

Michelle Bernstein

From: Betsy Owens <casafeliz@earthlink.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2013 1:26 PM
To: Mayor and Commissioners
Subject: Letter from Friends of Casa Feliz and WP Historical Association

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Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

It's come to our attention that individuals have taken to the web and other media to blame the Commission for the precarious situation surrounding the Capen House. We've seen the T-shirts and other inflammatory information posted on Facebook and comments left on blogs, and witnessed the harsh words spoken by citizens at last Monday's City Commission meeting. We understand that your inboxes have been filled with vitriolic emails.

Please know that the Friends of Casa Feliz and the Winter Park Historical Association are committed to finding a workable solution for the Capen House and, longer term, in closing the loopholes in our code that enabled this situation. We have no interest in assigning blame or casting aspersions on any person or group for this situation. It's not productive, and in fact, harmful to the process of working together to help safeguard Winter Park's historic assets. We want you to know that our organizations neither encourage nor condone the 'politicizing' of the endangered Capen House, but instead are committed to finding a positive solution that will benefit the whole community. To this end, we are in the process of exploring potential sites for moving the house, and have met with two contractors who are preparing bids. We hope to know more next week.

Wednesday night Susan and Linda were asked to speak to concerned citizens who wish to Save the Capen House. In an attempt to start thinking in a positive direction, the group was told that there are several viable options under consideration to move the home and we that we need to move forward as a community to make that happen. Hopefully, this will temper some of the social media comments and blogs.

Again, please know that both the Friends of Casa Feliz and the WPHA look forward to working with the City to pursue our mutual goal of protecting and celebrating what makes Winter Park so special. Thank you for your commitment to the City.

*Betsy Owens, Executive Director, Friends of Casa Feliz
Julie Lamar, Chairman, Friends of Casa Feliz
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