

## **Capitol Hill Restoration Society**

Board of Directors Meeting

December 18, 2024

President Angie Schmidt convened the meeting at 6:05 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, Fynette 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:** Hilt presented the minutes from the September Board meeting. Members discussed them and agreed to omit a sentence. Thackaberry moved to approve the minutes, Eaton seconded the motion and it was approved on a voice vote without objection.

**Treasurer's Report:** Alberti sent financial reports to Board members in advance. He said the Swampoodle Grant Program funds are nearly depleted. Schmidt said the House Tour footprint still doesn't have a home within the Swampoodle addition to the Capitol Hill Historic District, and members discussed highlighting exterior projects completed with funds from the Swampoodle Grant Program. Nelson said she had posted a note on the website about the program's end and offered to post on the website about the program's work, and Schmidt said she would like the Communications Committee to "research, tackle and massage" an official piece wrapping up the project and marking its end.

### **President's Report:**

- Schmidt said she's finishing the annual appeal letters and will have them out before the end of the week.
- She mentioned interest in the House Tour Committee's research workshop at the Northeast Library in January.
- Sidewalk Safety Team: Eaton said the sidewalk committee is preparing testimony for oversight hearings in February with an emphasis on preventing accidents and encouraging walking. She and Peterson mentioned an upcoming demonstration of concrete poured to look like brick. Schmidt noted the Sidewalk Safety Team received a "Brickie" award from Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen and said CHRS was mentioned as a supporter of the effort.

### **Committee Reports:**

- **House Tour:** Eaton distributed a list of 12 houses planned for the tour whose owners have agreed to participate. Schmidt said the tentative headquarters for the 2025 tour is the lobby of the apartment building at 700 Constitution Ave. NE and that Florida House and Grubbs Pharmacy may offer rest stops. Members applauded the committee's work.

- **Communications**: Hilt said the committee met (on December 10) and that members did a lot of writing for the appeals letter and newsletter and are updating the annual communications plan. Pelizzari said he's read every past newsletter issue in preparation for a 70th anniversary event and is having conversations with current and past members in an effort to settle on accomplishments and anecdotes to highlight. Nelson asked about digitizing newsletters that the organization has in the office and there was enthusiasm for the idea.
- **Community Relations**: Nelson said she manages the young artists gallery at the Hill Center and doesn't have shows lined up for fall 2025 and said there could be a show of young people's work, perhaps on the theme of a favorite house or something that makes Capitol Hill special. Members discussed making a decision on the idea in January.
- **Photo Contest**: Handverger mentioned the idea of having a gallery or showing with refreshments that people can visit where judges could announce results. Burger said the Coldwell Banker office could be available.
- **Membership**: Handverger said CHRS will launch a reactivation campaign in the new year to gather lapsed memberships and then automate renewals.

**Historic Preservation**: Purcell noted the Historic Preservation Review Board will hear testimony on December 19 about 16 3rd Street NE. She said the issue is the property's rear mansard roof and its dormer windows. The Historic Preservation Committee found the plans, which call for removal of a dormer, are incompatible with the Capitol Hill Historic District.

**Zoning**: Peterson sparked a discussion of the issue of inclusionary zoning and is writing an article about it for the newsletter.

**Preservation Cafes**: Pelizzari said Architrave architects Judith Capen and Robert Weinstein are willing to present in March, and CHRS has asked about the idea of pop-up additions. Schmidt said the Capitol Trolley Museum is willing to present in February.

#### **New Business**:

- **RFK Stadium**: Edwards mentioned a white paper about the redevelopment of the RFK Stadium that he and Purcell wrote for The Committee of 100 on the Federal City. He proposed that CHRS take the position that housing and multi-use development should be primary and that if there is a new stadium, the city should pay nothing for it. Alberti suggested the white paper be sent to members and that members vote on the matter in January, and Edwards agreed.
- **Elections Committee**: Purcell, Peterson and Burger said they were willing to do the job again in 2025. Alberti moved to approve the formation of the committee, Quaid seconded the motion and it was approved on a voice vote.

- **Rumsey Aquatic Center**: Schmidt said the community meeting about plans to renovate the facility is being held December 19 and that she plans to be present.

**Newsletter**: Members agreed on items including:

- Photo contest
- Sidewalk safety update
- Historic district signs, with the possibility of a contest or drawing
- House research workshop
- Historic preservation
- Zoning briefs
- Inclusionary zoning
- Elections committee
- Preservation Cafes
- House Tour, call for docents

**Adjournment**: Nelson moved to adjourn, several members seconded and the motion was approved on a voice vote without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Libby Quaid, Secretary