

Capitol Hill Restoration Society
Board of Directors Meeting
Sept. 20, 2023

President Angie Schmidt convened the meeting at 6 p.m. at the Northeast Library, 330 7th St. NE

Members Present: Chuck Burger, Maygene Daniels, Delancey Gustin, Beth Hague, Joanna Kendig, Jackie Krieger, Undine Nash, Gary Peterson, Monte, Tina May, Christine Mullins, Beth Purcell, Libby Quaid

Secretary's Report: Secretary Libby Quaid presented minutes of the July Board meeting. Gary Peterson moved to approve the July minutes, Jackie Krieger seconded, and the motion passed on a voice vote with no objection.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Nick Alberti was absent.

President's Report:

–Website Redesign: Angie Schmidt suggested the board reactivate the ad hoc Marketing Committee to once again take up the website redesign. Schmidt reminded Board members of the website that was created for the ad hoc Marketing Committee and said she has reached out to a Capitol Hill-based independent web designer recommended by CHRS's graphic designer. Schmidt said she will solicit two additional bids.

First Vice President Christine Mullins added that she has experience with multiple web redesigns and recommended ideas for a very detailed contract to make the organization's needs clear. Membership Chair Maygene Daniels said the ad hoc Marketing Committee is a good volunteer opportunity to get non-Board members involved in the organization.

The board agreed on the need for a contractor who can be on call for maintenance or trouble, and members agreed it is not best practice to have only one backup person to handle the website.

The Board agreed that Schmidt should move forward with reconvening the ad hoc Marketing Committee and soliciting additional bids for the website redesign.

–Sidewalk safety. Board member Gary Petersen met with the Capitol Hill Village representative heading up an effort to make D.C. government more responsive to tripping hazards on sidewalks. Capitol Hill Village conducted a survey in which 473 respondents in ANC 6A, 6B and 6C (i.e. Capitol Hill residents) reported 263 sidewalk injuries in the past two years.

Petersen noted the following: District Department of Transportation (DDOT) promises to fix a reported pothole within 3 working days, while it promises to repair a sidewalk tripping hazard within 270 working days. In the case of sidewalks, DDOT achieves its goal only 53% of the time versus 84% for potholes. And Petersen noted the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says falls are the leading cause of injury related deaths among adults age 65 and older.

The Board agreed to support Capitol Hill Village's effort and to publicize it in the CHRS newsletter and on social media accounts.

Communications Committee Report: Mullins read notes from Communications Chair Elizabeth Nelson. The committee met with a focus on publicizing the Dick Wolf Memorial Lecture, September Preservation Cafe and House Expo. The committee has created a media list in an effort to involve news outlets that were used sporadically in the past. Also, our Instagram account has reached more than 2,000 followers.

Community Relations: Mullins continued with notes from Community Relations Chair Nelson. Hilloween totes have been ordered and volunteers will be asked to staff the CHRS table. Schmidt said walking tours went well and sold out in September. The next walking tours are set for October 7-8 and will begin at 2 p.m. instead of 1:30 p.m. as they did in September. Those tours are selling well. Nelson sent a report on the Capitol Hill Art Walk that CHRS cosponsored with Capitol Hill Art League on Sept. 9-10, saying there were more than 50 participating artists who saw high levels of visitation and received positive feedback. Nelson said the website had more than 9,000 hits on the Art Walk post, which included signup information for exhibitors. Nelson said the event generated goodwill among the arts community and involvement with groups and people not usually involved with CHRS activities.

Historic Preservation: Historic Preservation Chair Beth Purcell said that, following the successful CHRS sponsorship of Eastern High School to be named a D.C. historic site, ANC7D would like the blocks of 1300 to 1600 A Street NE renamed honorarily for the Eastern High School marching band. At-Large Member Delancey Gustin moved that CHRS support the renaming, Public Safety Committee Chair Undine Nash seconded, and the motion passed on a voice vote with two abstentions.

House Expo: Schmidt said this event is coming along well with two more vendors signed up. All of the vendors from 2022 have said they intend to return, and the new D.C. Department of Buildings and Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection intend to have tables there.

RFK Stadium Site: The Kingman Park civic association, Friends of Kingman Park, has a survey to see what people on Capitol Hill and Kinngman Park would like to have happen at the RFK site now that the stadium is being demolished. Copies of the survey were handed out to Board members. The survey can be turned in at the Northeast library or completed online. Also, Mayor Muriel Bowser will be visiting Friends of Kingman Park for a meeting on Oct. 18 to discuss bringing the Washington Commanders football team back to the RFK Stadium site.

House Tour: Committee Co-Chair Jackie Krieger reported the group is beginning to organize the 2024 tour and said a handful of people have expressed interest in having their homes on the tour.

Membership: Chair Maygene Daniels reported brochures are being distributed to different locations and will be available at the Dick Wolf lecture and membership meeting being held beforehand.

Zoning: Committee members Beth Hague and Gary Peterson noted that Chairman Nick Alberti sent board members a committee report for October (attached). The committee voted to support one case, oppose one case and postpone decisions on three others.

Dick Wolf Lecture: City Planning Committee Chair Monte Edwards provided an update on publicity and planning for the Sept. 29 event.

Preservation Cafes: Mullins outlined plans for the Sept. 26 event about solar power as well as the Oct. 24 event with Community Forklift. Also planned is a Nov. 28 event about planning private gardens.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made and seconded, and the board approved it on a voice vote with no objection.

Respectfully submitted
Libby Quaid, Secretary