

GERMAN VILLAGE SOCIETY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
Oct. 10, 2017

Present: John Barr, Heidi Drake, Greg Gamier, Brittany Gibson, Susan Sutherland, Jim Penikas, Kurt Miller

Staff and Guests: Sarah Penikas, Monster Bash Committee; Shiloh Todorov; Marie Logothetis

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by President Heidi Drake.

### **Public Participation**

Heidi Drake introduced Monster Bash co-chairs Sarah and Jim Penikas (also a newly elected board member) with an update about this weekend's event. As of today, 39 tickets are left of 375 total, so they expect a sellout crowd. The weather looks to be great, and they'll play into the 7:30 p.m. Ohio State kickoff with a viewing on the Platz. New this year, attendees can vote for their favorite house and costume via a website that night and can follow the route via a mobile map. Posters, postcards, a Saturday-morning appearance on 10TV and ThisWeek News articles are among the marketing pushes. Jim thanked Ryan and Heather Bone for creating the new voting and map website elements as well as a full-on refreshing of decorations and also thanked Sid and Janet Druen for hosting a pre-event mixer for hosts.

Kurt Miller updated the board on the task force the Long Range Planning Committee is pulling together to focus on visioning the future of and designing goals for the neighborhood and the Society. They'll starting by looking at where German Village fits into Columbus over the next 30-ish years. Shiloh added that she expects this will be a 6-9-month process, and the group currently includes Kurt, Jim, Darrell Van Ligten, Lisa Stein, Mary Wilson, Jay Casey and Jay Godfey. Kurt told the board he'd report back with updates, and the board thanked him for these efforts and agreed to the task force's general direction.

### **Reports of the President and Officers**

Heidi updated the board on this past Friday's reception following the Columbia Gas settlement, which about 35-40 people attended. Generally, there have been some discussions in the neighborhood about whether our lawsuit made a difference in Columbia's approach; their agreement to default to rear or obscured locations is certainly different than their initial meter placements, since front facades will now be the very last choice. Heidi added that their agreement to have GVS participate in location discussions with any customer that requests it is groundbreaking.

Heidi recommended Marie Logothetis for the one-year, non-voting board seat that Darci Congrove left vacant when her term ended last month.

MOTION: To appoint Marie Logothetis to a one-year, non-voting seat on the Board of Trustees, with a term effective October 2017 and expiring September 2018. [Drake, Barr]

Motion approved.

Heidi reminded all board members to fill out their Board of Trustees self-evaluation forms by October 20. An ask for the board's evaluation of Shiloh is coming soon.

She also asked present board members to review a printout of current terms and reminded incoming board members to please make their assigned lapsed membership calls, designed to prompt renewal also among donors who may have missed reminder emails or letters. Because GVS is currently \$7,500 behind budget in membership dollars (and because the "end of the year" for this portion of the budget is Nov. 1), making these calls is especially critical this month.

Vice President Joshua Zimmerman was unable to attend.

Secretary Brittany Gibson presented the minutes of the meeting of Sept. 12, 2017.

MOTION: Approve the minutes of the meetings of Sept. 12, 2017. [Gibson, Barr]

Motion approved.

Brittany reminded the board of electronic votes that had passed and that those motions must be reflected in the record after the fact; she asked board members to verify that these e-votes were conducted and had passed.

MOTION: To confirm passage of the July 29, 2017, electronic vote to approve the additional cost of three hours of work on the part of law of Kegler, Brown, Hill & Ritter. [Gibson, Gamier]

Motion approved.

MOTION: To confirm passage of the Aug. 3, 2017, electronic vote to approve the additional cost of 15 hours of work on the part of law firm Kegler, Brown, Hill & Ritter. [Gibson, Gamier]

Motion approved.

Heidi clarified that the total spent on legal expenses related to the lawsuit was \$26,000.

Treasurer John Barr updated the board on the latest financials, noting that the Society is in a positive position, especially since Monster Bash is coming up soon. He also pointed out that the Good of the Neighborhood Fund currently sits at \$76,000, which isn't earmarked for anything at this time.

John updated the board on our switch to Huntington managing all of our investments, which was approved in [NEED TO FIND MONTH], and clarified that the management fees might be a higher than what Chase was charging us. John and the finance committee will take a look and report back.

### **Committee Reports**

Heidi noted that the Committees had submitted their reports in the Board packet and asked if there were any Committee activities with additional updates requiring Board discussion or approval.

Shiloh highlighted the Parking Committee report, which mentions that the group is attempting to work with the German Village Commission to take into account results from the OSU-lead parking study conducted last year. On a related note, she mentioned that she has yet to hear what business might inhabit the former Max & Erma's space on Third Street.

Susan Sutherland, representing the Organizational Development Committee, asked for any nominations for this year's officer roles. With none being made, she proposed that those in the current officer roles be renewed.

