

Capitol Hill Restoration Society
Board of Directors Meeting
June 21, 2023

President Angie Schmidt convened the meeting at 6:00 pm at the Northeast Neighborhood Library, 330 7th Street NE.

Members Present:

Nick Alberti, Maygene Daniels, Fynnette Eaton, Monte Edwards, Beth Hague, Joanna Kendig, Jackie Krieger, Tina May, Christine Mullins, Undine Nash, Elizabeth Nelson, Gary Peterson, Beth Purcell, Angie Schmidt.

Members Absent: Chuck Burger, Delancey Gustin, Jim Thackaberry
Also Present: Office manager Jill Uvena Cullinane

Secretary's Report – Maygene Daniels

Daniels presented minutes of the May Board meeting.

Motion: Elizabeth Nelson moved that the May minutes be approved. Fynnette Eaton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Nick Alberti

The Treasurer presented the *Profit and Loss: Budget vs. Actual* report for the period October 2022 through June 2023 as background for budget discussions at the July Board meeting. A draft budget for fiscal year 2023/24 will be presented to the Board at that meeting. Upon approval, the draft will be announced to the membership in the August Newsletter and voted on at the scheduled membership meeting on Friday September 29 at Hill Center. The membership meeting will precede the Dick Wolf Lecture.

The Treasurer reported that Chair John Shages convened the CHRS Investment Committee on June 19 to review CHRS investments. After discussion, the Investment Committee determined that they continue to be satisfied with the CHRS investment strategy.

President's Report – Angie Schmidt

The President announced the following results of the 2023 election:

President: Angie Schmidt

First Vice President: Christine Mullins

Second Vice President: Tina May

Treasurer: Nick Alberti

Secretary: Libby Quaid

At large expiring 2025: Delancey Gustin

At large expiring 2025: Jim Thackaberry

At large expiring 2025: Gary Peterson

She reported that all votes were in favor of the slate as a whole with no votes opposed. She again thanked members of the Nominations Committee (Beth Purcell (Chair), Jim Thackaberry, and Undine Nash) for their services.

The President will announce her appointments as chairpersons of committees and members of committees (other than current Board members) for approval by the Board at the July meeting in keeping with CHRS Bylaws (Article VI. Section 4, A).

The President noted that Work Permit violations at construction sites remain a significant problem. During the month she participated in a conference call with other historic districts in the city and confirmed that the scope and seriousness of violations is broadly recognized as a major issue, suggesting that there may be a possibility for collaboration to address the problem. There is broad agreement that fines are dramatically too low and inadequate to resolve the problem of willful violations. Among other steps, it was proposed that CHRS representatives meet with the zoning administrator and chief building inspector to better understand how to achieve compliance.

The President also announced that she would be asking for volunteers for final steps in the office clean-up.

Annual Conflict of Interest Statements

The President reminded the Board that CHRS Bylaws (Article VI, Section 17, G) require that “Each officer and director shall annually sign a statement which affirms that such person has received a copy of the conflict of interest policy, has read and understands the policy, has agreed to comply with the policy, and understands that the Society is a charitable organization and that in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax- exempt purposes.” She will provide such statements to be signed at the July meeting of the Board.

Communications – Elizabeth Nelson

The Chairman of the Communications Committee reported that the committee has met and that efforts to actively engage with Facebook and Instagram will be continuing, especially to promote fall events of the Art Walk, House Exposition, Dick Wolf lecture, and walking tours.

Fall walking tours dates and subjects have not yet been decided.

Community Relations – Elizabeth Nelson

CHRS will participate in the annual Capitol Hill July 4 parade. Emails will be sent to CHRS members to encourage them to join Board members marching in the event. Marchers will have lollipops to throw to the crowd.

Swampoodle Grant – Beth Purcell

Beth Purcell forwarded a recommendation of the Grants Committee to approve a Swampoodle grant for repair of front metal steps at 718 Third Street NE.

Motion: Elizabeth Nelson moved that the Board approve the grant. Gary Peterson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Historic Preservation – Beth Purcell

On June 1, HPRB approved the cases for 235 12 Street SE and, reluctantly, 639 A St SE. The latter was under a STOP order due to unauthorized demolition as previously discussed by the CHRS Board.

The owners of 202 10th Street SE initially submitted a proposal that included removal of original stained glass windows. CHRS vigorously objected to the proposal and submitted a treatise on the significance of Capitol Hill stained glass windows. The owners withdrew the proposal to remove the windows.

Board members expressed the hope that all purchasers of properties in the historic district would be informed of the historic district and its requirements at the time of settlement. It was agreed to look into this further.

The hearing on the proposal to place Eastern High School on the DC Register of Historic Places is scheduled for July 27.

Friends of Kingman Park have established a task force on the future of the RFK stadium site. Historic Preservation Committee Chair Beth Purcell has been asked to join the task force.

Zoning Committee – Nick Alberti

The Zoning Committee reviewed zoning cases for 504 F Street NE and 616 7th Street NE and recommended approval of both. The BZA hearing is scheduled for September 20, 2023.

The Chair noted that the committee meets on the first Wednesday of every month.

Membership Committee – Maygene Daniels

The Chair reported that CHRS efforts to attract new members continue to be moderately successful, however renewals have dropped off. The JoinIt membership system is now used to send automated renewal reminders for expiring memberships. To improve the rate of response, JoinIt will now be used to send second renewal notices. The office manager also will send postal mail letters (perhaps with personal notes) with third reminders as needed

There also was discussion of ways to promote CHRS membership, for example, brochures might be left at Title offices to supplement outreach to new homeowners. It also was proposed that a periodic Hill Rag article might report on CHRS activities and issues of community concern.

Preservation Cafés – Chris Mullins

The Organizer announced that Preservation Cafés are on summer hiatus and that ideas are being sought for fall and winter programs.

Newsletter – Angie Schmidt

In addition to other announcements, the Newsletter will note with sadness the passing of past CHRS officer Mike Canning, observing his decades of contributions to the Society.

Motion to Adjourn

Jim Thackaberry moved that the meeting be adjourned. Undine Nash seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Maygene Daniels, Secretary