

**MINUTES**  
**PORTLAND PRESERVATION ALLIANCE**  
**MARCH 8, 2007**

Present: Nathalie Andrews, Benjamin Baggett, Erin Gerrity and Mary Turner (Due to schedule conflicts Judy Schroeder, Judy Werst, Gary Watrous, and John Barrow could not attend.)

Corner Markets—We talked about the vitality that corner markets can bring to neighborhoods and how many of these fine old market buildings there are in Portland. We discussed how best to encourage current owners and entrepreneurs to look at these buildings as potential business locations to encourage economic growth for Portland. To take our planning to the next level, we need volunteers to review possible uses for these buildings, contact owners and come up with a general plan to re-use them. Judy Werst brought an album of historic images that contained many Portland corner markets. She and Patsy Unclebach agreed to allow the Museum to scan the images for its collections and projects, including a “Then and Now” photographic essay published as an insert in the Portland Anchor and postcards.

Endangered Structures—Many old homes in Portland are at risk of being demolished. We need to catalog the endangered ones and make plans to encourage repair and restoration.

Preservation Award—May is “National Preservation Month.” An awards event would be an effective way to get the word out about preservation and encourage participation in these issues. Therefore, PPA plans to present a preservation award at a public ceremony. We need to design the award and choose the recipient. We discussed the nomination process including who will nominate, who will make the final decision on the award, and how many types of awards we should make, for example best rehabilitation and best restoration. These questions need to be resolved and we need the Portland community to participate.

Workshops—Potential workshops were discussed on the topic: How to research public records to establish the history of a structure. A youth research intern may be useful for this process. For example, we talked about putting an announcement in the Anchor telling people to send us as much information as they have about the building and we could hire a PPA intern to do additional research to determine the age and story of the building. We discussed using our Metro External Agency grant to hire and train the intern and how to provide workshops on restoration and rehabilitation of older homes that will be useful to Portland homeowners in the future.

New Meeting Time—It appears that Wednesday is a better day for people to meet so we have chosen the third Wednesday of each month as our regular meeting time. This is subject to change if the majority cannot make it during that time. For now, the next PPA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18th at 5:30.

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**PORTLAND PRESERVATION ALLIANCE**  
**FEBRUARY 8, 2007**

Present: Nathalie Andrews & Erin Gerrity from Portland Museum, Judy Werst from Church of Our Lady, Richard Jett from Metro Planning and Design, and Portland residents Tim Crabtree, Judy Schroeder and Gary Watrous

The meeting began with introductions and welcome to special guest Richard Jett, Metro Louisville’s Historic Preservation Officer. Nathalie Andrews announced that the Museum hired Benjamin Baggett to be project manager of the project to create an interpretive plan for Portland Wharf Park and three heritage trails in Portland. The project is funded by the Preserve America initiative of the White House. Mary Turner is Community Liaison

son for the project, which will last one year.

Judy Werst brought a book of photographs to the meeting that appears to be an insurance inventory of some type. It shows pictures of many businesses throughout the Louisville area taken around 1905. Using the old book and the Museum's inventory of Corner Markets, Judy was able to show how quite a few Portland corner markets looked at the turn of the last century. The book is a real treasure and Judy will ask her sister for permission to scan the book as a record for the Museum's permanent collection.

Judy also brought an idea to the table about urban gardening at Portland Wharf Park. She has lived in Washington DC, Texas, Ohio and Michigan. Each city she's lived in had an urban gardening program. Tenants and condo owners who lived downtown could rent plots of land (10' X 10') for gardening in the warm months. It could be a great way to bring the Main and Market Street residents to the Portland area, tying downtown to the west end as part of urban re-development. Many people use the Riverwalk already; having gardens down there could be a way to attract more people by making the park beautiful. Studies show that the more positive activity you have in areas like Portland Wharf Park, the more you will diminish the negative activity. The more you have people in the park and keeping an eye on the park the less isolated it feels and less of an easy target for people who don't respect it as a city park. Nathalie expanded on this idea by suggesting that gardeners could perhaps do historic gardening linked to historic sites. This could tie in better with the archaeology and educational aspects of the park and make the park more interactive for residents and visitors alike.