MOTION: To close nominations and elect the nominated candidates – Heidi Drake as president, Joshua Zimmerman as vice president, Brittany Gibson as secretary and John Barr as treasurer – for their respective offices for terms running October 2017 through September 2018. [Sutherland, Gamier]

Motion approved.

### **Staff Reports**

Shiloh updated the board on the Meeting Haus Task Force, including that the request for proposals for the design work will be complete by the end of the week (and will be open for bids shortly thereafter). She doesn't have a solid idea of costs to share yet, but she wants us to start thinking about where money for this project will come from – and she recommended we strongly consider starting with the Good of the Neighborhood Fund. Marie asked whether there's been much interest in the project via the Big Give announcement, and Shiloh said that, anecdotally, there has been.

Shiloh also reminded the board about our discussion with the city about the Livingston Avenue project at last month's meeting – and about their intention to use sandstone curbs but concrete sidewalks. The board agreed that the Society should make a strong push for brick sidewalks and supported the idea of Nancy and Shiloh spending some time on that effort.

### **Old/New Business**

Volunteer highlights: the board expressed their thanks to several helpers highlighted by Katharine Moore in the Friends of Schiller report: Jan Clark, John Clark, Amanda Smoliniec, John Noble, Bob Jackson, Paul Soehnen, David Gaumer, Werner Niehaus and Becky West.

Having wrapped up the agenda, Heidi suggested the board end the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

MOTION: Adjourn the October 10, 2017, meeting of the German Village Board of Trustees.  
[Drake, Gamier]

Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brittany Gibson, Secretary

Attest: Heidi Drake, President

**GERMAN VILLAGE SOCIETY**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**September 5, 2017**

**Term Ending September, 2018**

Joanne Kesten partial term ends Sept. 2018 (replaced Bill Curlis)  
Heidi Drake first term (appointed Oct. 2014, replaced ???, ended Sept. 2015)  
Greg Gamier first term (appointed Oct. 2014, replaced Bill Case whose term ended Sept. 2015)  
John Barr first term (ends Sept. 2018)

**Term Ending September, 2019**

Dennis Brandon second term (appointed Oct. 2013, replaced Mike Yarborough, ended 2016)  
Brittany Gibson second term (appointed Nov. 2013, replaced Mike Cornelius, ended Sept. 2016)  
Susan Sutherland second term (appointed Oct. 2013, replaced Stef Martt, ended Sept. 2016)  
Josh Miller first term ends Sept. 2019

**Term Ending September, 2020**

Anne Ring first term (appointed March 2017, replaced Joe Kuzer, ended Sept. 2017, elected to first term)  
Joshua Zimmerman first term (appointed Oct. 2016, replaced Kelly Clark, ended Sept. 2017 elected to first term)  
Jim Penikas first term (elected August 2017 for first term)  
Kurt Miller first term (appointed August 2017 for term ending 2017, replaced Marie Logothetis)

**Non-voting**

Term Ending September, 2018

9.5.17 JML

**GERMAN VILLAGE SOCIETY**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**October 10 , 2017 BOARD MEETING**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT HIGHLIGHTS- September 2017**

**CASH BALANCES AS OF September 30, 2017:**

**OPERATIONS: CHECKING \$ 83,642**

**CONTINGENCY \$ 88,427**

**DESIGNATED FUNDS: TOTAL \$ 310,717**

**SIGNIFICANT BALANCES: GERMAN VILLAGE BUSINESS COMMUNITY \$ 54,705**

**FUND FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION \$ 129,595**

**FRIENDS OF SCHILLER \$ 25,282**

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD \$ 76,473**

**INVESTMENTS: TOTAL \$ 642,178**

**BRENT WARNER MAINTENANCE FUND \$ 193,320**

**MEETING HOUSE REPLACEMENT RESERVE \$ 216,065**

**ALBERTA STEVENS HUNTINGTON GARDEN FUND \$ 232,793**

**OPERATING BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS (CASH BASIS):**

**TOTAL REVENUE TO DATE \$425,188 (ANNUAL BUDGET IS \$565,454)**

**TOTAL EXPENSES TO DATE ARE \$ 368,903 (ANNUAL BUDGET IS \$573,253)**

**NET OPERATING INCOME TO DATE \$56,285**

**NOTE: NET INCOME DOES NOT REFLECT INTERNAL TRANSFER OF FUNDS OR DEPRECIATION WHICH IS A NON-CASH CHARGE.**

**OTHER: OPERATING RESULTS FOR THE YEAR TO DATE REMAIN STRONG WITH CONTINUED STRONG  
EVENT REVENUES.**

**CONVERSION OF BANKS ACCOUNTS TO HUNTINGTON IS STILL PROGRESS.**

## **German Village Society Committee Report**

**Committee: Historic Preservation**

**Meeting date(s): Informal conversations**

**Attendees names:**

**Next Meeting: TBD**

**Nancy Kotting**

**Joanne Kesten**

**Highlights/Discussion:**

**Joanne and Nancy have had several conversations over the past several weeks to discuss the re-formulate the committee.**

