

Capitol Hill Restoration Society
Board of Directors Meeting
April 17, 2024

President Angie Schmidt 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, Chuck Burger, Fynnette Eaton, Monte Edwards, Joanna Kendig, Jackie Krieger, Tina May, Elizabeth Nelson, Beth Purcell, Schmidt, Libby Quaid, Jim Thackaberry,

Secretary's Report: Quaid presented the March Board meeting minutes and Board members discussed them. Thackaberry moved that the minutes be approved, Nelson seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote without objection.

Treasurer's Report: Alberti sent a report to Board members before the meeting and called attention to the amount remaining in the Swampoodle Grant account.

President's report:

- General membership meeting. Schmidt noted the spring membership meeting at which Delano Hunter, director of DGA, spoke, was successful and said a Historic Preservation officer is willing to come to the summer membership meeting.
- Documentary. She said DC Humanities had rejected the application CHRS sponsored for the documentary Voices of Resilience.
- Communications Chair. Schmidt nominated Marci Hilt to chair CHRS Communications Committee. Several board members seconded her motion to approve the nomination and it was approved on a voice vote with one abstention.

Committee reports:

Communications: Quaid reported on House Tour promotions including Hill Rag online ads, which worked as anticipated, and the Hill Rag print ad and story/photo submission for April. She said the House Tour Committee, at a meeting with the Communications Committee, approved ads in the City Cast DC podcast and its Hey DC newsletter and also approved a social media preview event inside one of the homes on the tour. She said the committee also worked with the Hill is Home on a planned social media ad and ticket giveaway to promote the Tour. She reminded Board members to include the Communications Committee if they want to post or promote events or activities.

Community Relations: Nelson said the Hill Rag will print the photo contest in May, and that her submission will include a reference to the House Tour. She asked if Board members would like to march in the Barracks Row July Fourth Parade this year, and several members said they would.

Historic Preservation: Purcell said more members have been confirmed to the Historic Preservation Review Board so the board will be able to hold an April hearing but that it is unknown which Capitol Hill cases will be considered. The Historic Preservation Committee has been submitting comments but the board has not been meeting, she said.

House Tour: Krieger asked for help finding house captains and said the date for a table at Eastern Market is May 4-5.

Membership: Schmidt said numbers have increased steadily, perhaps in conjunction with the mailing campaign and with requests for House Tour discount ticket codes.

Nominating

Purcell reported on the Nominating Committee's slate for 2024-2025 elections, which includes the additions of Matt Handverger and David Pelizzari to serve as at-large members. Eaton, an at-large member, is being

nominated to serve as first vice president, as Christine Mullins is stepping down. At-large member Delancey Gustin is also stepping down. Purcell moved that the slate appear on the ballot, Thackaberry seconded and the motion was approved on a voice vote. The full slate will appear in the newsletter and on ballots.

Zoning: Alberti sent a Zoning Committee report in advance. He mentioned the Boys and Girls Club has a potential bidder and said the building would need to be gutted and would have 34 units, all of them affordable housing. He said another case considered is the garage next to Christ Church where owners want to add a second story to the garage. The committee voted to oppose the variance and applicants were not present. Peterson offered to represent CHRS before the Board of Zoning Adjustment about the building.

A lengthy discussion followed about how CHRS can be a resource for those planning construction projects. Kendig mentioned the Board's support for alley dwellings as long as their scale is appropriate. Krieger suggested a future Preservation Cafe about how CHRS can help applicants who apply for zoning variances. Thackaberry suggested an informational presentation on ADUs or accessory dwelling units. Nelson suggested a story in the Hill Rag's September housing issue or the Fagon Guide. Schmidt mentioned involving members of the Historic Districts Coalition. Quaid suggested CHRS have a table at the House Expo devoted to resources for building owners considering remodeling and said a Preservation Cafe could be held around the same time.

Preservation Cafes: Author Kim Prothro Williams' talk scheduled for April 23 prompted a discussion of public interest in alleys, and Board members discussed offering another set of walking tours of Capitol Hill alleys after the House Tour.

Swampoodle Grant: Purcell presented recommendations for grants to homeowners for brick repointing at 238 G St. NE and an energy grant for square 753 lot 812. Purcell moved to approve the grants, Nelson seconded the motion and it was approved on a voice vote with no objection. Board members agreed to post on the website that the program's funding is running out and the program will end soon.

New Business: Burger suggested the Board sign onto a letter encouraging the DC Council to restore funding for the William H. Rumsey Aquatic Center at Eastern Market that was reduced in the mayor's recent budget proposal. A motion was approved to authorize Schmidt to sign a letter on the topic of the Board approves once members have seen the letter.

Adjournment: A motion was made and approved to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Libby Quaid,
Secretary