

Minutes of the January 11, 2015 Meeting of the Burleith History Group

The eleventh meeting of the Burleith History Group was held at 3600 T Street NW on January 11, 2015 from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

History Group Members:

Carol Baume	carolbaume@yahoo.com
Nan Bell	nanpbell@yahoo.com
Linda Brooks	lbrookslb@gmail.com
Tess Martinez	mmart92663@aol.com
Jeanie Murphy	jmurphy112@verizon.net
Edgar Russell III	edgar_russell@hotmail.com
Ross Schipper	s526@erols.com
Dwane Starlin	dwanestarlin@aol.com

Burleith Beautification Committee Representatives:

David Bachner	davidj.bachner@gmail.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 agenda was broken up into four sub-sections:

- A. Review of Actions from the November 16 Meeting
- B. The Design of the Restored Call Boxes
- C. Cost Estimates
- D. Discussion
 - i. Fund Raising
 - ii. Plaque Wording
- E. Decisions
- F. Actions and Next Steps

A. ACTIONS FROM NOVEMBER 16 MEETING

The actions from the last meeting were reviewed and all but one were completed and closed. The only remaining open action was one for Kay Twomey to begin discussions with Lenore Rubino regarding Coldwell Banker as a possible source for funding. I believe this action has been delayed while we determine if we can obtain all our funding from residents of Burleith.

B. THE DESIGN OF THE RESTORED CALL BOXES

The BCA Board has reviewed and approved the example design for the five Burleith call boxes. This design, discussed at the last meeting, includes a plaque (similar to the plaques Georgetown placed in its call box restorations), painting the pedestal and light pole black, painting the call box housing red, and gold trim. Parts of the restoration include creating replacement pedestal plaques for the call boxes at 38th & S and 37th & R, creating a replacement lock door for the call box at 37th & R, and replacing the glass bulb covers for the call boxes at 35th & Whitehaven and 37th & R. The approved design for the call box restoration is shown to the right.



C. COST ESTIMATES

Cost estimates have been obtained for the following items:

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1. Steel Disks to cover the hole at the top of the pedestal
2. Stripping the Call Boxes of rust and paint down to bare metal
3. Painting the Call Boxes with a metal primer
4. Painting the *Pedestals* and *Light Poles* dark-gray or black
5. Painting the *Call Box Housings* red or reddish maroon
6. Creating a facsimile of the pedestal *Plate* for the Call Boxes at 37th & R and 38th & S
7. Creating a facsimile of the *Lock Door* for the Call Box on 37th & R
8. Creating Plaques for the Call Boxes
9. Replacing the Glass Bulb Covers for the Call Boxes at 37th & R and 35th & Whitehaven

Thanks to a lot of effort on the part of Carol Baume and Rebecca Peterson, there were two estimates for the stripping of the old paint and rust from the call boxes. These estimates were from Clean & Polish and from Servpro. Almost all of the companies that do stripping require that you bring the object to be stripped into their facility. This is impossible with the call boxes, leaving just these two companies as viable options. In addition, Nan investigated what companies were used by nearby neighborhoods and discovered that they were no longer in business or had moved to another state. The Clean & Polish estimate was \$512 per call box (\$2,560 for all five) using a green stripping agent. The Servpro estimate was \$4,100 for all five using pressurized dry ice to do the stripping. The Servpro cost estimate was much higher than that of Clean & Pro, and Servpro did not provide estimates for the other tasks. In addition, there was some concern regarding possible damage to the call boxes from the dry ice method. Clean & Polish also gave estimate for the priming & painting and for the recreation of the pedestal plaques and lock door using a firm called Stromberg Metal Works, Inc. A summary of the cost estimates from Clean & Polish and Servpro follows:

Tasks	Item	Clean & Polish	Servpro
1	Stripping	\$2,560	\$4,100
2	Prime and Paint	\$978 (each)	
3	Pedestal Plate facsimile (2)	\$322 (each)	
4	Lock Door facsimile (1)	\$1,020	

During the meeting, David Bachner and Gwen Verhoff raised questions regarding warranty & maintenance for labor and materials and perhaps a yearly inspection plan on the part of Clean & Polish. It was agreed that these issues would be discussed with that company as we negotiate a contract for the work.

In addition, the cost estimate for the glass bulb cover is \$15 each, the cost estimate for five 6" steel plates is \$100, and the cost estimate for plaques from Artistic Bronze Plaques is \$725 each. No cost estimate for raising "Shorty" has been obtained, and at the present time there is no intention to raise "Shorty," although this issue may be raised later. It was agreed that "Shorty" would be the last of the five call boxes to be restored. Linda Brooks relayed a conversation with Rich Field in which he offered to contact companies and seek an estimate for raising "Shorty." Edgar Russell III suggested contacting Georgetown University to see if they could help in raising "Shorty," and Tess Martinez thought that perhaps GU engineers could help in this effort. Dwane Starlin felt that it might be best not to raise "Shorty," with the theories surrounding its sinking being an interesting item for Burleith tours. Edgar, on the other hand, thought it was best to raise "Shorty," and others voiced concern that an unraised "Shorty" might be more susceptible to rusting.

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The cost estimates for each of the five call boxes is as follows:

Item	35 th & Whitehaven	37 th & T	38 th & S	36 th & S	37 th & R
Lock Door	-	-	-	-	\$1030
Pedestal Plate	-	-	\$ 322	-	\$ 322
Glass Bulb Cover	\$ 15	-	-	-	\$ 15
Round Steel Disk	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20	\$ 20
Stripping	\$ 512	\$ 512	\$ 512	\$ 512	\$ 512
Priming & Painting	\$ 978	\$ 978	\$ 978	\$ 987	\$ 978
Plaque	\$ 725	\$ 725	\$ 725	\$ 725	\$ 725
Miscellaneous	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100
Totals	<u>\$2350</u>	<u>\$2335</u>	<u>\$2657</u>	<u>\$2335</u>	<u>\$3702</u>

The estimated Restoration Cost for All Five Call Boxes: \$13,379 or a rounded up \$13,500 as published in the January Burleith Bell.

