

HARADA HOUSE PROJECT COMMITTEE MEETING  
December 15, 2017

MINUTES

Attendance: Chuck Wilson, Rose Y. Monge, Lauren Bricker, Eleanor Colombo, Jim Ferguson, Meiko Inaba, Steve Spiller, Nancy Takano, Kathy Wright, Councilmember Mike Gardner

Conference Call-ins: Naomi Harada

City Staff: Brenda Focht

Guest: Luz Negrón

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Chuck Wilson.
2. Approval of Minutes of November 17, 2017.
3. Report from the Metropolitan Museum Board December Meeting.  
There was an update on the Harada House ongoing structural assessment. During the investigation of the south and east side extensive termite activity was identified. It was determined that further investigation of the two remaining sides was necessary. On December 19, 2017 Acting Director Nguyen will appear at City Council to request approval to increase the project budget to allow the existing contractor to continue the job in progress for the north and west walls of Harada House.
4. The following five items were discussed:
  - (a) Discussion: Robinson House Function  
Robinson House needs to provide a public presence to the community. Immediate structural modifications of a conference room, ADA access and facilities would provide a site to maintain the Harada House presence.
  - (b) Discussion: Harada House Caretaker  
The current lack of a caretaker is a concern. It was suggested that the Robinson House could be used for both the conference center and the caretaker residence on a temporary basis. A full-time Harada House Caretaker is necessary to provide a daily presence at the site as well as a security presence. The long-term Caretaker residence should be separate from the Robinson House in order to provide maximum space at the Robinson House for interpretive activities. Following discussion Committee Member Ferguson made the motion: A separate structure be available to house the resident caretaker. Committee Member Wright seconded the motion.  
The motion passed unanimously.

(c) Discussion: Architect of Record for Harada House Project

An experienced historic preservation Architect of Record is necessary to oversee the entire Harada House project.

Following discussion Committee Member Wright made the motion.

Urge the City to identify an experienced licensed Architect of Record by March 30, 2018 to oversee the entire Harada House project.

Committee Member Ferguson seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

(d) Discussion: RMM FY18/19 and FY19/20 Budget would include a line item for Robinson House

RMM FY18/19 and FY19/20 Budget will include a line item for Robinson projects, such as structural modifications, HVAC and ADA requirements.

Following discussion Committee Member Ferguson made the motion.

RMM FY18/19 and FY19/20 Budget include a Robinson House line item.

Committee Member Wright seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

(e) Discussion: City recognition of Founding Donors of the Robinson House

In the fund raising for the Robinson House, donors of \$10,000 or more were identified as "Founding Donors". These donors were to be recognized by signage.

Following discussion Committee Member Ferguson made the motion.

Founding Donors of Robinson House, who gave \$10,000 or more to the purchase of the site will be recognized through signage.

Committee Member Spiller seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Orchard House:

Chairman Wilson presented information on the programming for the Louisa May Alcott Home "Orchard House". Discussion followed pertaining to programming for the Harada House with suggestions of updating any Harada House PowerPoint to include structural preservation status. Elio Palacios' video was also suggested as a programming option.

Next meeting: Friday, January 19, 2018 at 10:00am in Museum Conference room

Prepared by:

Brenda Buller Focht, Ph. D.

Museum Curator