

THE Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council BULLETIN



Capitol Hill & Avenues Mobile Watch Meeting

When: 18 April 2007, 6:00 p.m.
Where: Washington School, Multi-Purpose Rm.

Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council Meeting

When: 18 April 2007, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Washington School, Multi-Purpose Rm.

Preliminary Agenda:

- 6:30 Greeting by Chair, Polly Hart
- 6:40 Police Report, Roger Williams
- 6:50 Mobile Watch Report
- 7:00 Reports by Elected Officials
- 7:25 Report by Gwen Springmeyer, Mayor's Office
- 7:35 East Capitol/City Creek pathways construction update, Mark Morrison
- 7:45 Proposed Development, 700 N/ Columbus/DeSoto/Cortez, and vacation of 700 N Right of Way
- 8:30 Adjourn

NEXT MEETING
MAY 16, 2007 - 6:30 p.m.

Capitol Hill Neighborhood Council Members

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Chair | Polly Hart | 355-7203 |
| Vice-Chair | Georg Stutzenberger | 510-1603 |
| Vice-Chair | Robert King | 359-9992 |
| Secretary/Treasurer | Christine Hobby | 328-2684 |
| Historian | Shirley McLaughlan | 328-4182 |

Neighborhood Trustees

| | | |
|---------------|----------------------|--|
| Capitol | Carol Wood | 355-6475 |
| DeSoto/Cortez | Lorille Miller | 363-8191 |
| Ensign Downs | Lynn Rasmussen | 231-9984 |
| Kimball | Victoria Collard | 595-8575 |
| St. Marks | Nephi Kemmethmueller | 359-3936 |
| Swedetown | William Salas | 539-0938 |
| Temple | Gene Simmons | 364-3830 |
| Warm Springs | Minta Brandon | 355-1363 |
| Washington | Margaret Berchtold | 597-3599 |
| West High | Erlinda Davis | 531-1964 |
| Mobile Watch | Robert King | 359-9992 |
| Web Site | Nick Burns | nick@vanburns.com |

Bulletin Staff

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Advertising | Margaret Berchtold | chnc_bulletin@msn.com |
| Service & Community Events | | chnc_bulletin@msn.com |
| Mailing List | Margaret Berchtold | 597-3599 |
| Featured Neighbor | Stephen Sorenson | 364-3838 |

Hermoine Jex

[Editors' note: In honor of long-time friend and neighborhood advocate Hermoine Jex, who passed away in February, this month the Bulletin asked three of her close associates in the Neighborhood Council -- Bonnie Mangold, Erlinda Davis, and Eric Jergensen -- to share a memory of Hermoine.]

Bonnie Mangold:

Hermoine was a giant amongst citizens, exemplifying what it means to be a responsible citizen. Citizens enjoy certain rights and privileges, with reciprocal responsibilities, such as to be aware, educated and knowledgeable about the issues affecting the citizenry, to have a point of view based on thoughtful contemplation, to be fearless in speaking up, to participate. Hermoine lived these responsibilities full-time.

Hermoine cared deeply about many things: historic preservation, neighborhood representation, master plans and obviously about the real responsibilities of citizenship. Her passionate caring gave her the energy and persistence to be effective - to have the diligence to be aware of everything going on in the City, to do the research, to extrapolate the long term effects of current actions and to offer alternative solutions.

It is not easy to stand up, to say what needs saying, to take the long view not the expedient, to offer alternatives not just opposition, and to go on doing that, year after year, decade after decade. It requires courage and dedication. She put immense time and energy into protecting many things precious to this community. We live richer lives because of her actions and the results she brought about.

Erlinda Davis:

Back in 1976, the first time I met Hermoine, there was a critical issue west of 300 West. Good neighbors and homeowners were selling and moving out because they were tired of seeing the neighborhood deteriorating due to a speculator who bought old homes and rented them to people who did not have any pride in the places where they were living.

In one of our monthly meetings in her home, Hermoine said it was time to down-zone the area from business to residential. She brought a binder to my mother-in-law, Maurine Davis, and me, with the names of every homeowner in the three blocks between 300 North and 600 North, and 300 West to 400 West. That was a starting point. I was skeptical about the whole thing, but Hermoine had great confidence that it would work, and that it would get the mayor and his staff to give us the attention needed to save the neighborhood. Many hours were put into that crucial project. It took almost four years to get the area down-zoned to R5A,

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Researching Old Buildings

In the previous two issues of the newsletter, we discussed how to begin the research process for historic buildings and how to determine the date of construction. In this segment we will discuss researching the people who owned and lived in the building.