**9/21/17 meeting had no attendees.**

**Plans and Assignments:**

**Do you have issues or concerns that require consideration by the Board or staff for possible response or action? If so, please spell out timeline. (Could include the need for time/support from GVS staff or volunteers or the need for financial resources, for example.)**

**Ideas or concerns about safety:**

**Ideas or concerns about sidewalks:**

**Outstanding volunteers of note:**

**Anything else you would like to share with the board?**

## **Fund for Historic Preservation Board Report – October 2017**

### **House Plaques**

The third set of house plaque orders has been processed and sent to the fabricator. Orders continue to come in and are being produced in batches. The cost of producing these plaques is almost fully covered by the price charged to the property owner.

### **Interpretive Trail**

The storytelling portion of the sign project, now known as the “interpretive trail,” is moving along quickly at this point.

With the assistance of a \$20,000 grant from the Ohio Humanities Council, research and content for an initial group of 30 signs has been developed by Nancy Recchie and Jeff Darbee (Benjamin D. Rickey & Co). These signs follow the three themes outlined for the overall project: German heritage, historic preservation and innovation, and community building. Within each theme are a wide range of topics that include the German immigrant experience, architecture, historic preservation, community activism, LGBTQ influencers, etc. The goal of this phase of the overall signage project is to inform and educate residents and visitors about the significance of the neighborhood and to inspire a feeling of stewardship and community pride.

Karen McCoy and her team at MKSK have developed the design and specifications for the actual signs, which were presented to the German Village Commission on October 3. The GVC approved the installation of an initial 30 signs, and asked that we return for subsequent approvals in phases in order to manage the coverage and density of the signs across the GV historic district. The signs will be small and visually unobtrusive, with photos to support the explanatory text. GVC asked that we develop a “system” approach to installation (i.e. all are hung at the same level, in the same type of location on buildings, etc.), which will be finalized this month.

Our OHC grant requires that we have a professional review evaluation focus group, which is scheduled for November 3. We have chosen the story-rich environment of Beck Street for our installation of prototypes for review. The initial sign installation will include 12 signs starting from the Meeting Haus with a sign about the unique bricks that comprise Willow Street, to Lindey’s to learn about the Brick Street protest and the history of that building itself, then to Frank Fetch for stories of the unique volunteerism that originally established the park, and which maintains it yet today, then past some significant architecture both old and new, to the corner of Grant, where Bob Hurry renovated a significant number of structures.

One sign is currently in production with the actual materials and specifications so that this can be evaluated by the committee as well. We are currently talking to property owners for permissions and to answer questions, and anticipate installation of the 12 initial signs before the end of 2017. The next phase of the project – an additional 18 signs, will follow a meandering trail from the Meeting Haus to Schiller Park. There are sufficient funds available to complete the phase in early 2018.

## **Visitor Center**

The original comprehensive sign project included three components: house plaques, storytelling and wayfinding. A portion of the wayfinding project will include GV boundary signs. With the I-70/71 construction impact still in process, we have decided to hold on the wayfinding portion until there is more clarity as to how Livingston Avenue and various access points to GV will be altered. Meanwhile, we will move forward with using funds from the Fund for HP toward the long-anticipated Visitor Center upgrade. The recent completion of the project to archive all of the GVS document collection gives us a treasure trove of information from which to work on a unified approach to storytelling inside the Visitor Center and along the interpretive trail.

## **Ongoing Funding**

Mark your calendars for 8<sup>th</sup> annual TEA43206 event on August 18, 2018. (Wow, that's a lot of 8's)! This is the event that fuels the efforts outlined above, and which provides the matching funds for GVS to secure grant funding to augment the resources. The community support has been tremendous to date and it is immensely exciting to see this project start to take shape in our physical environment.

Thanks to the teams at Benjamin Rickey, MKSK, and to Nancy Kotting and Shiloh for their work in helping to bring this project to fruition!

*Darci Congrove, 10/5/17*

# **German Village Society Committee Report**

**Committee:**

Parking Committee

**Meeting date(s):**

September 12, 2017

**Attendees' names:**

Jim Curry  
Nelson Genshaft  
Carolyn McCall  
Jay Smith  
Jonathan Tafel  
Tim Bibler - Chair

**Next Meeting:**

October 10, 2017

**Highlights/Discussion:**

Most of the Committee's time during this meeting was reviewing the raw parking survey data that was collected during the summer.

