MEETING NOTES
Lighthouse Landing Complex Committee
Wednesday, June 19, 2013
1:30 pm
Evanston Art Center Conference Room
2603 Sheridan Road

Members Present: Larry Boswell, Maureen Conway, Paul D'Agostino, Erica Granchalek, Alderman Jane Grover, Ann McMahon, Don Terras

Members Absent: Claire Alden, Nora Diedrich

Others present: Lou Harms, and Herb Harms, local residents

Committee Member Reports

Art Center
Larry Boswell said that the EAC is selling “candles” for their party on July 27, and all members are invited. He also noted that the sculpture in front would be coming down in July. The Center will be collaborating with Northwestern University’s upcoming Craft Fair and they will use their student award winners as part of their exhibit. He also indicated that the Center is still looking for another facility/site that would better suit their needs. He then distributed a summary for the members which included a copy of the official EAC response to their students regarding a petition from change.org., and is attached to these meeting notes.

Lighthouse Park District
Don Terras stated that the restoration work on the Lighthouse was proceeding and is approximately 50% complete, and there has been minimal site disruption during the construction process. Final completion of the work is expected in late August, and he passed out the attached progress report. The Lighthouse Park District is considering a “Re-Opening” ceremony once all work is finished.

Garden Club of Evanston
Maureen stated that the Garden Club had invested in many new plants for the Butterfly Garden this past spring, and that the frequent rain had helped a lot. The Milkweed is doing well, and the Wild Phlox is spreading very well. The Club is working on maintain the vines and has had a lot of volunteer help, including from North Shore Village. The Committee then discussed how best to find more volunteers for the site into the fall season. Also discussed was the use of limestone in place of the timbers around the garden beds after construction is completed, and the lack of access to the east end of the site for emergency vehicles.
Ecology Center
No report.

Neighborhood Issues
Ann McMahon said that the Pritzker team that has a proposal to purchase the building had reached out to many of the local neighbors, and that the overall response was positive. They were shown pictures of what was being proposed and she was impressed with the fact that the team planned to invest $22 million into the site.

Parks/Forestry & Facilities Management
Paul D’Agostino reported that the site cleanup for Noah’s Playground was scheduled for Memorial Day weekend on May 26. He also noted that this July 6th is the 5-year anniversary of the playground’s dedication, and that a small event was being planned by the Cutter family for 1:00 that afternoon. He also invited the Committee members to the upcoming Tree Summit on June 22 at the Levy Center.

Alderman Grover
The Alderman updated the members on the status of the potential sale of the Harley Clark mansion, and said that the negotiations are still underway. She said that obtaining a fair market value for the building may be a sticking point, and that this issue was non-negotiable in her opinion. She also noted that if the City and Tawani could come to terms they could agree upon, then a public process would follow to present all of the details. If the parties could not come to terms, then the City Council would solicit public input for other ideas and/or uses for the building.

Public Comments
Mr.’s Lou and Herb Harms commented on their opposition to the sale of the building or any surrounding property, and stressed the need to maintain public access to the beach.

Next Meeting: September 18, 2013
Lighthouse Area Committee
Lighthouse Park District

Lighthouse Preservation Projects Update
Since April, a lot of progress has been made on our preservation construction projects and so far we have completed work to stabilize the keeper’s office foundation; replaced the roof on the keeper’s quarters; replaced and painted the gutters on the keeper’s quarters; restored the front step piers; tuck pointed masonry on the keeper’s quarters, passageway, keeper’s office; stabilized the exterior light tower concrete, and scraped and patched the entire tower exterior; prepped the lantern – inside and outside – to be primed and painted; and removed glass in the lantern in preparation for re-glazing.

