

Capitol Hill Restoration Society  
Board of Directors Meeting  
February 21, 2024

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

**Members Present:** Nick Alberti, Maygene Daniels, Fynnette Eaton, Delancey Gustin, Beth Hague, Joanna Kendig, Tina May, Chris Mullins, Elizabeth Nelson, Gary Peterson, Libby Quaid, Jim Thackaberry, Beth Purcell

**Secretary's Report:** Quaid presented the minutes; Thackaberry moved to approve them, Nelson seconded and the motion was approved on a voice vote with one abstention and no objection.

**Treasurer's Report:** Alberti said the Swampoodle Grant account is low, at \$29,000, and three grants are in the pipeline. Board members generally agreed the program should continue to accept applications until the account is drained and did not take a vote. Most grants are \$4,000 to \$5,000, Alberti said.

**President's Report:**

1. Documentary. Schmidt was absent but had asked the Board to ratify a vote taken by email, before the meeting, to approve CHRS acting as the financial sponsor for a grant request to DC Humanities for the documentary Voices of Resilience. Board members had already agreed to approve the sponsorship. Members expressed a desire for a memorandum of understanding between the Board and the grant recipient if funds are awarded. CHRS as a 501(c)(3) would essentially be the pass-through. The motion by Thackaberry was seconded by Hague and was approved on a voice vote with two members in opposition.
2. Sidewalks; letter about sidewalk safety from Schmidt. Board members agreed she should send a letter to Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen expressing CHRS support for Capitol Hill Village's recent report on sidewalk safety. Members were in general agreement and did not see a need to vote.
3. Bridge. The 11th Street Bridge Project asked for CHRS support. The Board agreed without a vote to have Peterson and Schmidt draft a letter to the National Capital Planning Commission expressing CHRS support for the master plan for the southeast portion of Navy Yard and urging the U.S. Navy to continue to work with the 11th Street Bridge Project to see if there are ways the viewsheds can be preserved to the extent possible.

**Committee Reports:**

**Communications:** Quaid reported on promotions of the February and March Preservation Cafes and the House Tour. She said the committee has pricing from the Informer and Beacon newspapers and had an upcoming meeting with the Hill is Home blog. Committee members offered to help the Ad Hoc Marketing Committee gather bids from additional web designers to migrate to the Squarespace-hosted site. Those designers are Brown Strategy and Codavate. Kendig suggested to Board members they think about sharing their CHRS work or other news items with the committee to publicize.

Community Relations: Nelson said she had extended the deadline for the photo contest to promote the House Tour to March 15. She asked for someone to coordinate a CHRS table at the Hill Center's April 6 volunteer fair and said she would follow up with an email.

Historic Preservation: Board members discussed new plexiglass coverings over all the stained glass windows on the historic church building at 7th and A streets NE. The Department of Buildings and Historic Preservation Office said regulations don't require a permit for this type of covering. Members agreed a letter should be sent to the Historic Preservation Office about the need for regulations to address such a situation, that CHRS should talk with the head of the Department of Buildings about the matter, and that there should be an item in the newsletter about the church window issue and CHRS's efforts.

House Tour: Eaton presented the House Tour poster and said contracts are in on most of the houses. Tickets will go on sale April 1. Alberti asked for details on the online ad for the House Tour that the communications committee is placing in the Hill Rag newspaper, questioning how often the ad will be seen and how it works. Quaid said the committee asked the managing editor, Andrew Lightman, multiple times for a meeting to get more details but that he refused and wanted to email. Alberti said repeatedly the committee had bought something without knowing how it works. Quaid said the committee did know it wanted to advertise online, in addition to print advertising, because a lot of people get their news from the Hill Rag that way.

Membership: Daniels said that in addition to sending email reminders about membership renewals, the committee will be mailing letters and that a round of letters is going out in March.

Nominating: Purcell said the committee announced it is seeking Board candidates in the February newsletter and would do so in March, and that three CHRS members had approached the committee asking for more information. The deadline to apply is March 25.

Zoning: Alberti said the committee met Feb. 7 and considered two cases, voting to support exemptions needed for rear additions at 17 15th Street NE and 1635 C Street SE. The committee didn't discuss a case involving an addition at 1362 K Street SE for which the representative didn't attend.

Preservation Cafes: Mullins mentioned the upcoming Feb. 27 Preservation Cafe about renovations at the Southeast Library. She said the March 26 event will be presented by Kendig and be about the history of electricity on Capitol Hill. She said the April 23 Preservation Cafe will be about Capitol Hill's hidden alleyways and the May 28 Preservation Cafe will be about Eastern High School's 100-year history.

**Newsletter:** Board members agreed to include stories on the photo contest, House & Garden Tour, Zoning briefs, Historic Preservation briefs, the calendar, Preservation Cafes, Sidewalk Talk, call for nominations, and spring walking tours.

**Adjournment:** Thackaberry moved the Board adjourn, Peterson seconded the motion, and it was approved on a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
Libby Quaid, Secretary