Creating a facsimile of the pedestal *Plate* for the Call Boxes at 37th & R and 38th & S
6. Creating Plaques for the Call Boxes
7. Painting the *Pedestals* and *Light Poles* dark-gray or black
8. Painting the *Call Box Housings* red or reddish maroon
9. Replacing the Glass Bulb Covers for the Call Boxes at 37th & R and 35th & Whitehaven

The Options and their respective cost estimates are as follows:

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Tasks	Item	Work Done by Burleith Volunteers	Work Contracted Out
1	Raising "Shorty" ¹	-	Unknown
2	Stripping to Bare Metal	- ²	Unknown
3	Painting Metal Primer	\$91.19	Unknown
4	Lock Door facsimile (1)	- ³	\$600 ⁴
5	Pedestal Plate facsimiles (2)	- ⁵	Unknown
6	Plaques (5)	-	\$3625 (5 @ \$725) ⁶
7	Painting Pedestals & Light Poles	\$104.79	Unknown
8	Painting Call Box Housings	\$104.79	Unknown
9	Replacing Glass Bulb Covers (2)	\$10.18	Unknown

Notes:

¹ If we decide not to raise "Shorty," then this task can be removed

² More work could be done using a paint stripper like Superstrip, but Glen Harrison estimates that it could take a full weekend for each Call Box

³ Original Lock Doors may be available on eBay. In addition, the following web site describes how to make a fiberglass mold:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOo8gxp3K3w

⁴ This estimate is based on cost to produce a fiberglass replica of the Daniel Boone Plaque.

⁵ The plates are nearly rectangular, and so should be easily made from plexiglass.

⁶ Estimate from Artistic Bronze, the company that made the small plaque for the Daniel Boone Monument.

Bottom line, it is impossible to make a reasonable cost estimate at this time.

E. DECISIONS, ACTIONS, and NEXT STEPS

COST ESTIMATES

The most pressing needs at this time are cost estimates for the tasks associated with the restoration should we contract these out, especially for the stripping of the paint down to the bare medal. We would like at least two cost estimates for the stripping and at least two cost estimates for the other tasks.

ACTION 1: Nan Bell with check with Glover Park to find out who did the restorations for that neighborhood. Apparently this was done more recently than the Georgetown restorations.

ACTION 2: Nan Bell will contact CAG to get the name of the contractor used for the stripping down to bare metal task and the other tasks associated with the Georgetown restorations. Per Nan, that contractor has moved out of the Washington area. Nan will ask that contractor to recommend local contractors with the needed expertise.

ACTION 3: Rebecca Peterson will check Agnie's List for the names of possible contractors to do the stripping down to bare metal and/or the painting. Rebecca will coordinate with Ross on scheduling meetings with contractors to discuss the tasks and associated cost estimates.

ACTION 4: Carol Baume will ask the contractor working on her house, about the possibility of giving an estimate for raising "Shorty."

DESIGN DECISIONS

PLAQUES vs. ARTWORK: We decided to go with bronze plaques from Artistic Bronze Plaques (Miami Gardens, FL) instead of artwork. Artistic Bronze Plaques has already supplied a cost estimate of \$725 each for the plaques in 1/8" thick commercial bronze plate with etched raised letters and border. This is the company that produced the 10"x6" bronze plaque for the Daniel Boone Monument restoration. For etched bronze plate, the minimum size of the letters is 1/4" for capital letters and 1/8" for lower case letters. This minimum size will be helpful in deciding how much verbiage can be placed on each plaque.

COLORS: We decided to go with a red or reddish maroon color for the Call Box Housing and dark-gray or black for the Pedestal and Light Pole. These colors reflect the original colors of the Fire Call Boxes and this combination of colors has not been used in other neighborhoods

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in the Washington, DC area. There is still ongoing discussion regarding the gilding of design features on the pedestal, as shown in the mock-up above. This aspect of the color design will be decided later.

FUNDING ATTRIBUTION: There was quite a bit of discussion regarding specific wording and topics for the plaques on each of the five Call Boxes. The precise wording will be decided later, however, the majority of the group was against any funding attribution appearing on the Call Box itself other than generic attributions like "gift of the citizens of Burleith," or a mention of the BCA or BCF.

