

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

President Angie Schmidt convened the meeting at 6 p.m. at the Northeast Library, 330 7th St. NE. Schmidt reminded Board members the meeting was being recorded for purposes of note-taking.

Members Present: Nick Alberti, Chuck Burger, Fynnette Eaton, Delancey Gustin, Joanna Kendig, Tina May, Christine Mullins, Undine Nash, Elizabeth Nelson, Gary Peterson, Beth Purcell, Libby Quaid, Schmidt

Secretary's report: The board approved minutes from the November meeting, with a change to photo contest details and a spelling correction, on a voice vote with no objection and an abstention from a member who was absent at that meeting.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Nick Alberti presented the report. Schmidt noted a quarterly finance meeting was scheduled for Jan. 9, 2024.

President's report: Schmidt said the city historic districts coalition met online recently and there is uniform concern about working with the DC Department of Buildings, following the split of DCRA into the departments of building and licensing, and that there has been significant personnel turnover. Burger suggested inviting the DOB's director to a CHRS meeting and Board members discussed inviting him to the next general membership meeting. Schmidt also mentioned the new grant program for historic districts in DC for which there is budget funding; DC has not yet announced how to apply for the funding.

Committee reports

Communications: Nelson said she had resigned as Communications Committee chair, would not be giving a report, and that the committee had not met. Schmidt said the committee, whose members are her, Quaid and Marci Hilt, would love to have more members.

Community Relations: Community Relations Chair Nelson said she took steps to publicize the photo contest, writing a newsletter story and submitting an item to the Hill Rag bulletin board. Nelson also asked the Board to send a letter supporting the symbolic renaming of A Street NE between 13th and 16th as Blue & White Marching Machine Way after the Eastern High School marching band. A motion to have Schmidt write and send a letter of support passed on a voice vote with one abstention. Nelson said the deadline was Dec. 29.

Historic Preservation: Historic Preservation Committee Chair Purcell said 630 G St. SE was scheduled to come before the city's Historic Preservation Review Board again on Dec. 21, the following day. And 425 4th St. NE has been put off till the January hearing at the applicant's request. Purcell said there was an avalanche of neighborhood opposition. Peterson said an ANC commissioner told him neighbors and applicant had reached agreement.

House Tour: Eaton said the committee is looking for more houses to fill out the developing footprint.

Membership: Membership chair Maygene Daniels was absent. Schmidt noted she sent out annual appeal letters and included the appeal in the newsletter.

Nominating: The Board named four members to the Nominating Committee to develop a slate of candidates for election to the Board in 2024 – Burger, Gustin, Peterson, and Purcell, with Purcell as chair. A motion to approve this was made and seconded and passed with no objection on a voice vote.

Zoning: Zoning Committee Chair Alberti said the committee voted to support rear additions at 648 Acker Place NE and 107 6th St. NE and to oppose a rear addition as proposed at 425 4th St. NE before the DC Board of Zoning Adjustment. Because there was not a quorum for hearing the first two cases, a motion to have the Board confirm the Zoning Committee position was made and seconded and approved on a voice vote with no opposition.

Preservation Cafes: Mullins said the next Preservation Cafe is Feb. 27 about the Southeast Library. A May 28 Preservation Cafe about Eastern High School is also scheduled, she said, and March 26 and April 23 are still open dates.

New Business: Schmidt said she has two bids for the new CHRS website migration and that once she has a third will hand off to a working group, which may develop from the previous Ad-Hoc Marketing Committee.

Newsletter: Schmidt showed the Board ideas for a new nameplate for the newsletter that incorporates the new CHRS logo and branding. She said she would review ideas with the Communications Committee and bring the design back to the Board. For the next newsletter, the Board agreed on stories on the photo contest, Preservation Cafes, Historic Preservation and Zoning news, the Nominating Committee, the House Tour, construction at 601 Massachusetts Ave. NE, and the Tudor design of Eastern High School, She said the deadline would be Jan. 21.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made and seconded and passed on a voice vote without objection.

Respectfully submitted,
Libby Quaid, Secretary
