

**Board of Directors Meeting
May 21, 2025**

Members present: Nick Alberti, Fynnette Eaton, Marci Hilt, Joanna Kendig, Jackie Krieger, Tina May, Elizabeth Nelson, Gary Peterson, Beth Purcell, Angie Schmidt, Jim Thackaberry, Matt Handverger

Secretary's Report: Nelson took minutes in Quaid's absence in April. Those will be approved at the June Board meeting, along with minutes from the May meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Alberti sent members financial information in advance of the meeting.

President's Report:

- Photo contest. The April reception at the Coldwell Banker real estate office at Eastern Market to celebrate contest winners and finalists was a success. Photos are still on display there.
- Revive Stanton Park. Schmidt joined the group for a meeting at the Heritage Foundation to discuss potential funding for the restoration of the Nathanael Greene statue and base at the park. Board members discussed how CHRS in the past has acted as a fiscal agent as a 501(c)(3) group, and the Stanton Park group is not such a group.
- Residential buildings used for commercial purposes. Hill neighbors are concerned about the issue and Schmidt was on a phone meeting with them.
- RFK meeting at Hill Center and Friends of Kingman Park meeting. Schmidt recently attended both and updated the Board on the discussions.

Committee Reports:

Community Relations

- Nelson reported that she has registered CHRS for participation in the Capitol Hill July 4th Parade. Volunteers are requested to join the CHRS contingent.

Communications: Hilt outlined outreach for the House Tour.

- CHRS ran a full-page print ad in the Hill Rag which was placed against the story and photos CHRS submitted, and ran online and email ads in the Hill Rag as well.
- The committee sent information about the tour to The 51st, The Washington Post, Washington Informer, Southwester, Washington Blade, The Beacon, Metro Weekly, The Hill is Home, Capitol Hill Corner, Axios DC, H Street Herald, WAMU radio & local TV stations.
- CHRS advertised on social media with accounts Not Bored in DC and H St. Beat and benefited from a free video local raconteur and real estate agent Joe Himali made promoting the tour.
- CHRS advertised again with the City Cast DC podcast and Hey DC newsletter and also advertised in the weekly newsletter by the 51st, formerly DCist.

Membership: Schmidt said the Ice Cream Social will be held June 7 along with a membership meeting and that the president's party thanking House Tour homeowners and volunteers will be held the next day.

Environment: Kendig is following the bottle bill and may contribute a story for the newsletter. She mentioned doing clean-ups with community organizations.

Historic Preservation: Purcell said the committee supported one case, 734 7th St. SE, that will be on the Historic Preservation Review Board consent calendar. She said for May, there are no Capitol Hill cases. St. Peter School will be on the June or July calendar, she said, adding that the school made a presentation to the committee.

House Tour: Schmidt said ticket sales were above what was budgeted, advertising was above what was budgeted, and expenses were less than what was budgeted. CHRS checked in 1,300 tickets. Eaton thanked everyone who served as a house captain or as a docent and said that's why the tour was a good experience, and Krieger said house captains and docents are crucial to the tour's success.

Members discussed ideas for recruiting docents.

- The House Expo could have a table just for recruiting docents and writers/researchers, with photos and signup sheets.
- Handverger suggested a marketing plan for docents that could make use of Join It and our social media channels.
- Nelson asked about poster distribution and she and Peterson said they would be willing to handle.

Membership: Handverger said use of the Join It platform has resulted in new members. He suggested sending a thank-you to House Tour attendees through Eventbrite that would suggest joining to get ticket discounts.

Nominating Committee: Purcell thanked office assistant Jill Uvena Cullinane for her work on election ballots, which she said would be mailed the following day.

Zoning: Alberti said the committee voted to support two cases, a zoning exemption involving a second-story garage addition and an exemption from side yard requirements that involved an incorrect original plat.

Preservation Cafes: Schmidt suggested a meeting to discuss walking tours or Preservation Cafes. Board members discussed the idea of having an expert present a Preservation Cafe about appropriate design in the Historic District.

New Business:

- House Expo. Purcell said she, Schmidt and Burger are working on the House Expo and that it will be held Saturday, November 1. Nelson said CHRS will have use of tables and chairs from W.S. Jenks & Son Hardware delivered for Hilloween the night before.
- Dick Wolf Lecture: Peterson suggested a potential organizer of this event.
- Markets. Peterson mentioned where things stand with the vacant grocery at 5th and East Capitol set to open soon. Schmidt mentioned that Mott's Market has a new sign.

Newsletter: Members agreed on several stories and announcements, including yellow brick alleys, a House Tour wrapup and thank-you, July 4th parade, clean ups, the environment, Historic Preservation and Zoning reports and Hilloween and the House Expo, and a feature for LGBTQ+ Pride Month.