History of a building is related to the occupants

In almost all cases the history of a building is directly related to the history of the building's occupants. If you will remember, the purpose of doing a title search was to establish the ownership history of a building. Although in most

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instances this will provide the names of those who lived in a house, one must be cautious before assuming this. For many buildings in Capitol Hill, the people who owned the house didn't actually live there, but rented it out. For determining if your house was owner occupied, city directories can be very useful.

Occupied by owner or renter?

City directories can be consulted and you can compare the occupant for a specific date with the owner information you obtained from the title search to see if they correspond. If they don't, you should check several successive years to determine if the house was a rental or if perhaps one owner held title for a while after allowing another family to move into the house. If occupants change frequently during the period of a single titleholder, this would indicate that the house was a rental. Oftentimes larger residences were divided into apartments during and following the years of the Great Depression. Directories for Salt Lake City are available at the Utah History Information Center (UHIC) at the Rio Grande Depot.

Census as a research tool

The census schedule is another very important research tool. Every ten years the United States Census Bureau conducts a census. This data provides important basic information for each household, i.e.,

names of each of the household members, birthplace, birth and marriage dates, occupation, and so forth. This can provide useful information not only for a particular building you are researching, but also for finding out the demographics of a neighborhood. Prior to the 1900 census, no addresses for buildings are provided, so some guess work is required. Also, one of the most important census schedules, the 1890 census, is not available (these records were lost in a fire in Washington, DC). The schedules for each census are available on microfilm at the UHIC, as well as on internet sites such as www.ancestry.com.

Research obituaries

Perhaps the most commonly used biographical resource is an obituary for deceased historic occupants of a property. In many cases this is the only resource available, and can provide good basic information, such as birth and death dates, place of birth, occupations, religious and civic affiliations, and so forth. Some obituaries are fairly short and lacking in detail, while others may be very detailed.

In order to find out if an obituary is available you should consult the Obituary Index, which is available on microfilm at the UHIC. Indexes are available for obituaries in the *Salt Lake Tribune* and the *Deseret News* from 1850 to 1970. The *Salt Lake Tribune* is also indexed separately from 1940 to the present.

Prominent Utah citizens

For information on prominent citizens (usually male) in the 19th and early 20th centuries, there are several biographical guides available at the UHIC. The most common ones include *Pioneers and Prominent Men, Utah's Distinguished Personalities*, Andrew Jensen's *Biographical Encyclopedia*, and *Utah, the Storied Domain*. The UHIC has a biographical index, which is arranged alphabetically by name, this card catalog gives specific references for names found in publications at the USHS library. The two-volume reference, *Mormons and Their Neighbors*, provides information on which biographical resources and what page number in those resources a person's name appears.

Genealogical resources

Genealogical resources such as family histories can be very useful if available. However, these may be difficult to locate if family members no longer reside locally. Davis Bitton's *Guide to Mormon Diaries and Autobiographies* (available at the UHIC) can be useful in finding resources that are held in library collections. You can find general genealogical detail for individuals on the internet at sites such as, www.familysearch.org, or www.ancestry.com.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE & DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Discovery Gateway** needs volunteers to engage customers in the museum galleries, answer questions and lead activated. Personal interaction is a must. Volunteers are also responsible for keeping the museum neat and tidy and ready for the next visitors. Other smaller tasks and duties as assigned. Hours per week: 2-3. Training hours required: 4. Indoor work with kids. Contact Melissa Tyler 456-kids, www.discoverygateway.org
- **English Skills Learning Center** provides one-to-one or small group English language tutoring for adult refugees and immigrants. No experience or foreign language necessary. 15-hour training provided. Six month commitment required to tutor for 1-1 1/2 hours, twice a week. Assignments available throughout SL county. Flexible schedules. Training offered every 2-3 months. Contact Barbara Fish 328-5608, www.eslcenter.org.
- **LDS 19th Ward Clothing Exchange** Second Saturday of each month. 9:00 am to Noon, 225 W 500 North.
- **U of U Hospital Bereavement Program** needs funds to purchase fabric, baby ring mementos, dental amalgam for hand and foot molds and postage. Volunteers are needed to sew baby burial clothing, fabric envelopes and also knit or crochet baby hats or bonnets (patterns provided). Hours per week vary. No training required. Contact Wendy Roberts 581-2261.
- **Utah Council of the Blind** needs volunteers to assist blind or visually impaired individuals according to the needs of the person with the disability. Typical needs could include paying bills, grocery shopping, transportation to medical appointments, reading mail, etc. Hours per week vary. No training required. Indoor work. Contact Leslie Gertsch 292-1156, www.utahblind.org.