FUND RAISING

COLDWELL BANKER FUNDING: Lenore Rubino has proposed the possibility of Coldwell Banker donating towards the restoration of the Burleith Call Boxes. The next submission for a donation from Coldwell Banker CB Cares non-profit foundation is January 15, 2015. Lenore has said that it is possible that she and Coldwell could support the restoration of one Call Box. For this to happen, she would need the breakdown on the costs, timetable, location and essentially a description of the project. The mock-up above could be used as a picture of the finished product. Lenore asked whether we were planning on having donation plaques on the individual Call Boxes. The group decided that we were not ready to entertain the possibility of a donation plaque at this time.

ACTION 5: Kay Twomey took the action to begin discussions with Lenore Rubino regarding Coldwell Banker as a possible source of funding. Kay agreed that she would make no commitment regarding funding attribution on the Call Box itself, other than to say that we are not willing to consider that possibility at this time. Although we will work toward the possibility of obtaining cost and timetable estimates in time for the January 15, 2015 submission, it is important to note that there are currently no reliable estimates for either the costs or the timetable.

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS: Individuals donations from citizens of the Burleith neighborhood could range from small amounts (e.g. \$5 or \$10) to larger donations (e.g. \$500 or \$1000).

ACTION 6: Ross Schipper will prepare a sample donation web page for the Call Box restoration effort. The web page would allow citizens of Burleith to make donations via PayPal to the restoration effort. This page will be presented for the group's review before it goes live.

OTHER

PLAQUE WORDING: We discussed during the meeting the idea of having topics for each of the five Call Box plaques. Some possible topics discussed were:

- Introduction to Burleith
- Western High School Stadium
- Shannon & Luchs Development
- Burleith Educational Institutions
- History of Burleith
- Famous People of Burleith
- Old Maps of Burleith
- Infamous People of Burleith (i.e. Aldrich Ames)

We also discussed the idea of having the story of the Call Boxes on some or all of the Call Boxes. This could either be on the plaque or on a separate plaque. This decision was deferred to a subsequent meeting.

NEXT MEETINGS: Carol Baume recommended follow-on meetings to discuss fund raising and topics and content on the plaques.

ACTION 7: Ross Schipper will arrange follow-up meetings to discuss among other things, fund raising and decisions regarding topics for the five plaques. In the fund raising meeting

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we will report on the progress toward obtaining reliable cost estimates and timelines for the restoration.

The ninth meeting of the Burleith History Group was held at 3600 T Street NW on September 21 13, 2014 from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

1. The following were present at the meeting (alphabetical by last name):

Ross Schipper s526@erols.com
Dwane Starlin dwanestarlin@aol.com

2. History Group Membership

Of the 15 individuals who have expressed an interest in the History Group, only 8 have ever attended a meeting. It would be nice to find a way to get more people involved.

3. Pictorial History of Burleith (Arcadia Publications)

Much of the time was spent discussing the status of collecting pictures for the Arcadia Burleith History project. Dwane has spoken with several people who may have pictures to contribute. Ross has reviewed the Washington Post archives and the Evening Star archives and has found 36 images that, if we can get permissions to use them and can have them scanned to Arcadia's specification, would be a useful contribution toward the 180-240 images needed for this project. The next step will be to contact Michelle Casto (202-727-1213). Michelle is the Photo Archivist for the Washingtonian Special Collection and has access to the Evening Star "Photo Morgue." Dwane and Ross are working to arrange a time to meet with Michelle to see if some of these images can be made available. Dwane proposed some dates in October for a visit to talk with Michelle. Of these, the ones that fit with Ross' availability are Wednesday, October 8; Friday, October 10 (morning only); Wednesday, October 15; Monday, October 20; Wednesday, October 22; and Wednesday, October 29. Ross will call Michelle and see if any of these dates are good for her. Dwane and Ross have already met with Jerry McCoy of the Peabody Room. It was Jerry who suggested we contact Michelle. Other visits we need to schedule are:

- Historical Society of Washington, DC
- Library of Congress
- Western High School Archives
- Western High School Alumni Association
- Duke Ellington School of the Arts Archives
- Carlton Fletcher (Glover Park Historian)

In addition we are working on the wording of letters to be mailed to current and former Burleith residents who may have images to contribute. One of these, Jeffery King has already contributed 6 images, these images have been scanned, and Jeffery has signed the release form that allows these to be available for use in the Arcadia project. It would be very useful to be able to split up some of this so we can begin to collect images at a faster rate. For instance, Ross has asked Myles Johnson, former archivist for the Western High School Alumni Association, if he would take the lead in identifying Western High School images that we might be able to use.