The parking survey covered an area that was between Third and Mohawk and between Livingston and Willow. The survey identified the location and the number of available parking spaces. It also identified the location and the number of open parking spaces. The survey was conducted on Tuesday at 12:00 PM and 7:00 PM, Friday at 12:00 PM and 7:00 PM and Saturday at 12:00 PM. Each of these days and times were counted on three different dates between June and October.

The goal for the October Parking Committee meeting will be to develop this raw data into a more user-friendly presentation. This data will be helpful when addressing future parking needs.

The Committee also discussed ways to engage the German Village Commission to formalize the use of parking data showing the supply and demand of parking when considering request for parking variances. The Committee decided to continue this discussion at the next meeting.

**Minutes of the  
Parks, Public Spaces, and Community Events Meeting  
September 7, 2017**

**Members Present:** Ann Lilly, Connie Swain, Jim Chakeres, Lindy Michael, Linda Friedman, Katharine Moore, and Frank Wickham.

In President Sara McNealy's absence, Ann Lilly chaired the meeting and called the group to order at 9:00 am.

Katharine Moore moved that the minutes of the August 3, 2017 meeting be adopted into the record, Jim Chakeres seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Actors' Theatre**

Carol Mullinax was unable to attend, but submitted a written report about the terrific 2017 season Actors' Theatre of Columbus enjoyed.

**German Village Garten Club**

Jim Chakeres reported that as fall approaches things will be put to bed and the Third Street boxes for December are being planned. He updated the group on a number of GVGC projects and programs including:

- Mum sale underway; orders placed by September 10 can be picked up in Frank Fetch Park on September 16
- Hummingbird program on September 18 at the membership meeting
- Fetch Park Fall Fest on Saturday, October 8 from 1:00 – 4:00. Family programming and free pumpkins.
- Holiday party on December 11 at the Meeting Haus

**St. Mary Church & School**

Frank Wickham explained that the “silent phase” of the Capital Campaign is underway. A series of local fundraisers sponsored by area restaurants have been a success; The Old Mohawk, Schmidt’s and Plank’s have featured specials and made contributions to the campaign to repair the church. There will be a Food Truck Festival on September 15. Hard hat tours are available to interested parties. The German Village Society will host a neighborhood reception to update residents and provide details on the project. St. Mary School launched the new school year with almost 300 students.

### **German Village Society**

Chelsey Craig submitted a written report that highlighted the success of this year’s 43206 TEA, thanked Katharine Moore for the August Schiller Park program at the Meeting Haus, and encouraged everyone to plan for Monster Bash on October 14.

### **Friends of Schiller**

Katharine reported that the celebration of Schiller Park’s 150th anniversary continues with a tour of the park sponsored by Columbus Landmarks Foundation on September 24. The annual Kindred Spirits event is scheduled for October 20 and will be hosted at the home of Chris King and Rob Hunter. Katharine reported the surprise waxing of the Schiller statue and speculated that the City must have contracted for the work.

### **Highfield Garden**

Ann Lilly said the garden is winding down for the year and will be put to bed.

### **Arboretum Fund**

Katharine Moore explained that the Arboretum Fund will continue to be a Friends of Schiller Park initiative.

### **The Farm**

Connie Swain said it was an extremely successful year for the Farm and that all of the plots had been buttoned up.

### **Huntington Garden**

Linda Friedman reported that even as the garden was being prepped for winter, plans for the designs of the 2018 beds were being discussed. She mentioned that the ducks are being fed and continue to be an issue for the pond and surrounding areas.

### **Old Business**

The Memoranda of Understanding between the city and various park-related groups in German Village have been drafted, proofed by the No Name and are being formatted by Chelsey Craig. The next step is to send the MOUs to the city for review and approval. Once that happens the city will send the documents back to the PPSCE committee for review of any proposed changes.

The work to repair the stone pillars in Schiller Park is underway.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25am. A record may have been broken.

To: Members of the Parks, Public Spaces and Community Events Committee

From: Katharine Moore, Friends of Schiller Park

Date: October 5, 2017

The Friends of Schiller collaborated with Columbus Landmarks Foundation for a walking tour of Schiller Park on September 24, which just happened to be the most miserably hot Sunday in September EVER. John Clark led the program – and did a fantastic job.

We have had ongoing issues with the fountain. The “On/Off” switch is accessible, so I thought it was being turned off, and I looked in to ordering a protective lock box. They are \$1200 plus whatever a rather involved installation would cost. Then reports came in that it was tripping the breaker. I had a service call done and the technician found that the dial and the control panel have been damaged. Looks like we are going to need one of the lock boxes. The company rep said Bexley has them in their medium strip gardens and cars run over them all the time...glad that isn't on my budget!

I attended a meeting with representatives from Recreation and Parks and Actors' Theatre to review policies for issuing park permits to members of the public. The Recreation and Parks staff members could not have been more supportive of the work our groups do in the park, and we were able to clarify when Actors' Theatre has the priority for programming and to expand the communication tree, so we will receive regular notice of all permits issued.

