

Capitol Hill Restoration Society
Board of Directors Meeting
March 19, 2025

President Angie Schmidt convened the meeting at 6:03 p.m. at the Northeast Library, 330 7th Street NE. Schmidt reminded members the meeting was being recorded for purposes of note-taking.

Members Present: Fynnette Eaton, Marci Hilt, Jackie Krieger, Tina May, David Pelizzari, Gary Peterson, Beth Purcell, Schmidt, Jim Thackaberry

DC Preservation League historic preservation impact study: Rebecca Miller, Executive Director of the DC Preservation League, presented a new initiative for a historic preservation impact study for the city. The study, funded by community contributions and supported by the Office of Planning, aims to inform the 2050 comprehensive plan. It will be divided into eight parts, covering neighborhood demographics, historic district comparisons, and economic measures. The study will also include case studies in Mount Pleasant, Cleveland Park, Bloomingdale, Kingman Park, and Anacostia. The goal is to raise \$89,500, with \$48,000 already committed, including \$10,000 from the Dupont Circle historic preservation group. The final report is expected by December 15. Board members discussed the proposal and the possibility of contributing funding. Members agreed to vote via email on the amount of a contribution once Schmidt has distributed the proposal, with a deadline of April 1. The vote will be ratified at the next Board meeting on April 16.

Secretary's Report:

Quaid presented the minutes from the February Board meeting. Hilt moved to approve the minutes, Pelizzari seconded the motion and the motion was approved on a voice vote without objection.

Treasurer's Report: Alberti was absent but circulated a report in advance.

President's Report:

- Revive Stanton Park group. Their web and social media presence is up and running. They're asking for private funds they hope the city will match to restore the Nathanael Greene statue. They are not asking CHRS for money, but the question is if we would be interested in holding the money for them because they don't have 501(c)(3) status.
- Capitol Hill Baptist Church. The church will be a House Tour stop again. Assistant pastor Caleb Morrell has written a book about the church and it will be released on April 16, when a book party will be held. It's called "A Light on the Hill."
- Neighbors on the Hill who have been upset about nonresidential uses of buildings on the Hill, party houses and rentals and offices have finally gotten a meeting with the assistant at the Office of Planning on the 26th and Schmidt will try to make it to the half-hour meeting.
- Schmidt asked for volunteers to attend the Hill Center volunteer fair on March 29, DC History Day on April 4, the CHRS 70th anniversary party on April 10, and other events.

Committee Reports

Communications:

- Hilt said the committee has been working on publicity for the House Tour and 70th Anniversary. She said the Congressional Cemetery walking tour will be at 2 p.m. on June 7, and we have permission to have a food truck there for an ice cream social. She attended Zoom training so CHRS could have a table at Eastern Market for \$35/day to promote the house tour.

- Pelizzari outlined the display planned for the CHRS 70th anniversary celebration; he asked for a volunteer to help pore through old newsletters for a few articles to blow up and add to the displays. Schmidt said she has arranged for Eastern Market vendors to cater the event.
- Pelizzari directed Board members to laptops set up to view the staging site for the website overhaul. He said he would be asking Board members for help with a glossary of terms for the website.

Environment: Kendig mentioned neighborhood cleanup events. She noticed Ward 6 Council member Charles Allen is promoting a cleanup day on April 6. Schmidt said a cleanup event with the Revive Stanton Park group would be good the weekend before the House Tour. Kendig said a Healthy Homes Expo is coming up in June on the National Mall. Kendig is planning a Preservation Cafe on why preservation is good for the environment. Schmidt asked about an environmental column for each month's newsletter.

Historic Preservation: Purcell said the committee may have a garage case next Thursday. She said the committee has looked at it three times but doesn't yet know how neighbors feel about it.

House Tour: Krieger sent out a call for house captains and docents. She said the Hill Rag is putting it on their bulletin board and said now would be a good time to post about it on social media. Schmidt showed members the planned design for the House Tour poster.

Elections Committee: Purcell said the committee is on target to submit a proposed slate to the board at the April Board meeting.

Zoning: Krieger said the committee voted to support two cases and oppose one case. One case they supported was in the 1200 block of H Street. The committee opposed a rear addition that went 20 feet beyond the neighbor based on sun/shadow study.

Membership: Schmidt said CHRS received 131 photo contest submissions, including three under-18 submissions. Communications and membership committee narrowed it down to 10 and judges are judging and two are finished. Handverger will work with Burger to settle on a date for the reception and how it will be displayed. She said the organization has 341 active members, including 8 since the last board meeting.

Preservation Cafes: Pelizzari mentioned the March Preservation Cafe. Schmidt said the next event will be in September. Kendig said she has two potential themes for a future Preservation Cafe.

RFK Planning: Schmidt asked Board members to ratify the vote taken by email in February in favor of a position on the stadium site. Purcell moved to ratify the vote, Eaton seconded the motion and it passed on a voice vote with no objection.

New Business: Schmidt will be sending a calendar of events along with the proposal from DCPL.

Newsletter: Board members agreed to include items on sidewalk repairs; Eaton is collecting individual stories on sidewalk falls. Items are also planned on Morrell's book, the Overbeck lecture, the 70th anniversary party and membership meeting, a call for Preservation Cafe topics, the House Tour and photos of this year's houses, the photo contest with photos, a box about the environment, the zoning report. Deadline is March 23.

Adjournment: Hilt moved to adjourn, Thackaberry seconded the motion and it passed without objection

Respectfully submitted,
Libby Quaid, secretary