4. Call Box Restoration

The final segment of the meeting was used to discuss the other History Group project, the restoration of the call boxes. There are four stages in this project:

- Design
- Cost Estimate
- Raising Funds
- Restoration

These four stages largely need to be performed sequentially instead of in parallel. For instance, it does not make sense to collect donations for the restoration before a cost estimate has been established and a cost estimate will depend on the design. Ross has sent an email to Nan Bell, BCA President and member of the Burleith History Group, describing what he believes needs to be done in the four stages identified above. The Design stage includes the paint color (or colors) as well as decisions like inserting a plaque (as was done in most of the Georgetown restorations), inserting artwork as has been done in some of the restorations in other Washington neighborhoods, or both. In

even seemingly simple aspects of the design, things like choosing the colors, there are differences of opinion. We need to determine a way to come to closure on the design issues so we can proceed. Linda Brooks has suggested we survey the BCA membership to determine the paint color(s) to be used. Nan Bell said she would bring this and the other stages of the History Group restoration project up for discussion at the BCA Board meeting on 25 September. Certain aspects of the Costing stage can we worked ahead of the design as they might inform the design decisions. For instance, if we wish to insert a plaque, then we need to generate a full-sized template that we can send to commercial companies that make plaques in order to get cost estimates. Ross will work on generating a template. Of course, the cost of generating a plaque may well depend on the number of words (or letters) that are to be placed on the plaque, and that is a design issue. Another aspect of the costing stage is who will do the restoration work. To what extent will we rely on community volunteer efforts (presumably cost free) and to what extent will we hire someone to do the work. For instance, do we have any community members with expertise in cast iron work? Once we have reliable cost estimates, we can proceed to the Raising Funds stage. Lenore Rubino has suggested the possibility of *CB Cares* providing a contribution. We could also rely on contributions from community members. Directed contributions to the Burleith Community Fund specifically for call box restoration (or even for the restoration of a specific call box) would be a useful mechanism. The final stage is the Restoration stage. Once funds have been raised, the question is who would do the actual restoration work. In the call box restorations accomplished by *Art on Call*, these were contracted out. For the Burleith project that has only 5 call boxes to restore, it might make more sense to seek out volunteer work from neighborhood residents for as much of the restoration as can be accomplished in that fashion.

5. We have not yet determined the time for the next meeting of the History Group. As soon as a time is set up, we will let the entire group know.

The eighth meeting of the Burleith History Group was held at 3600 T Street NW on July 13, 2014 from 4:00 – 5:40 p.m.

1. The following were present at the meeting (alphabetical by last name):

Linda Brooks lbrookslb@gmail.com
Ross Schipper s526@erols.com
Pat Scolaro pscolaro@verizon.net

2. New History Group Members

Ross announced two new members to the history group: Rebecca Peterson and Trevor Tezel. Although neither was able to attend this meeting, both are welcome additions to the group.

3. Pictorial History of Burleith (Arcadia Publications)

Over the next two years, we will need to amass 180-240 images relating to Burleith and its history. The majority of these have to come from old photos, although there can be some newer images as well. Arcadia has specific requirements for scanning photos. Namely, they need to be scanned to produce outputs that are 8 inches wide in TIFF format at 300 dpi using 8-bit Gray scale. To date 11 photos have been scanned to these specifications. We know of 33 other images that have not yet been scanned. In order to obtain 180-240 images, we will need to investigate a number of sources including:

1. Burleith Archives at the Gelman Library
2. Peabody Room at the Georgetown Library
3. Washingtoniana Section of the DC Library
4. Georgetown University
5. Historical Society of Washington, DC
6. Western High School Alumni Association
7. Western High School Archives
8. Duke Ellington School of the Arts
9. Library of Congress
10. Carlton Fletcher (Glover Park Historian) and
11. Current and Former Burleith Residents

Regarding current and former Burleith Residents, some of the individuals we would like to contact are:

1. Jeffrey King
2. Charlie Volkman
3. Myles Johnson
4. Irene & Larry Schaffner
5. Michael Farquhar
6. Mara Viksnins
7. Mary & Henri Meyer
8. Perrin & Laurel Radley
9. Edgar F. Russell III
10. Alfred Bigelow
11. Linda Brooks
12. Stephen Brown
13. Monique Wedderburn
14. Forrest & David Bachner
15. Pat Davies
16. Mary Ann Mackenzie
17. Susan Lockwood
18. Peter Pulsifer
19. Bonnie Hardy
20. Pat Scolaro
21. Ed Solomon

22. Candith Pallandre
23. Lenore Robino
24. Chris Clements
25. Nan Bell

The last ten are current or former BCA presidents. Pat Scolaro thought that there were other former BCA presidents that are still living and that we could add to the list, including Charles Clinton and Jerry Stone.