Kindred Spirits will be held on Friday, October 20 at the home of Chris King and Rob Hunter. Tickets are available on line with a link on the GVS website, and an email message is scheduled to go out to all members on October 6.

There was a terrific article (I loved the headline!) in This Week German Village about the Park's 150 year history. The story is on line, with a video of John Clark.  
<http://www.thisweeknews.com/news/20170911/monumental-milestone-schiller-park-celebrates-rich-history-of-150-years>

Lots of people to thank this month:

Jan Clark	Created a terrific Power Point for the Landmark's Tour
John Clark	Designed and led the Landmark's Tour, provided history and context for the This Week German Village profile of Schiller Park
Amanda and John Smoliniec	Allowed us to feature their stained glass on the Landmark's tour

Bob Jackson	Provided a talk about the German-area Regiment that fought in the Mexican War for the Landmark's Tour
Paul Soehnen	Provided a talk about the Grace Highfield Garden for the Landmark's Tour
David Gaumer	Provided a talk about the Huntington Garden for the Landmark's Tour
Werner Niehaus	Provided a talk about the history of the Columbus Maennerchor in Schiller Park (He is President of the Board)
Becky West	Becky West, Executive Director of Columbus Landmarks Foundation offered to collaborate on the tour in celebration of Schiller Park's milestone anniversary.

a fundraiser for men in support of Schiller Park

# LAND GRANT

BREWING COMPANY

BEER TASTING

FRIDAY,  
OCTOBER 20  
7:30



A rowdy night with a noble purpose.  
Featuring a selection of championship quality craft  
beers brewed by Land-Grant Brewing Company.  
A full bar, assorted appetizers, silent auction with  
rare opportunities and a cigar garden.

At the home of Chris King and Rob Hunter  
356 E. Sycamore Street



Character lives in.

\$85 Tickets  
available online at [www.GermanVillage.com](http://www.GermanVillage.com)  
or from a Host Committee member



# Monumental milestone: Schiller Park celebrates rich history of 150 years

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Posted Sep 11, 2017 at 6:05 PM Updated Sep 11, 2017 at 7:45 PM

Schiller Park is more than just a recreational space to German Village residents.

It is a place of history and lore, where volunteers spend countless hours manicuring various gardens.

It is a dog-walking destination, somewhere to relax, picnic, shoot hoops and catch up with neighbors.

The source of enduring pride for the neighborhood turns 150 years old this year -- a historical milestone that marks a colorful past.

“So many things have happened in the park,” said John Clark, a local historian and author.

## **Early history**

Schiller Park is the city’s second oldest park. The first was Goodale Park. The 23.5-acre Schiller Park was purchased in April 1867 for \$15,000 by the city. It was known simply as City Park for nearly 40 years, Clark said.

It was part of a bigger piece of real estate called Stewart’s Grove, whose owners allowed people to gather on the land for public purposes.

It was the site of the Ohio State Fair, from 1864-65, and was a pooling stop for volunteer soldiers serving in the Mexican-American War before they were deployed to other destinations. The Columbus Oktoberfest was held at the park from 1967-71.

Francis Stewart, who owned a portion of the property that would become Schiller Park, sold some of the acreage to Columbus.

Essentially, the park was in the middle of nowhere, far south at the time for denizens of downtown and other areas of the city, Clark said. At one point, it was surrounded by a fence so cows could not escape. It also was the site of a short-lived zoo.

Several houses had been built on the property over the years, but the one remaining is the caretaker's cottage, built in the 1930s. It is now the headquarters of Actors' Theatre of Columbus, which performs in the park's amphitheater.

Over the years, houses were built around the park, which is now bounded by Reinhard Avenue, Jaeger Street, Deshler Avenue and City Park Avenue.

### **Diplomats visit**

In 1871, Amelia May Parsons and Prince Alexander Ernst zu Lynar of Prussia were married in Trinity Episcopal Church in downtown. Afterward they both planted a tree for peace in Schiller Park. The Franco-Prussian War ended that same year.

Lynar wasn't the only diplomat to have visited the park. Former President Barack Obama spoke there during his re-election campaign in 2012.

### **Name change**

The park was named after Johann Christoph Friedrich von Schiller (1759-1805), a German poet, playwright and philosopher.

The 2,640-pound statue of von Schiller, crafted in Germany, was dedicated, surely as a nod to the large German population on the South Side, on July 4, 1891. It officially was named Schiller Park in 1905.

During World War I, however, anti-German sentiment in Columbus and the United States ran high. The park was renamed Washington Park, after George Washington. The park became the site of the burning of German books, Clark said. But in 1930, it became Schiller again.

