

Capitol Hill Restoration Society

Board of Directors Meeting

June 18, 2025

First Vice President Fynnette Eaton convened the meeting at 6 p.m. at the Northeast Library, 330 7th Street NE. Eaton reminded members the meeting was being recorded for purposes of note-taking.

Members present: Nick Alberti, Fynnette Eaton, Matt Handverger, Marci Hilt, Jackie Krieger, Tina May, Elizabeth Nelson, David Pelizzari, Gary Peterson, Beth Purcell, Jim Thackaberry. President Angie Schmidt was absent.

Secretary's Report: Quaid presented the minutes from April and May. Alberti and Handverger each moved to accept minutes from a meeting, Hilt and Krieger seconded the motion, and both sets of minutes were approved without objections.

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

President's Report:

- Eaton said Schmidt attended a "Fireside Chat" between Ward 6 and 7 Council Members Charles Allen and Wendell Felder on the RFK stadium proposal and said both members agreed on the need for a new Metro station and that Felder wanted more money for Ward 7.
- She said Schmidt attended a meeting at Stuart Hobson Middle School on DC's 2050 Comprehensive Plan.
- She said Handverger has agreed to serve as chair of the Membership Committee. Nelson moved to approve Schmidt's selection of Handverger, Alberti seconded the motion and it was approved on a voice vote.

Committee Reports:

Communications: Hilt said the committee met to go over the budget. She said Pelizzari is moving from the Communications Committee to the Historic Preservation Committee and that he has been an outstanding member of the communications team. Pelizzari said he wants to learn about different parts of the organization.

Community Relations: Nelson said that staffing a table near Eastern Market in advance of the House Tour was time well spent and an opportunity to talk about CHRS and recruitment. She recommended planning on it at least a couple of weekends before the event. She mentioned putting up more posters in 2026.

Historic Preservation:

- Purcell mentioned two cases likely to be on the June Historic Preservation Review Board calendar, a front-yard excavation at 324 4th St. SE, on which Purcell testified via Zoom, and a third-story addition at 605 Constitution Ave. NE, which a number of neighbors oppose.
- DC Archives building. Purcell suggested CHRS write to the DC Council urging restoration of funding for a new DC Archives building on the University of the District of Columbia campus, which was eliminated in the Mayor's fiscal 2026 budget. Purcell had earlier testified in favor of the project on behalf of CHRS. Nelson moved that CHRS send a letter signed by Schmidt, Alberti seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote without objection.

House Tour: Eaton said committee will do a postmortem of the 2025 tour. She and Krieger said the number of houses and ticket sales for this year seem right and should not be increased. Krieger said the committee would like to find docents, houses and researchers sooner in the process. Handverger offered ideas about using a Google form to organize shifts and said it should aid in the process. Quaid suggested dedicating one of the CHRS tables at the House Expo to signing up docents, houses and researchers/writers for the house histories.

Membership: Handverger mentioned following up to thank tourgoers via Eventbrite. He said a membership meeting is on the books to approve the budget September 11 at the Hill Center. He said he will work on a condensed new version of the CHRS mission statement, approved in 2024, and present options at the July meeting for Board discussion. The goal is an elevator pitch to new members, he said. Alberti suggested a revised mission statement could go on a poster at the House Expo.

Nominating: Purcell said the slate of Board member candidates for the coming year was approved and that the committee's work is done.

Zoning: Alberti said the committee discussed four cases, opting to take no position on a rear deck addition to 1151 Abbey Place NE, to oppose a variance for two new dwelling units for an apartment building at 1631 A St. NE, to support exemptions for a rear porch addition for 406 7th St. NE, and to support an exemption for a two-story-with-basement rear addition to 424 7th St. NE.

Budget: Members talked through the proposed CHRS budget for fiscal 2026. Alberti called attention to the budget for advertising. Members also had several questions about the advertising amount listed for the House Expo and pointed out the event appears to lose money. Purcell noted the benefit to the community of the House Expo. The budget will be voted on at the July 16 Board meeting.

Newsletter: Members agreed to include items on the president's party following the House & Garden Tour, preservation and zoning briefs and the recent membership meeting, July 4 parade photos, fall walking tours, an Art Walk update and an Environment Committee update. A story on the letter about the DC archives is also planned.

New business: Members discussed nearly two dozen framed black-and-white historic photos of Capitol Hill found in the hearth in the CHRS office and agreed to reproduce some for the newsletter with agreement from the DC History Center.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Libby Quaid, Secretary