Pat, could you look at the list of BCA Presidents and let us know which ones we might be able to contact? The list can be viewed at http://www.burleith.org/BCA_Presidents.html. Thanks.

It would be an interesting project to try to secure a photo of each of the BCA presidents from the first, John S. Gorrell (Term: Dec. 1929 - Nov. 1935) on forward. For those that are living, we could try to contact them and see if they could provide a photo from the time that they served as BCA president - and while we were at it ask if they had in their possession any other historical Burleith photos of interest. Nothing is too mundane to be considered for this photo collection exercise. For example, Jeffrey King provided a 1961 photo taken from the back window of his Aunt's house looking southward. At first look it was just an ordinary picture of a Burleith alley, until you realize that you can see the House of the Good Shepherd in the background.

We stopped the meeting in order to go to the Estate Sale in the home of Perrin and Laurel Radley. We had hoped that there might be some old photographs of interest that we could pick up, but alas we came back empty handed except for some treasures purchased by Pat and Linda.

4. Burleith Call Box Restoration

We discussed this project as well. On the way back from the Estate Sale, we stopped by the call box on the south-west corner of 37th and T Streets. While there, we discussed what would be needed to do to restore this icon of Burleith's history. Besides scraping the outside and painting the call box (something we should probably do soon as a first step to preserve the existing call box even though we don't know what the ultimate restoration will look like), we need to develop a template that we could use to get estimates of a bronze plaque to place in the call box (included in this would be a determination of what words we would like to see on such a plaque), and finally we would need to have a plan for the ultimate restoration of the call box. We discussed the possibility of getting art students from GU or Ellington to participate in the scraping and painting part of the restoration exercise.

5. Daniel Boone Monument Restoration

Ross received a copy of the Compass (July 2014), the publication of the Daniel Boone Society. In that publication is a very nice article regarding the restoration of the Daniel Boone monument including a picture of the History Group members that were present at the re-dedication (Nan Bell, Myles Johnson, Edgar F. Russell III, Dwane Starlin, Linda Brooks, Ross Schipper and Kay Twomey).

6. We have not yet determined the time for the next meeting of the History Group. As soon as a time is set up, we will let the entire group know.

The seventh meeting of the Burleith History Group was held at 3600 T Street NW on March 2, 2014 from 4:00 – 5:45 p.m.

1. The following were present at the meeting (alphabetical by last name):

Nan Bell	nanpbell@yahoo.com
Linda Brooks	lbrookslb@gmail.com
Myles Johnson	mylesj33@comcast.net
Ross Schipper	s526@erols.com
Dwane Starlin	dwanestarlin@aol.com

2. **Daniel Boone Monument Restoration**

Ross gave an update on the Boone Monument restoration project. Clayton "Corky" Gray has begun work on the fiberglass replica of the Boone Plaque. The cost of this production will be \$900 (\$600 for Corky's work and a \$300 donation to the Davidson County Historical Museum for the use of their original Boone plaque). Ross has also been in touch with a company *Artistic Bronze Plaques* (Miami Gardens, FL) which has given an estimate of \$185 for the small [10" (wide) x 6" (high)] plaque. Ross also spoke on the phone with Corky Gray who described how the plaque was mounted on the stone monument in Spencer, NC. They used an adhesive 5200 by the 3M company (2 tubes at \$20.99 each) and band clamps (2 clamps at \$12.97 each) to affix the fiberglass plaque to the monument. So the total cost of the restoration is:

Fiberglass Boone Plaque	\$900
Smaller Bronze Plaque	\$185
Affixing Plaque to Monument	\$67.92

For a total of \$1152.92

With the contributions of \$500 from the Western High School Alumni Association and \$500 from the Burleith Community Fund, that leaves \$152.92. This last small sum will come from either the WHSAA, the BCF, or from directed donations to the BCF.

Corky Gray will not expect payment for the fiberglass plaque until it is complete. Linda Brooks and Ross Schipper plan to drive to North Carolina to take possession of the large fiberglass plaque when it is complete.