Everyone had lots of questions for Richard Jett about the demolition process and what could be done to save Portland's historic buildings and their architectural features. First Richard gave an update on the Marine Hospital, reporting that the restoration of the outside of the building is complete except for shutters and that a fundraising campaign would begin once the program for the building is confirmed. The building will provide exhibit space and office space, perhaps for Family Health Center or U of L. Plans are not in place and funding is uncertain. Richard also reported that the city acquired the old Katzman drugstore at 20th and Portland for preservation purposes.

Richard reported that in the Russell neighborhood community activists are working to establish a local historic district, partly in response to teardowns. He offered to come to another PPA meeting to outline what Portland would have to do to also get district status. Gary Watrous brought up the concern that historic district guidelines may be too strict for Portland homeowners. Richard explained that they can be different for different neighborhoods and that there are usually core guidelines, supplemental guidelines and then guidelines that accommodate new technologies (for example the new cement board siding or new types of storm windows).

We asked Richard how the demolition process works. All requests for permission to demolish (private owner or city-ordered) go through the Department of Inspections, Permits and Licenses. The process allows only 30 days to stop the demolition (most cities have at least 90 days!) Preservationists are looking for ways to improve the process. New policies have to be designed and then adopted by the Metro Council. It can be a long planning process and requires a lot of hard work and advocacy. He's hoping that voices such as the new Heritage Center of Louisville can help focus the city on these issues. He stressed the importance of education. Residents and city officials alike need to be taught that saving buildings and architectural features is actually financially beneficial in the long run. This will help with public incentive.

Gary brought up the idea of matching willing buyers with properties that are threatened with demolition. There could be a special nonprofit program (New Directions used to do that, Habitat for Humanity is starting to be interested in restoration as well as new buildings). A fund could be created to restore the properties or a contract can be drawn up with a "restore" non-profit that already exists and try to find a way to offer them to Portland people, selling them at an affordable price. Richard thought a program like this could be useful to at least save the details.

Richard brought examples of local Preservation Awards programs. The group discussed criteria for nomination and possibilities for the actual physical award. Louisville Historic League, founded by Alan Steinberg in the 1970's, has an annual awards program. They give a framed print of a line drawing of the Peterson-Dumesnil House, the League's headquarters. The Crescent Hill neighborhood association gives a special cup from Louisville Stoneware. They begin with a nominating committee of longtime knowledgeable neighborhood residents and the whole group votes on the winners. The Bluegrass Trust is a program that anyone can enter. If they meet the criteria, they can purchase a plaque to put on their building. Richard said that the most important thing is for PPA's criteria to reflect its mission. From there we can decide if we want to give an award for business and one for residential, or if we want to give one to an important person in the community, etc. The next steps for PPA include writing a mission statement, determining the criteria for the awards program and deciding who should nominate based on that criteria.

Please join us in this important work. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 8th at 5:30. PPA is supported in part by a grant from Metro Louisville External Agency funds. An awards program will be started in Portland in May, Historic Preservation Month.

**MINUTES**  
**PORTLAND PRESERVATION ALLIANCE**  
**NOVEMBER 16, 2006**

Attendees: Nathalie Andrews and Erin Gerrity of Portland Museum, Tim Crabtree of Good Neighbor Committee, Judy Schroeder of Portland NOW, Judy Werst of Church of Our Lady, and PPA Chair Mary Turner

Welcome given by Erin Gerrity

Nathalie Andrews gave an overview of the meeting agenda and described the Preserve America Project, a collaboration between the Museum, Metro Parks and the community to create three heritage trails linking the Wharf Park to the Historic District of Portland. The trails will be about African-American Heritage, Architectural Heritage and Maritime Heritage. Nathalie gave each guest a draft of the Preservation Chapter for the Neighborhood Plan that was developed by the Portland Neighborhood Task Force. The plan and PPA's potential role will be discussed at the next meeting after everyone's had a chance to review the chapter.

Scheduled viewings of the Architectural and Corner Markets powerpoint presentations were put off due to low attendance. The attendees decided to see them later at the Museum by appointment.