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The Capitol Hill Neighborhood Musical Showcase (May 9-see calendar below for details) and our community 4th of July celebration are both coming up.

Anyone who would either like to perform in, help with, or help organize either of these great events, please call Polly Hart (355-7203) or Steve Sorenson (364-3838).

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and then, finally, to R1A. From there, down-zoning has spread through much of the Capitol Hill area.

When CDBG came along, Hermoine taught me how to fill out the many applications needed to get government grants to fix up homes, streets, sewers, curbs and gutters, sidewalks, mini-parks, extra lights and trees to make it a real neighborhood. The best part is that we finally got those things. Because the neighborhood has become a good place to live, people are buying homes and staying here. New condos, townhouses, and other developments are now upgrading the neighborhood even more. Because Heroine had a great vision of what a neighborhood should be, and because she so willingly fought the long battle, we are all seeing, receiving, and enjoying the benefits of living here.

That's Hermoine, who was such a caring person that she would share her talents, money (she prepared and paid for all the letters, copies, petitions, maps), and time to make a neighborhood a good place to live. She dedicated her life into such humongous projects, just like a mission she finally fulfilled.

Because she cared enough, I started to learn to open my eyes and see what needed some attention in the whole Capitol Hill area and then work on it. I am honored that Hermoine made me a part of her life.

Eric Jergensen:

What does one say of an individual who has had such a vital

impact on the culture and history of our neighborhood? We hear words like, "When they made her, they through away the mold." Or we may hear, "We'll never see anyone like him again." Possibly, the words, "How will we ever go on without her?"

All of these comments – and more – apply to our beloved Hermoine Jex. Probably as much as anyone who has ever lived in this neighborhood since the coming of the first pioneer settlers of this community, Hermoine's role in creating and preserving the built and cultural heritage of our Capitol Hill neighborhood has made or kept it what it was, and is and will be in the future. Her incredible stick-to-it-iveness and bold commitment to what she felt was right allowed for a welding of differing viewpoints into a common vision amongst many neighborhood, community and political leaders.

But, my best memories of Hermoine are as a warm, kindly friend and colleague. Over the years, I always appreciated Hermoine's handwritten notes containing wonderful thoughts and suggestions. They were regularly concluded with the words "I'm glad we're in this together." For me, it was a privilege to be "in this together" with Hermoine.

I will miss Hermoine. There is still much left to do in our community. While we mourn Hermoine's loss, we honor her best by continuing to advocate for those things she held dear. That is something we all can – and must – do for our generation and for generations to come.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

April

- 14 "Tackle the Tower" Fundraiser for American Lung Association of Utah, 8:00 am-1:00 pm, www.utahlung.org. Wells Fargo Building
- 17 Income Tax Day
- 20 Gallery Stroll, 6:00 pm, www.gallerystroll.org
- 21 Salt Lake City Marathon, www.saltlakecitymarathon.com
- 22 Earth Day, Noon-10 pm, Liberty Park
- 28 Rose Park Commemorative Festival, Rose Park Elementary 1105 W 1000 North

May

- 9 Capitol Hill Neighborhood Musical Showcase, Assembly Hall on Temple square, 7:00 pm, Everyone invited—come see the talent from

- our Capitol Hill Community!
- 5-14 Spring Dine-O-Round
- 12 Race for the Cure, www.komenslc.org, Gateway, 8:30 am–Noon
- 13 Mother's Day
- 14 Lunch Bunch Concerts begin at Gallivan Center
- 15 Bike to Work Day
- 18 Bike Bonanza
- 28 Memorial Day

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|  | www.visitsaltlake.com |  | www.slccityevents.com |
| | www.downtownslc.com/events | | www.lds.org/events |
| | www.slccgov.com/PublicServices/Gallivan | | www.lds.org/calendar |