Ross is waiting on a design drawing from Artistic Bronze Plaques before signing a contract for the production of the small plaque. The company estimates that it will take 3-4 weeks to produce the small plaque.

The payment for the monument's restoration will come from the donors as follows:

Fiberglass Boone Plaque	- \$500 from Western High School Alumni Association
	- \$400 from Burleith Community Fund (BCF)
Small Plaque	- \$100 from BCF
	- \$85 from other sources (WHSAA, BCF or directed donations to BCF)
Miscellaneous	- \$67.92 from other sources (WHSAA, BCF or directed donations to BCF)

We also discussed invitees to the June 4 re-dedication ceremony. Some initial thoughts follow:

- Members of the Burleith History Group
- Members of the Burleith Community Fund Board
- Members of the Western High School Alumni Association Board
- Rory Pullens for Duke Ellington School of the Arts
- Members of the Burleith Citizens' Association Board

- Members of the ANC 2E
- Councilman Jack Evans
- DC Mayor Vincent Gray
- Media Representatives [Washington Post (John Kelly), Georgetown Current, Georgetown, InTowner]
- Members of "*The Boone Society*"
- Gary Marshall - Author of "*Rich Man: Daniel Boone*"
- Jerry McKoy - Peabody Room of Georgetown Public Library

Of course, all Burleith residents and members of the Western High School Alumni Association will be invited but will not receive formal invitations.

Regarding the re-dedication ceremony itself, Nan Bell suggested that Ross get together with Kay Twomey to discuss possibilities (June 4 is only 3 months away). Ross will contact Kay when she return on March 10. **Action:** Ross Schipper

3. **Pictorial History of Burleith**

On January 21, Julia Simpson of Arcadia Publishing requested that we consider submitting a proposal to Arcadia Publishing for the development of a volume in their *Images of America* series dealing with a pictorial history of Burleith. The BCA Board gave the go ahead for Dwane Starlin and Ross Schipper to develop such a proposal and submit it to Arcadia. In the meantime, Julia has left for another position in Arcadia Publishing and will be replaced by another Washington editor. The volume would consist of 180-240 images and 8000-18000 words, mostly captions for the images. As part of the proposal, we need to submit 10-20 sample images (300 dpi, 8" wide, TIFF format).

A proposed outline for such a volume might be as follows:

- Schools
 - Western High School -> Duke Ellington School of the Arts
 - Fillmore Elementary School -> Corcoran School
 - Gordon Junior High School -> Carlos Rosario Adult Education Center -> Rose L. Hardy Middle School
 - Levine School of Music
 - Washington International School
- Homes
 - Houses that predated Burleith
 - Shannon & Luchs Development
 - Cooley Brothers Development
 - Whitehaven Parkway Development
 - Hillandale
 - Homes of notable residents of Burleith
- Places of Business
 - Burleith Market (Deckelbaums) - one of the DGS (District Grocery Stores)
 - Western Pharmacy
- Religious Institutions
 - Mount Tabor Church (Butcher Church)
 - House of the Good Shepherd
- Icons and Images
 - Daniel Boone Monument (1934)
 - Boundary Stone (NW corner of 35th and Reservoir)
 - Adirondack Chair
 - Burleith Call Boxes
 - The Ames Mailbox
- Places of Recreation
 - Western Field -> Ellington Field

- Whitehaven Trail
- Lower Green Lot (Green Field)
- Upper Green Lot (Dog Park or Daisy Field)
- Burleith Sports Teams
- Burleith Netmen (from the 1920s)
- Burleith Bulldogs (Burleith Panthers)

We talked about visiting the Western Archives at Charles Sumner School in DC (1201 17th Street NW). The archives are open M-Th from 10:00 am-5:00 pm -
Archival Research Requests: (202) 730 0473 - Email: info.sumnerschool@dc.gov

3. **Burleith Call Boxes Restoration**

Dwane reported that DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities has taken over the Art on Call Project from Cultural Tourism. He made several attempts via phone and email to contact Keonia but could not get a response.

There are five call boxes in Burleith (35th&Whitehaven, 36th&S, 37th&R, 37th&T, and 38th&S). We discussed the partially restored Call Box at the corner of 35th and Whitehaven. All this needs is a plaque. Nan suggested that Ross contact *Artistic Bronze Plaques* (Miami Gardens, FL) about the possibility and cost of getting a plaque made for that call box. **Action:** Ross Schipper. We also discussed whether to adopt the paint color used by Georgetown in its restorations. We also suggested contacting Jack Evans to see if it was OK to go ahead and do restorations to these icons in Burleith that sit on DC property. Nan asked that Ross compose the words for such a letter to Jack Evans. **Action:** Ross Schipper Nan said that she would deliver the letter to Councilman Evans.