D. DISCUSSION

There was quite a bit of discussion regarding wording for the plaques and fund raising.

FUND RAISING:

At the time of this meeting, donations in the amount of \$8,560 (64%, i.e. over 2/3, of the goal of 13,379) had already been received during the two months since the project was announced at the BCA Annual Meeting on November 13. Some of these donations have not yet cleared the BCF's bank so this amount is not for public disclosure until we receive the OK from Kay Twomey. The fund raising discussions centered on strategies for raising the remaining \$4,819. Nan Bell proposed using the funds currently on hand to restore two or three of the call boxes, with the expectation that Burleith citizens would be more likely to commit funds as they saw the results of the project. Everyone agreed that this was a good strategy, and the discussion centered on restoring 36th & S, 37th & T first, and 35th & Whitehaven with the funds currently collected. Nan also said that she believed there were a number of people waiting to donate. Jeanie Murphy said that she would talk to some friends and neighbors about the project. Tess Martinez suggested a fund raising event. There was some talk about doing this at the Gløgg Party, but everyone agreed that this was a social event and not an event to focus on fund raising. One idea was the possibility of having a wine and cheese party for potential donors. Gwen Verhoff talked about the possibility of getting donations from local businesses. This is along the lines of an earlier discussion regarding a possible donation from Coldwell Banker. Carol Baume also reported that she had been in contact with the DC Council on Arts and Humanities. Edgar Russell wanted to know if anyone had contacted Georgetown University. We believe there is a very good possibility that we can raise all the needed funds from the citizens of Burleith and BCA members. That being said, we need to have a number of "Plan B" strategies in our back pocket and should continue such efforts. Carol Baume's effort to obtain funding from the DC Council on Arts and Humanities is especially intriguing.

PLAQUE WORDING:

Ross Schipper presented a proposed draft wording for a plaque that could be used for the 36th & S call box. The subject of this proposed draft was the origin of the name Burleith. While the name Burleith was first associated with Henry Threlkeld's Berleith which stood on the grounds of the current Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School, the association of that name with our

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neighborhood really began in 1849 when Richard S. Cox inherited 55 acres that had nearly the same footprint as modern Burleith. Richard built his home called Burleith on a site where the Washington International School now stands. Ross' draft was given to everyone present for comment. We all agreed that we needed themes for all five plaques before we begin restoring the first call box. To that end, we discussed a number of possibilities and came away with the following assignments:

1. Origin of the Name Burleith - Ross Schipper
2. Introduction to Burleith (Including a map) - Ross Schipper
3. Education (Gordon, Fillmore, Western, Levine, WIS) - Gwen Verhoff
4. Famous Burleith Residents - Dwane Starlin
5. Developments (Shannon & Luchs, Cooley Bros., etc.) - Ross Schipper
6. Aldrich Ames - Dwane Starlin
7. Western Stadium (Ellington Field) - Edgar Russell III
8. Burleith's Restrictive Covenants - suggested by Eric Langenbacher

Ross created a first attempt at combining these themes into abstracts for wording to be used in the plaque, and has passed it to Edgar Russell, Dwane Starlin, and Gwen Verhoff for review. Nan Bell will present the combined themes to the BCA board for their comments at its January 22 meeting..

E. DECISIONS

The group decided to go forward with **Clean and Polish** as the contractor for the following items:

- Stripping
- Priming & Painting
- Pedestal plate fabrication
- Lock door fabrication

The group decided to go forward with **Artistic Bronze Plaques** as the contractor for the plaques.

The group recommended that we go ahead with the restoration of the following three call boxes that should be covered by donations received so far:

- 36th & S
- 37th & T
- 35th & Whitehaven

F. ACTIONS:

Action 1: Ross Schpper - Develop a proposal to be delivered to the BCF President, Kay Twomey, covering the funding for the call box restoration. This proposal will cover all items associated with the restoration with the exception of raising "Shorty" since no decision has been to raise the sunken call box on the northwest corner of 37th & R Streets NW and it is not included in the current cost estimate.

Action 2: Linda Brooks - Contact Rich Field to determine that status of his offer to contact companies and seek an estimate for raising "Shorty." Rich made this offer at a New Years Party.

Action 3: Ross to develop a summary write-up of the themes for reveiw and BCA Board comment.

Action 4: Nan Bell - Present the eight themes for plaque wording to the BCA Board.

Action 5: Carol Baume - Continue the effort to contact the DC Council on Arts and Humanities regarding funding for the call box restoration in the event that we are unable to raise sufficient funds based on private donations from Burleith residents.

Action 6: Jeanie Murphy - Talk to some friends and neighbors regarding the project.

Action 7: David Bachner - Talk to some friends and neighbors regarding the project.

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Action 8: Ross Schipper - Continue to work on wording for plaque theme "Why is it called Burleith?"

Action 9: Ross Schipper - Work on wording for plaque theme "Introduction to Burleith"

Action 10: Ross Schipper - Work on wording for plaque theme "Burleith's Developments"

Action 11: Dwane Starlin - Work on wording for plaque theme "Famous Burleith Residents"

Action 12: Dwane Starlin - Work on wording for plaque theme "Aldrich Ames"

Action 13: Edgar Russell - Work on wording for plaque theme "Western Stadium"

Action 14: Gwen Verhoff - Work on wording for plaque theme "Education"

Action 15: Tess Martinez - Continue to discuss with Ross Schipper the idea of a wine and cheese party to solicit donations