

Capitol Hill Restoration Society

Board of Directors Meeting

July 15, 2026

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

Board members present: Nick Alberti, Chuck Burger, Rosemary Harold, Matt Handverger, Jackie Krieger, Tina May, Elizabeth Nelson, David Pelizzari, Beth Purcell, Libby Quaid, Schmidt, Jim Thackaberry. Also present: Marianne Klein.

Secretary's Report: Quaid presented minutes from the previous meeting. **Motion:** Thackaberry moved to approve them, Nelson seconded the motion and the minutes were approved on a voice vote without objection.

Treasurer's Report: Alberti sent a financial report in advance and distributed a draft FY2027 budget. Board members renewed discussion of the budget. The Board also discussed developing a framework for future community projects and partnerships. Rather than establishing a separate grants committee, the Board agreed this work should fall under the Community Development Committee. The committee will develop criteria and a framework during the coming fiscal year so that future funding can be considered as part of the following year's budget process.

Motion: Pelizzari moved to accept the draft FY2027 budget as amended, Nelson seconded the motion, and it passed on a voice vote without objection.

President's Report:

- Kingman Park Historic District signs. Schmidt said the District has printed these, though the exact number printed is unclear, and will install them in September. She said CHRS will continue to reserve the budgeted funds for signage, including replacement of CHRS signs and, if necessary, additional Kingman Park signs. An inventory of CHRS signs and replacement needs will be undertaken, she said.
- Old newsletters. Schmidt said a review of the newsletter archive on the CHRS website initially appeared to show that several years of newsletters were missing; it was subsequently determined the newsletters had not been lost but that a page was dropped during a previous website migration. The missing material is being restored and the online archive should be up to date shortly.

Committee Reports:

Communications. Quaid said the committee has not held a formal meeting while its chair, Marci Hilt, continues her recovery, but work has continued informally. Updates to the website are planned, including a summer meeting with the web designer. Social media activity has continued, with an increased emphasis on evergreen historic preservation and history content in addition to event promotion. She said the Board member page will be updated and the Fourth of July Barracks Row parade included on social media.

Community Relations. Nelson said the Fourth of July parade was successful despite extremely hot weather and spoke of the high school bands from around the country who participated after other scheduled parades in the District were canceled. Nelson said planning will begin for CHRS participation in Hilloween at Eastern Market.

Membership. Schmidt said planning is underway for the fall membership meeting, at which members will vote on the budget. Schmidt said CHRS is working with the Southeast Library to hold the meeting in conjunction with the reopening of the renovated library. Library representatives and an architect may be invited to speak to members. Board said the ice cream social and membership meeting at the American Legion post on Capitol Hill was successful.

Environment. No formal Environment Committee report was presented. Board members briefly discussed participation in neighborhood mosquito-control efforts and experiences with mosquito traps.

Historic Preservation. Purcell said the Historic Preservation Committee reviewed plans for a 1926 four-unit apartment building at 513 10th Street SE designed by T. architect George Santmyers. The proposal involves extensive interior demolition and a highly visible rooftop addition. Purcell said the committee determined that the proposed project is not consistent with the Capitol Hill Historic District and recommended reconsideration of the rooftop design and other exterior elements. The committee will continue to follow the case and report back to the Board, she said.

House Tour. Krieger said planning for the next House Tour is in its early stages, and the committee is seeking potential properties. Harold suggested exploring participation by the Folger Shakespeare Library and said possible options could include tours of the renovated museum and access to or views of the reading room. Harold said she will make preliminary inquiries with the Folger.

House Expo. The House Expo committee held a preliminary planning meeting and discussed several possible changes. These include increasing the vendor

table fee, placing greater emphasis on trades and craftspeople, reducing and consolidating government exhibitors, and organizing vendors more clearly by category. The committee will also explore possible participation by Capitol Hill Village, noting its contractor referral resources.

Zoning. Alberti reported on two cases. The first involves an existing four-unit building at F and 13th Streets NE. The proposal would retain four units while adding a third story and expanding the two upper units into two-level residences. The case requires relief because of the building's existing nonconforming lot occupancy. The proposed height remains within matter-of-right limits.

The second case involves conversion of a semi-detached residence to two units, construction of a rear garage with an additional dwelling unit above it, and a third-story addition with a stair enclosure. The proposal would result in three dwelling units on a lot of less than 1,700 square feet and would require zoning relief. The committee expressed concerns about the density, height and visibility of the proposed additions.

Walking Tours. Schmidt said planning will begin shortly for the fall walking-tour schedule. Previous tour leaders and others interested in participating will be contacted to convene a planning meeting.

The new Fifth Street tour will be included in the fall offerings. The tour is relatively compact geographically but contains substantial historical content, making it a useful option for participants who prefer a shorter walking distance. Twelve people formally registered for the tour when it was offered in conjunction with the Stanton Park event commemorating the nation's 250th anniversary, with additional participants joining tours without signing up.

Archives. A review of CHRS's physical newsletter archive is underway. The goal is to maintain at least three copies of each printed issue, with a fourth copy where possible for exhibits and other uses. Board members and members will be asked to donate old CHRS newsletters they may have at home, including issues dating back to the first newsletters in 1956.

The archive also contains older CHRS neighborhood and business guides that may provide material for social media and other historical content. Additional archival materials are being sought, including Dick Wolf Memorial Lecture programs and posters and past Photo Contest materials.

A request for archival materials may be included in an upcoming newsletter and/or the email accompanying the newsletter.

Art Walk. CHRS will assist with promotion of the Capitol Hill Art Walk beginning in mid-August. Photos from previous Art Walks will be made available to the Communications Committee for social media use.

Announcements. A presentation on the Rumsey Aquatic Center project is scheduled for the 22nd. The project team has been working with Eastern Market and other community groups on the design, and construction is expected to begin next spring and continue into 2028. A community meeting concerning planned improvements to the Sherwood Recreation Center is scheduled for the 25th.

Newsletter. The Board discussed content for the September newsletter. Possible items include the Art Walk, the fall membership meeting, fall walking tours, a call for House Tour properties, House Expo updates, Halloween, zoning and historic preservation reports, and an item about CHRS's historic newsletter archive.

Because there will be no August Board meeting, the September newsletter will need to be prepared in late August. The Board agreed that a September issue timed around ` Labor Day remains useful because it can serve as a preview of CHRS's fall activities.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Libby Quaid, secretary