The group then discussed possible meeting times. Most people prefer a meeting every other month. No final decision was made on the next date and time.

Next, we elected Mary Turner to continue in the position of Chair for the PPA.

Membership development is being addressed by; each member asking someone to attend, or bringing someone, this process will continue by asking each person who attends to invite someone.

Nathalie Andrews suggested some possible projects for the PPA to address:

—Corner Markets—each member will find a market or two that they like and will come up with an idea about how it may be used.

—Preservation Awards—find homes that have been restored, rehabilitated or reused in an acceptable manner plaques or some form of award will be created, with the award being presented in May of each year since May is National Preservation Month.

—Workshops—possibly guiding people who wish to research their homes.  
More discussion of these possible projects will be continued.

**MINUTES**  
**PORTLAND PRESERVATION ALLIANCE**  
**MARCH 9, 2006**

Present: Erin Gerrity, Mary Turner, Bill LaFollette, John Barrow, Judy Werst, Patsy Unclebach, Sharon Scott, Judy Schroeder

Erin announced the Preserve America neighborhood designation and project grant. Nathalie went to Washington DC on Thursday March 9th to accept the awards along with city officials from the First Lady herself. Now that the Portland neighborhood is an official Preserve America Community, local non-profit organizations can apply for Preserve America grants. The first 45 grants were awarded this year and the Museum's project "Linking Our Heritage to Our Future" received one of the largest amounts. Metro Parks will match the Federal money with funds already set aside for construction in Portland Wharf Park. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation funded the project because "The grant will create a set of master plans to interpret the Portland Wharf Park and link it with key neighborhood historic sites along three heritage trails. The proposed project, because it incorporates citizen involvement throughout the planning process, will result in a local citizenry more prepared for the challenges of heritage development. The plan will result in a more cohesive interpretive strategy that ensures a strong authentic visitor experience."

The Museum will be working with master woodcraftsman Don Weber from Paint Lick Kentucky on a demonstration at Squire Earick House this May. This is a great project for PPA to take on and support by finding potential youth apprentices to apply for a two day learning experience and by recruiting the public to attend a talk by Tom Owen and demonstration by Don Weber on the art of building a timber frame structure. The public is welcome to drop by the house at any time to see the process on May 11, 12, 13 and May 25, 26, 27. We will announce the times for official public programs as soon as we know. We will also be filming the process for a permanent record.

E-mails have been circulating about the planned demolition of the old Key Market at 1801 Bank Street. Though the neighborhood has decided not to fight this particular demolition, it got some of us thinking that we should come up with a system for dealing with planned demolitions. Erin spoke with Metro building inspector Michael Tackett about this problem and an idea that came out of the last PPA meeting which involves saving the features from buildings that are torn down to be stored in a warehouse and applied for by Portland residents who are fixing up their historic homes. He was very interested and willing to help look into that.

John emphasized that PPA needs to get legislation behind some of these concerns and ideas. We might start with a letter to Mary McCoy asking how Portland NOW is addressing the issue of looting historic buildings either during demolition or by buying the buildings at a discount and renovating them into apartments, and present the idea of working with Cheri Hamilton on laws and the warehouse of parts idea. Could any of the \$2 million grant be used to create or maintain this program?

We could talk to the neighborhood association of Old Louisville and find out how they made it illegal to remove stained glass windows from the homes in that area. We could invite them to talk at our next meeting.

We could get together with Cheri Hamilton, George Unseld and David Tandy and tell them we need their partnership and support and that the time to act is now. What kinds of rules can we get in place to prevent demolition, looting and destruction of historic properties? Emphasize that the buildings are irreplaceable, that their

treasures can't be re-sold at the expense of the neighborhood's character and that this is especially a priority now that we've been nationally recognized as a Preserve America community.

We may need to lay some groundwork by finding out how often buildings are demolished, how many homes are being purchased how are they being used.

Mary will write a letter to Mary McCoy and Erin will contact Old Louisville before the next meeting. Date to be determined.