4. **Next Bell History Articles**

- **Part 2 - Western High School Cadets:** Perrin Radley, a former Cadet and Western High School alumnus, will write an article about the Western High School Cadets for the April 2014 issue of the Burleith Bell. This article will compliment the one written by Edgar Russell III for the January 2014 issue.
- **Oral Histories:** Dwane Starlin offered to write an article about the oral histories of long time Burleith residents he has been conducting. He would do this for the May 2014 issue of the Burleith Bell.

5. **Next Visit to Gelman Library**

The Burleith archives in the Gelman Library can be found at:
<http://library.gwu.edu/ead/ms2022.xml>

The next visit to the Gelman will take place on Wednesday, April 23. On Wednesday (April 9), Ross will request Boxes 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Box 7 - BCA Minutes (1929-1935)
Box 8 - BCA Minutes (1936-1966)
Box 9 - BCA Minutes (1967-1983)
Box 10 - BCA Minutes (1984-1989)
Box 11 - Newsletters (1974-1999)

6. **Visit to Sumner School**

We are considering a visit to the Sumner School to view the Western High School archives. No date has been set yet.

7. **Next Burleith History Group Meeting**

Sunday, May 4 (4:00 - 6:00 pm) at 3600 T Street NW

The sixth meeting of the Burleith History Group was held at 3600 T Street NW on January 5, 2014 from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

The following were present at the meeting (alphabetical by last name):

Nan Bell	nanpbell@yahoo.com
Linda Brooks	lbrookslb@gmail.com
Myles Johnson	mylesj33@comcast.net
Ross Schipper	s526@erols.com
Pat Scolaro	pscolaro@verizon.net
Dwane Starlin	dwanestarlin@aol.com

1. New History Group Member

Ed Ohl, a new BCA Member, has expressed an interest in joining the Burleith History Group. He was unable to attend this meeting. Welcome, Ed.

2. Daniel Boone Monument Restoration

Ross presented a PowerPoint briefing on the status of the effort to restore the Daniel Boone Monument, located at the south-east corner of the Ellington School of the Arts campus (at the corner of Reservoir Road and 35th Street NW). Catherine Hoffmann, the Curator of the Davidson County Historical Museum (Lexington, NC), has agreed to let a local North Carolina artisan, Clayton Gray, borrow an original Daniel Boone plaque from the museum in order to create a replica. The Davidson County plaque is identical to the one that was presented to Western High School in 1926 and was later affixed to the Daniel Boone monument in 1934, staying there until it disappeared sometime between 1974 and 1998. Mr. Gray had borrowed the same plaque from the Davidson County museum to make a replica that now sits on a Daniel Boone monument in Spencer, NC. Like that plaque, the one he will make for the DC monument is created in fiberglass. The estimated cost of creating the replica and affixing it to the Boone Monument is under \$2000. Myles Johnson has asked for funding from the Western High School Alumni Association (WHSAA). Stan Schaper, president of the WHSAA, has agreed to donate \$500 of the association's funds to the project. In addition, the WHSAA will ask individual alumni to make contributions. In this way, Myles hopes to raise half the cost of the restoration, or about \$1000. Ross has sent a proposal to the Burleith Community Fund (BCF) asking for that organization to fund the remainder of the project. We are currently awaiting a response from the BCF. Kay Twomey has discussed the restoration project with Rory Pullens, Head of the Ellington School of the Arts, and others. Linda Brooks discussed the project with Rory at the recent ANC2E meeting. Rory said he knew of the project and stated that the Boone Monument would remain in place during and after the Ellington renovation. The next step is to ask Catherine Hoffmann to prepare a letter of understanding as to the cost and timetable so that all goes smoothly once Mr. Gray begins work on the replica plaque. The goal is to have the plaque mounted and rededicated on June 4, 2014 (the 80th Anniversary of the presentation of the monument by the Western High School History Club) with a second rededication in 2016 (the 90th Anniversary of the presentation of the

original plaque to Western High School). The second rededication will be timed to coincide with the re-opening of Ellington after the renovation. In the meantime, there are a few actions that need to be done soon:

