

Capitol Hill Restoration Society  
Board of Directors Meeting  
November 20, 2024

President Angie Schmidt convened the meeting at 6:04 p.m. at the Northeast Library, 330 7<sup>th</sup> Street NE. Schmidt reminded members the meeting was being recorded for purposes of note-taking.

**Members Present:** Nick Alberti, Chuck Burger, Fynnette Eaton, Monte Edwards, Matt Handverger, Marci Hilt, Joanna Kendig, Jackie Krieger, Elizabeth Nelson, David Pelizzari, Gary Peterson, Beth Purcell, Libby Quaid, Schmidt, Jim Thackaberry.

**Secretary's Report:** Quaid presented the minutes from the October Board meeting with one correction. Eaton moved to approve the minutes, Thackaberry seconded the motion, and it passed on a voice vote without objection.

**Treasurer's Report:** Alberti sent a financial report to Board members in advance of the meeting. He noted CHRS is operating in the black.

**President's Report:**

- Documentary film. The Backstory Media filmmaker whose film, "Voices of Resilience," (about the effects of COVID and other 2020-2021 events on Capitol Hill) was submitted for a grant by CHRS, asked if the organization could promote her dropbox of 2020 photos to a time capsule archive. After lengthy discussion, Nelson moved that CHRS run an announcement in the newsletter and Pelizzari seconded the motion, which was approved on a voice vote with one abstention.
- 70th anniversary. The organization's 70th year will be in 2025. The Communications Committee agreed at its recent meeting to propose a presentation about what CHRS has done over the past seven decades that would be for the March general membership meeting. Board members discussed the venues for the 50th and 60th anniversaries, and members agreed generally they were in favor of the idea.
- Callbox. Schmidt suggested adopting one of the available old fire or police call boxes as part of next year's 70th anniversary celebration. Members discussed rules for artwork in the boxes, people to reach out to and the idea of Capitol Hill Historic District map artwork that could note CHRS's role in the historic district's creation. Board members agreed generally they liked the idea.
- House research workshop. In an effort to get more volunteers involved in the House Tour and lighten the burden on the committee, a meeting is set for January 11 from 3-4 p.m. in the Northeast Library's upstairs meeting room for a workshop on how to research houses and buildings. Schmidt said she will get an RSVP list. Purcell asked for a list of houses on the tour so far.

**Communications.** Hilt mentioned the committee's work promoting the House Expo and Dick Wolf Memorial Lecture and the turnout for both events.

**Community Relations:**

- Photo contest. Nelson said the House Tour Committee has expressed interest in leveraging it for House Tour promotion. Schmidt said a point of contention has been that judges are anonymous. Several Board members said that naming the judges and their qualifications would lend prestige and credibility to the contest. Handverger described how the art competitions held by each congressional office are run and become community events. Burger moved to get a sense of the Board, several members seconded, and members voted in favor of publicly named photo contest judges, with one vote in opposition and two abstentions. Schmidt thanked Nelson for her years of running the photo contest. Going forward, Krieger and Handverger said they were willing to help run the 2025 contest.
- Nelson said CHRS participation in Halloween was a rousing success.

**Historic Preservation:** Purcell said the committee supports the concept/raze and replacement of Brent Elementary School at 301 North Carolina Ave. SE. The existing 1968 school is a noncontributing building in the historic district.

**House Expo:** Burger said the 2024 House Expo went well; organizers had no problem booking vendors, and the event had a good crowd. Schmidt said there is demand for a vendor who makes and installs period-appropriate doors. Purcell moved to approve holding the House Expo in 2025, several members seconded, and the motion was approved on a voice vote with no opposition.

**House Tour:** Krieger said the committee's work is in full swing and that it is looking for more houses.

**Membership:** Handverger is looking at the Joint membership database.

**Zoning:** Alberti said the committee reviewed one case at its November meeting and voted to oppose it. At issue is a third-story with roof deck addition and three-story with cellar rear addition to 910 12th St. NE. The committee opposed moving the house's cornice line and recommended the applicant consider maintaining it in the proposal design. The committee does support zoning relief from lot occupancy requirements for the rear addition.

**Preservation Cafes:** Board members discussed ideas on historic windows and on pop-up additions, and members agreed to review a list of previous Preservation Cafes.

**New business:** Historic district signs. Purcell followed up on a Board request in October for information about Capitol Hill Historic District Signs. The city confirmed there are no funds for replacing signs, and the Board wanted to know the cost, which for 10 signs would be \$296 without mounting. The unit price would drop if CHRS bought more. Alberti asked if the city could be convinced to mount the signs and Purcell said the Historic Preservation Office convinced the DC Department of Transportation to install signs when CHRS purchased them for the Swampoodle extension of the historic district. Alberti suggested the Board discuss the matter further and said CHRS has funds for sign replacements. Burger suggested a "Historic Capitol Hill" sign for the 6th Street SE exit from Interstate 695. Schmidt said the newsletter will include a call for people to report location and condition of signs that need replacing.

**Newsletter:** Board members agreed on these items for the December/January newsletter. The deadline is December 8.

- Call for historic district sign info with photo
- Call for photos for documentary film archive
- Photo contest
- Historic Preservation and Zoning
- Dick Wolf Memorial Lecture recap
- House history workshop
- House Tour call for houses, docents
- Iron fences photo and blurb
- Annual appeal

**Adjournment:** Thackaberry moved to adjourn the meeting, Nelson seconded and the motion was approved on a voice vote with no objection.

Respectfully submitted,  
Libby Quaid, secretary