### **Urban paradise**

These days, Schiller is every bit the urban park, with a basketball court, tennis courts, a playground and home to the Schiller Community Center (long known as the Schiller Recreation Center), dedicated in 1917.

Sidewalks surround the park and wend their way through the space, as trees -- some believed to be dating back to the Stewart's Grove era -- tower over joggers and dog-walkers.

Julie Bango, who grew up on the South Side, was taking her dog, Lily, for a walk in the park Sept. 6.

"This is Lily's backyard," said Bango, who now lives in German Village. "I love this park. I grew up riding my bike down here."

A lighted fountain was recently added in the pond on the south side of the park. Dirt from the pond's excavation was piled into the northeast portion of the park, leading to the formation of what is known as the sledding hill.

"People will get the inkling it's an indian burial mound," Clark said.

### **Gardens galore**

A number of improvements to the park came from volunteers and private donations.

One was the iconic Umbrella Girl fountain on the north side of the park, created by then-local sculptor Joan Wobst, a village resident.

Nearby is the Grace Highfield Memorial Garden, honoring the longtime member of the German Village Society and a staunch supporter of the neighborhood.

The Schiller monument is bordered by lush greenery and faces three colorful flower beds, known as Huntington Garden, which lead to the von Schiller statue from City Park Avenue.

A group of 35 or so volunteers, known as the "deadheaders," do all the planting and maintenance of the garden, which celebrates its 25th anniversary next year.

"We still have a number of (deadheaders) originals," said Bert Stevens, chairwoman of Huntington Garden.

Janet Druen, Connie Swain and Elspeth Willoughby formed Friends of Schiller Park in 1980 as a way to improve a dilapidated playground on the eastern portion of the park.

The women “had young kids in the area and figured it needed to be done,” Willoughby said.

The group, which has since branched out to include other projects in the park, was instrumental in getting the playground renovated and, years later, championed a major upgrade.

“There was not a lot of other green space around that area,” Willoughby said.

“And for those of us who were living there with young children, this was our playground, our backyard, if you will. I think it was very important to the community.”

## German Village Society Long-Range Planning 2070 Vision Planning Task Force

### **Mandate:**

German Village 2070: What does it look, act, feel like? Yes, if preservation works – the German Village of 50 years from now should look much like it does today. But how will German Village Society function? Who will it partner with? What modern conveniences will it seek out to overlay on its ultra-**not**-modern facades? How will people get here? Work here? Play here?

Your job as a member of the 2070 Vision Task Force is to help us look well out into the future – unbound from what we HAVE been or what we HAVE done – and help us imagine our role in the world of tomorrow's tomorrow.

The task force should be guided by, but not boxed into, the pillars of the 2015-19 GVS strategic plan, which are: governance, historic preservation education, advocacy, quality of life and development/fundraising.

The five tenets the task force is asked to examine are as follows:

### **Placemaking**

Placemaking seeks to build upon and enrich the unique sense of place present within the rich textures of the cultural, social, and built environments of the German Village neighborhood. Placemaking inspires people to collectively reimagine and reinvent public spaces as the heart of every community, strengthening the connection between people and the places they share ultimately supporting the community's ongoing evolution.

Expert Reference: Project for Public Places

[https://www.pps.org/reference/what\\_is\\_placemaking/](https://www.pps.org/reference/what_is_placemaking/)

### **Maintaining Relevance**

Maintaining Relevance seeks to build upon and continue the long history of neighborhood preservation, community engagement, and strategic guidance that has defined the German Village neighborhood, making it a nationally recognized historic neighborhood. Maintaining Relevance speaks to the village's desire to utilize momentum and experience to propel the German Village neighborhood into the future, a future in which a new found interest in our cities and urban neighborhoods provide exciting potentials.

Expert Reference: The German Village Society

<https://germanvillage.com/about/history/>

### **Influencing**

Influencing seeks to advocate for the issues and ideologies that prove important to the German Village Society and reach out to the larger Columbus community through various neighborhood groups, local foundations, business networks, and government officials or municipalities. Influencing inspires enhanced engagement and participation within the larger Columbus context to not only improve the quality of life within the German Village community but to become an important player in the evolution of the City of Columbus and the region.

Expert Reference (an established formal organization): Boston Preservation Alliance

<http://www.bostonpreservation.org/boston-preservation-alliance/mission.html>

Expert Reference (a local grassroots informal network): Rust Belt Coalition of Young Preservationists

<https://rustbeltcoalitionofyoungpreservationists.com/2016/01/>

### **Connecting**

Connecting seeks to bring together members of German Village, Columbus, and the outside world both physically, socially, and culturally to enrich the quality of life of residents and visitors alike. Connecting inspires creative solutions to methods of movement, connection, and interaction to ensure that ease of access is maintained for all members of German Village and the greater Columbus community.