- Get a response from the BCF regarding the proposal to fund part of the restoration costs. **Action:** Kay Twomey
- Get the agreement from Rory Pullens in writing. **Action:** Kay Twomey
 - (1) that Ellington supports the Boone Monument restoration project,
 - (2) the monument will remain in place during and after the renovation, and to ask Rory if there is
 - (3) any other additional authorization (besides Mr. Pullens') that is needed to effect the restoration on the grounds of Ellington School of the Arts.
- Procure a letter of understanding from Catherine Hoffmann and Clayton Gray for review before signing. **Action:** Ross Schipper

3. Burleith Call Boxes Restoration

Ross presented a PowerPoint briefing on the status of the effort to restore the Burleith Call Boxes. There are five call boxes in Burleith (35th&Whitehaven, 36th&S, 37th&R, 37th&T, and 38th&S). The goal of the History Group Project is to choose one call box and have it restored. Of the five call boxes in Burleith, the one at 35th&Whitehaven is partially restored and the one at 36th&S is in the best condition so they are likely candidates for the first restoration. The Art on Call project that was responsible for other call box restorations in DC is no longer functioning. This information is the result of an email exchange between Dwane Starlin and Helen Gineris, Events Manager for Cultural Tourism DC. Dwane agreed to talk to Jane Levy, Helen's supervisor to see if there is any possibility to have this project renewed for the Burleith call boxes. **Action:** Dwane Starlin When Georgetown was restoring its call boxes, they estimated that the cost for the restoration of a single call box was \$1500. The costs may have gone up since then, but at least this gives an order of magnitude of the cost. The Art on Call project used Kelsey & Associates, Inc. to perform the call box restorations. Another line of investigation would be to contact Kelsey & Associates to see if Burleith could engage them directly. Paul Williams (Paul@WashingtonHistory.com) is a possible contact within Kelsey & Associates. Finally, the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities was also involved in the Art on Call project. Rachel Dickerson (rachel.dickerson@dc.gov) is a possible contact here. The next step is to set up a sub-group to investigate the project to restore Burleith's call boxes. Dwane Starlin and Ross Schipper are interested in serving on such a sub-group. Since the Art on Call restoration project included placing a work of art by a local artist in the restored call box, we could solicit interest from one of the several artists living in Burleith to see if they might be interested in serving on the sub-group. Possibilities include Patterson Clark, Angela Iovino and Irene Schaffner. Ross will contact the artists to see if any are interested in participating. **Action:** Ross Schipper

4. Next Bell History Articles

There are at least three possibilities to work on.

- **Real Estate Covenants:** One possibility would be to write a history of the Real Estate covenants that were associated with the Burleith deeds when the homes were originally sold by Shannon and Luchs in the 1920s. In a series of history articles by Ann Lange, she writes "*a major problem facing the Burleith Citizens Association was one that would mature in 1942, when the 20-year covenant protection clauses in the original deeds expired. A concerted effort, starting in 1938, was made by the BCA to reach agreement of the owners to renew the covenants for another 20 years. A "signing bee" was held in January 1941 to gather signatures. However, this issue was put on the back burner as a result of World War II.*" The Supreme Court ruled against such restrictive covenants in 1948. Ross is interested in doing the research necessary for writing such an article. The Burleith archives in the Gelman Library contains "*Real Estate Covenants, 1939-1942*" in Box 15. In addition, the Minutes of the BCA in the years 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, and 1942 are in Box 8. Myles Johnson said that he had an original deed for the house his parents bought from Shannon and Luchs and that that deed may have the Covenants attached.
- **Part 2 - Western High School Cadets:** Perrin Radley, a former Cadet and Western High School alumnus, is interested in writing another article concerning the Western High School Cadets. He would like to interview former cadets including Myles Johnson, Ted Stoddart (a winning cadet captain), among others. He would first develop a list of current and former Burleith residents associated with the WHS cadets and then interview them for an article.
- **The Poets of Burleith:** Three (perhaps four) famous poets called Burleith home at one time or another. John "Gunboat" Pauker lived at 3723 S Street, Roland Flint lived at 3701 S Street, and Blanca Varela lived at 1928 35th Place. A fourth, still living, is Frazier Russell, brother of Burleith resident and History Group member, Edgar Farr Russell III. Roland later served as the poet laureate of Maryland and Blanca was a famous Peruvian poet. A lot of information about these can be derived from the Internet, and Ross is interested in doing research to back up a history article on the poets of Burleith.