Judy and Mary talked about the bankers meeting at the TollBridge recently. Judy stated the meeting was promising. Several different banks sent Community Reinvestment Officers. They discussed the programs available through their banks and that Metro may also have some resources. These programs help people purchase homes. Metro has a program to help with rehabilitation of homes.

Other things discussed included creating a website with photos of homes for sale in Portland, more PR in the Highlands and other more expensive neighborhoods for people to see how affordable Portland is for a historic neighborhood. It was also suggested that we keep Chris Lewis of Anne Northup's office informed. He's always willing to help and interested in our projects.

## **MINUTES PORTLAND PRESERVATION ALLIANCE FEBRUARY 8th, 2006**

The PPA held their first official meeting on February 8th at the Portland Museum. Thank you to all who attended.

After introductions, the meeting moved to a presentation by two of the six museum interns working on "Documenting Architecture for a Future Worth Preserving." David Modica, a professional photographer is teaching the interns. P.J. Stewart and Michelle Turner made a wonderful presentation for us showing before and after photographs of two historic homes in Portland. One picture has been taken in 1911 by the Kentucky and Indiana Railroad Company. The other picture was a recreation of the same spot as it is today. In one example, the house has been remodeled and is barely recognizable. In the other picture a wonderful home that reminded you of a dollhouse, with a turret and gingerbread, has entirely disappeared leaving only a vacant lot. Next the interns passed around sheets showing small "thumbnail" prints of the photographs they have taken and explained their work and some of the PhotoShop skills they are learning. The Portland Museum Documenting Architecture interns are doing a great service for preservation in our neighborhood. Their photographs will be used in other facets of neighborhood planning and preservation. This project is funded by grants from Louisville Metro Government, Portland NOW and the Kentucky Arts Council, a state agency in the Commerce Cabinet, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Erin Gerrity and Nathalie Andrews updated the group about past and present and future preservation projects.

The Portland neighborhood has applied to the National Park Service to become designated a "Preserve America Neighborhood." If the application is accepted, Portland will be the first neighborhood in Louisville to be so designated. The Museum also applied for a Preserve America grant to partner with the Metro Parks Department for the design of a Master Plan for interpreting the Portland Wharf Park and three heritage trails that link the park to neighborhood heritage resources.

The Museum is planning a program at the Squire Earick House to showcase the skills of frontier craftsmen.

Don Weber, a timber frame expert from Eastern Kentucky, will demonstrate how a log is turned into a hand-hewn beam. The beam and six others will be used to restore the timber framing for the front porch of the Earick House. Two Portland youths will be able to work on the project with Don Weber and Mike Mullinix, a master carpenter. The demonstration will be held on a Saturday and the porch restoration will continue for approximately two weeks. The dates will be announced soon. Please call the Museum at 776-7678 if you are interested in becoming involved with this project. This project is sponsored by the Kentucky Humanities Council, the National Parks Service's Save America's Treasures program, the Cralle Foundation and Louisville Metro Government.

Portland Preservation Alliance (PPA) began a lively discussion about preservation and what needs attention in Portland. We discussed the ways Portland's structures could be preserved and some of the issues surrounding this effort:

- Protecting historic structures from demolition and/or insensitive remodeling
- Exploring options to make it possible to properly restore homes and communicating to home owners about resources and incentives
- Offering how-to workshops
- Creating and providing guidelines for restorations
- Salvaging, stockpiling and the using special parts or features from Portland demolitions (such as windows, mantel pieces, railings, dripstones)
- Identifying areas of the neighborhood that need protection.
- Exploring demonstration projects
- Creating a task force to help senior citizens keep up their homes.
- Reporting to other Portland groups to get everyone on the "same page"
- Communicating with members and other areas of Metro government
- Learning from other neighborhoods how best to go about making preservation possible
- Recruiting new people to advocate for preservation

PPA hopes to stimulate an on-going discussion of the hows and whys of these and other preservation issues and invites you to join the group. The next meeting will be held at the Portland Museum on March 9th at 5:30 pm. If you are interested in preserving Portland's many heritage resources, please join us for this meeting. You may also contact the Portland Museum at 776-7678 for more information. Residents and others who hold Portland dear to their hearts are needed for this endeavor.