Expert Reference: MORPC Transportation  
<http://www.morpc.org/transportation/index>

Expert Reference: COTA Next Gen  
<http://www.cota.com/Projects/NextGen.aspx>

### **Futuring Outlook**

Futuring Outlook seeks to recognize trends or forecasts and position the German Village Society in a productive position to be proactive and engaged with future urban development rather than reactionary and defensive to potential cultural, social, economic, or built environment influences. Futuring Outlook inspires a continued striving to think beyond the timeline of contemporary programming and current strategic planning to identify future impacts on the neighborhood and develop a lens to understand and consider German Village Society reception to these influences.

Expert Reference: Columbus Insight 2050  
<http://getinsight2050.org/>

Expert Reference: Columbus ULI - Columbus 2050 Creating Blueprints for Change  
[http://www.morpc.org/pdf/ULL\\_Columbus2050.pdf](http://www.morpc.org/pdf/ULL_Columbus2050.pdf)

Expert Reference: Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission  
<http://www.morpc.org/index>

### **Expectations:**

- The task force will meet for not longer than 9 months, completing its report to the GVS Board of Trustees by March 31, 2018.
- You must commit to miss no more than one meeting of the task force.
- You must commit to unchain yourself from preconceived notions, frameworks or biases about “how we do things.”
- You must serve on at least one committee of the task force. The committees will be defined by the task force early on, but may include: topic research, interviews with non-resident stakeholders, outreach to other city leaders, updates to the GVS Board of Trustees, and braiding the vision together with the Historic Preservation Committee's preservation plan.
- You must not define the vision in terms of “which committee, which volunteer, that didn't work in 1986...” The task force is not in charge of operationalizing the vision.

### **Calendar:**

The first Task Force meeting will last 2 hours and be an introduction to the current strategic plan, a glance at previous plans, and a chance to get to know one another – both as neighbors, and as professionals asked to be at this table for your unique perspective.

The second meeting will be up to 4 hours on a Saturday, where we can begin to brainstorm and think big. From this meeting, the committees will be drafted.

Quickly on the heels of the second meeting (within 10 days), the task force will meet to finalize creation of committees and populate them. This meeting will also set the timeline for most of the rest of the task force's work together.

Tour Training Sessions: 3  
Tour Guides Trained: 5

Avg Standing Tour Size:

YTD Tours Requests: 102

YTD Tours Completed(9/30): 76

YTD Tours Cancelled (9/30): 15

YTD Tour Guests: 1243

Avg Tour Size: 16

Coach: 12 requests; 6 completed, 4 in progress, 2 cancelled.

Explore Beyond The Door: 22 requests; 14 completed, 4 in progress, 4 cancelled.

Golf Cart: 1 request, 1 completed.

Hurry Up Tour: 4 requests, 4 completed.

Scavenger Hunt: 10 requests; 6 completed, 2 in progress, 2 cancelled.

Standard Walking: 44 requests; 27 completed, 8 in progress, 9 cancelled.

Summer Standing Tours: 9 scheduled; 8 completed. 1 cancelled due to weather.

## **German Village Society Committee Report**

**Committee: Development**

**Meeting date(s): 10/03/17**

**Attendees names:**

**Next Meeting: TBD**

**Dennis Brandon**

**Heidi Drake**

**Joshua Zimmerman**

**Greg Gamier**

**Brittany Gibson**

**Darci Congrove**

**Jeanne Likins**

**Shiloh Todorov**

**Mark Weiss**

### **Highlights/Discussion:**

**The meeting at G. Michaels was called to acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of the committee in its first year of organized direct fund raising. Dennis recognized the Board of Trustee members for crossing a critical policy milestone by taking direct responsibility for this new phase of support for the Society. Mark reported the progress of over \$240,000 in new funding, pointing out that we have a substantial amount to raise to meet goal.**

### **Plans and Assignments:**

**Mark will be reviewing Committee assignments and working with members to move outreach and asks forward.**

**Do you have issues or concerns that require consideration by the Board or staff for possible response or action? If so, please spell out timeline. (Could include the need for time/support from GVS staff or volunteers or the need for financial resources, for example.)**

**Ideas or concerns about safety:**

**Ideas or concerns about sidewalks:**

**Outstanding volunteers of note:**

**Anything else you would like to share with the board?**

# German Village Society Committee Report

**Committee:** Monster Bash

**Meeting date(s):** 9/7, 9/20, 10/5

**Attendees names:** Jim & Sarah Penikas, Nancy Knotting, Ryan & Heather Bone, Kim Cowie, John Barry, Natalie Brehm, Beth Burson, Marceline Dyer

**Next Meeting:** N/A – event is this Saturday!

**Highlights/Discussion:** We are about a week out from this year's Monster Bash on October 14th. We are slightly ahead of last year in total ticket sales. As of 10/5 (9 days out), we have 164 tickets remaining. Last year, we had 194 tickets remaining as of 7 days out. We anticipate a sellout again this year!