5. Next Visit to Gelman Library

The Burleith archives in the Gelman Library can be found at:

<http://library.gwu.edu/ead/ms2022.xml>

On Wednesday (January 8), Ross will request some boxes be brought out of storage. It takes about 5 days for this to take place, so the next visit would not be before Wednesday, January 15. Ross will request Boxes 8 and 15 as they have information concerning a possible article regarding the covenants. Action: History Group

- If anyone else is interested in participating in a Gelman visit, let Ross know.
- If there is a particular Box that you would like to see brought out of storage, let Ross know.

The Special Collections Research Center is open 10 AM - 5 PM on Monday-Friday.

Ross would like to propose a visit on **Friday, January 17** (assuming that the boxes

are brought out of storage by that date) with a fall-back date of **Wednesday, January 22.**

6. Updating "A Short History of Burleith"

Edgar Farr Russell, grandfather to History Group member Edgar Farr Russell III, wrote a pamphlet titled "A Short History of Burleith" in 1955. The pamphlet was updated and republished in 1973. Ann Lange added to the history of Burleith with a series of articles that appeared in the Burleith Bell in 1985. Since then the formal history of Burleith has not been updated in nearly 29 years. Edgar Russell III and Dwane Starlin are interested in taking on a project to perform this update. Dwane will try to contact Edgar to get something going. **Action:** Dwane Starlin

7. Status of Oral Histories

Dwane Starlin is the driving force behind another project of the Burleith History Group, taking oral histories of long time Burleith residents. So far, Dwane has taken the oral histories of four persons, Hank Cohen, Irene Schaffner, Mara Viksnins and Myles Johnson. His to do list included Dorothy Preslar, Charlie Volkman, Mary and Henry Meyer, Bonnie Hardy and Ed Levy. Pat Scolaro, who has lived in Burleith for over 40 years, would be another good candidate.

8. Burleith Self-Guided Tour

Dwane Starlin brought to the meeting a pamphlet that described a self-guided tour in another Washington neighborhood. This project will be the first item on the agenda for the next Burleith History Group meeting. In the meantime, perhaps Dwane Starlin can propose the next steps that we need to accomplish in order to get this project off the ground. **Action:** Dwane Starlin

9. This Day in Burleith History

Ross is continuing to look for specific dates for events of some significant to the history of Burleith. Pat Scolaro and Myles Johnson will both look for dates of events that could be used. Each day, on the Burleith web site home page, the question is asked "What happened on [today's date: month & day] in Burleith history?" The goal to have one or more answers to that question for each of the 365 days of the year - 366 if we consider February 29. This is an ongoing effort. For example, of the 31 days in January, the question will be answered for 24 of those days, but for January 4, 5, 7, 16, 23, 25, and 26, all that will appear is the statement " Searching for an event in Burleith History that occurred on January [that day]." Ross is working on February now, but any help would be greatly appreciated.

10. The Artists of Burleith

Burleith has a long history of famous people with artistic talents, some currently living in Burleith and others who have either moved or passed away. Pat Scolaro added to this list by mentioning Pat Taylor, a graphic artist who lives at 3540 S Street in Burleith. Myles Johnson also mentioned Helen Thompson. Helen was a sculptor who lived in the 3700 block of S Street. She did a bust of Myles at age 12

that Myles still has. Does anybody besides Myles know or remember Helen? Does anyone know her address on S Street?

11. Making Burleith a Landmark District

Nan Bell is interested in investigating what is needed to make Burleith a Landmark District. This is not as restrictive as a historic district, such as Georgetown, but does require that the front facades of buildings be preserved. Nan will do research on this. Ross suggested that she contact Mark Snyder who might also be interested in such a project.

12. New Historical Documents

Pat Scolaro brought two issues of the Burleith Bell (January 1976 and November 1977) which were scanned and will be available on the Burleith website - click on Bell Archives. She also brought a September 1977 issue of "*The Board of Trade News*" which included viewpoints on the issue of "*2-hour Parking*," including the viewpoint of Burleith resident, Larry Schaffner. This document will be placed on the web site as a Burleith Historical Document.

13. Next History Group Meeting

What do the group members think of having a meeting on the first Sunday of every second month? Since this meeting was on the first Sunday of January in 2014, Ross would like to propose that the next History Group meeting take place on **March 2, 2014**, the first Sunday in March.