All of this aside, left on the list are the big ticket items of completing resurfacing the entire exterior of the light tower and keeper’s office (at ground level) and replacing the copper roof on the light tower and restoration/installation of the ventilating ball on top of the roof. Also: replacement and glazing of the windows in the lantern; painting the inside and outside of the lantern; restoration of wooden windows in the light tower; and resurfacing/patching the upper 1/3 of the tower interior with Thorocoat. There are also a few other smaller scale projects that need to be completed with a thorough cleanup of the building interiors and landscaping to round out the work – if all goes according to plan.

We will continue to be closed to the public until all work is complete.

Respectfully submitted,

Don
Donald J. Terras, Director
Lighthouse Park District
Grosse Point Lighthouse National Landmark
Lighthouse Landing Committee
June 19, 2013

July 2013:
The ‘Sculpture on the Grounds’ piece will be de-installed first part of July. July 27th will be our Birthday Celebration for Evanston’s 150th Birthday. 150 ft. x 8in. “birthday candles” (cardboard tubes donated by Home Depot and decorated by EAC artists and interns) will be placed on the front lawn to celebrate birthday. Candles are $150 each and can be bought by organizations, businesses, schools, clubs, or individuals. Those who’ve purchased a candle to date are:

GDS Companies, Father William Flaherty, George and Karen Ribbon, Infant Welfare Society of Evanston, McGaw YMCA, Music Institute of Chicago, Reba Early Learning Center, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Wally Bobkiewicz, and Woman’s Club of Evanston Foundation.

Please help EAC spread the word – or buy a candle for an organization you represent. We will decorate the candle with your organizations logos or imagery.

August 2013:
EAC’s collaboration with the American Craft Exposition (ACE) has resulted in a special EAC exhibition titled “The Art of Craft: Works from NorthShore University HealthSystem’s Collection of Fine American Craft.” From August 5 through August 25, EAC galleries will showcase NorthShore University Health System’s 20 years of Purchase Awards from ACE. This will be the first time the entire collection is brought together and will offer a rare opportunity for art enthusiasts to see pieces from 39 of the country’s leading craft artists, each of whom have appeared at ACE throughout its 29 years.

Change.org Petition:
Alex Block, who I assume is an Evanston resident, has circulated a petition to save the Harley-Clarke mansion. He included the following sentence: “If the mansion is sold, the Evanston Arts Center will be forced to relocate.” Please be aware that EAC did not authorize his petition nor were we consulted. I’ve left a phone message and sent 2 e-mails to Mr. Block inviting him to call me or stop by EAC so I could share our Strategic Plan with him, particularly Goal Six, which states the need for an alternative facility for EAC. Mr. Block has not responded.

In my opinion, not only does this petition virally spread false information, it hurts our registration numbers, makes our faculty nervous, and creates confusion amongst City officials.

Please see the text of my e-mail message to EAC students sent June 14:

Dear EAC Students,

The Art Center has been a hub of "noisy" creativity this past week. That’s right, it’s summer youth camp time. The artworks fashioned in the areas of architecture, ceramics and collage are
truly inspiring. Adult classes in oil painting, digital photo, metal sculpture, 'en plein air' painting, and others are also underway.

However, this past week was also marked by a petition circulating on Change.org to "Save the Harley Clarke Mansion." What disturbs me about this petition is the mention of the Evanston Art Center being forced to relocate if the former mansion sells.

I want to underscore the fact that the Evanston Art Center has for some time been proactively investigating a move to an alternative facility, one that is large enough to house all of our studios, has up-to-date amenities, more parking options, and room to engage more constituents. We are not being forced to relocate. We are not sitting idle while events happen around us. Goal Six of our Strategic Plan calls for a relocation to a better facility.

EAC current and future students, faculty, funders, and partnering organizations should know that we will continue to operate this art center from a position of strength and be driven by our mission. We have a vision for a sustainable future and we hope you’ll be part of it.

Our summer enrollment is strong. We’re now in the process of creating our fall session offerings, which will include several new classes. Our galleries will be featuring exciting exhibitions.

I hope to see you in our classrooms and galleries soon and often.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Norah