

Roger K. Lewis to Speak at CPHS Annual Meeting May 21

Join us for the Annual Meeting!

Where?

The Tregaron Mansion at the Washington International School, 3100 Macomb Street, N.W. Enter via the gate at 3100 Macomb and drive to the top of the hill. Plenty of parking will be available.

When?

Tuesday, May 21st. 7:30 p.m.: refreshments and a brief business meeting; 8:00 p.m.: Roger Lewis's talk.

How to sign up:

The evening is free and all CPHS members are welcome, but we need a headcount for seating and refreshments. Please visit our website, ClevelandParkHistoricalSociety.org, to sign up online, or call Danny Ince at (202) 966-4622 to RSVP.

Need to join or renew your membership?

No problem! Bring the form at the back of this issue to the meeting.

About Roger K. Lewis

Roger K. Lewis, a fellow of the American Institute of Architects, is a practicing architect and urban planner; a professor emeritus of architecture at the University of Maryland College Park; and an author and journalist.

After earning architecture degrees at M.I.T. and serving as a Peace Corps volunteer architect in Tunisia, Lewis helped start the architecture program at the University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, where he taught architectural design from 1968 to 2006. In the 1990s he helped launch the university's National Center for Smart Growth.

Since 1984, *The Washington Post* has published his thematic, illustrated column, "Shaping the City," about architecture, planning and urban development. His columns and cartoons have received numerous awards and have been republished nationally and internationally. In his *Washington Post* column, Professor Lewis writes about principles, policies and practices related to architecture, smart growth, sustainability, land use planning and regulation, transportation and infrastructure, building codes, construction technology, security, housing and real estate development. Since 2007, he has been a regular guest on WAMU's *Kojo Nnamdi Show*.

Board Examines Zoning Update, Explores Design Guidelines

The Cleveland Park Historical Society's board and Architectural Review Committee have been busy this spring working on two issues that have a direct impact on preservation in our historic district. Board committees have been formed to examine the effect of the DC Office of Planning's proposed update to the District's zoning code and to explore the possibility of creating design guidelines for the Cleveland Park Historic District.

Zoning:

The board's committee on zoning and sustainability has been keeping a close eye on details of the proposed zoning changes as they are released. The committee determined that it was within CPHS's remit, as defined by the revised mission statement adopted by the board in spring 2012, to examine the effect of the zoning update on matters relating to preservation. (Read CPHS's mission statement at clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org/about-cphs.) With that in mind, the committee determined that the one potential area of concern was the status of the commercial district overlay for Connecticut Avenue. CPHS board members met in April with Office of Planning and Historic Preservation Office staff, as well as CPHS founding member and past HPRB chair Tersh Boasberg and representatives of the Cleveland Park Citizens Association. Those who attended the meeting were reassured that **all of the language defining each current special neighborhood overlay will be present in the revised zoning code, including a statement of the preservation purposes behind the overlays.** CPHS will continue to examine the language of the proposed code as it is made public.

Design Guidelines:

The CPHS board's major project for 2013 is the creation of design guidelines for the residential, single-family portion of the Cleveland Park Historic District. A committee of board members and Architectural Review Committee members is working on this project in consultation with Historic Preservation Office staff and the Historic Preservation Review Board. Why design guidelines? This initiative is designed to address several persistent issues that arise in reviewing projects in the historic district:

Clarity: Everyone involved in stewardship of our historic resources would benefit from greater clarity about what we are trying to preserve and how to conduct the review of projects in order to advance that goal. Design guidelines will provide much-improved guidance for homeowners and architects planning additions, alterations, or new construction, as well as for those reviewing proposed projects.

Priorities: This is an opportunity to take stock of preservation priorities a quarter century after historic designation. The design guidelines process is expected to identify our most important historic resources as distinct from buildings that are characteristic of the historic district's housing stock but not of exceptional importance. Standards of design review can then follow those priorities. The guidelines committee is also examining the role of open spaces in the historic character of the neighborhood.

Special characteristics of our historic district: The District of Columbia has detailed design guidelines for technical aspects of preservation and restoration, covering things like windows and doors, as well as general guidelines for additions and new construction. (For a link to the existing guidelines, visit clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org/historic-district/arc.) These work well in DC's largely homogeneous rowhouse historic districts. Cleveland Park, however, has been eclectic from the beginning and was recognized as such when it was designated in 1986. New design guidelines would address that eclecticism explicitly and guide review authorities in making appropriate preservation decisions for an eclectic historic district.

Roger Lewis's presentation at the Annual Meeting will address the nature and role of design guidelines and provide an opportunity for discussion.

◆ Stay tuned for much more information about this project later in the year. Your input as members and residents will be crucial to the process. ◆