Local businesses are helping us market the event, displaying posters in their windows and having postcards for people to take with them. Members of the planning committee were also on the news on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, bright and early, promoting the event!

We have 9 houses on the route this year. The route this year is bordered by 3rd, Columbus, Sixth and Beck. We held our Host Mixer at the Druen's last week. Hosts were invited to meet other hosts, share ideas and get their questions answered.

The OSU game time has been announced. It is at 7:30pm on Fox Sports 1. We are excited that it is a night game so we can have the OSU tailgate outside. We will have a tent outside and fire pits in case of inclement weather.

As mentioned last meeting, there are several changes and new features this year that we are excited about! We will have a website for guests to vote on the costume contest and best house instead of tickets like we've done in the past. There will also be a map with all the stops that guests can access on their mobile phones and a Snapchat filter. The signs for the host stops are new this year and will tie to our new logo. The Columbus Crew will be helping with our décor so we will have a classic black and white Halloween theme with pops of yellow from the Crew. The after party is at our new neighbor, The Daily Growler.

**Outstanding volunteers of note:** Ryan and Heather Bone have been standout volunteers on the planning committee. They oversee decorations and have brought many ideas to the table about how to refresh and update the look this year. After several years of re-using the decorations, we appreciate them taking the lead on this. Ryan also created a website to change how guests vote for the costume contest winners and best house which we think will appeal to our guests. Thank you, Ryan and Heather!

We would also like to thank Sid and Janet Druen for opening up their home for our Host Mixer last Thursday. The hosts of the 9 stops were invited to share ideas on their stops and get their questions answered. We really appreciate their hospitality!

## **German Village Society Committee Report**

**Committee:** Organizational  
Development Committee

**Meeting date(s):** Sept. 26

**Attendees names:**  
Joanne Kesten, Jeanne Likins (Chair),  
Susan Sutherland, Nancy Turner

**Next Meeting:** Oct. 31

### **Highlights/Discussion:**

- Discussed and confirmed the 2017-18 GVS Officers slate
- Trustee Roster with Terms, revised 9.5.17
- GVS Bylaws updated with last three changes, 10.1.17
- Beta evaluation of the GVS Leaders Resource Dropbox by three folks underway until Thanksgiving before finalizing this major project. There are over 200 files presently included. This is an effort to go more digital and to provide easy access to a wealth of information to improve GVS leader knowledge.
- Discussed potential candidates for two open seats, one three year appointment to replace Anne Ring when she moves to VA and a one year, non-voting, must live in GV footprint for ten years or more position replacing Darci Congrove who just rotated off the board.
- Discussed ideas to expand the GVS Leadership Pipeline and assigned several people to talk with two prospects by Oct. 31 meeting. Agreed to reach out to GVS Trustees and all GVS leaders for ideas on possible other leaders.
- Preliminary discussion about several bylaw provisions that are not are effective as would be helpful. Will have thorough examination

and discussion of GVS Constitution and GVS By-Laws this coming year.

**Plans and Assignments:** See above

**Do you have issues or concerns that require consideration by the Board or staff for possible response or action? If so, please spell out timeline. (Could include the need for time/support from GVS staff or volunteers or the need for financial resources, for example.)**

- 2017-18 GVS Officers Nomination Motion: to elect Heidi Drake as President, Joshua Zimmerman as Vice President, Brittany Gibson as Secretary, and John Barr as Treasurer to serve October 2017-September 2018.

**Ideas or concerns about safety:** No

**Ideas or concerns about sidewalks:** No

**Outstanding volunteers of note:** No

**Anything else you would like to share with the board?**

- Please complete the GVS Board Self Evaluation and send to Jeanne by Oct. 20.
- Please think of who might be a good leader at any level or stage and send names and contact information to Jeanne ([jlikins@columbus.rr.com](mailto:jlikins@columbus.rr.com)). Thank you.

Executive Director Report – October 2017

We have an agreement with Columbia Gas of Ohio! Here is the agreement language on file with PUCO if you haven't yet seen it: <https://dis.puc.state.oh.us/TiffToPdf/A1001001A17129B25502G00887.pdf>

There are hundreds of people to thank in this community who signed petitions, joined the complaint, made calls, held out on the meter move, and more; but I want to specifically recognize the board's leadership in seeing the preservation threat and moving to act while keeping an eye on the budget and supporting the staff in countless ways. You are the preservation visionaries making Frank Fetch proud!

### **Preservation Education**

Now the real work begins on Columbia Gas's project, educating residents about the national preservation standard as it related to placing the meter on the rear façade of properties – as well as working with any who may like to have their sidewalk improved by Columbia's and GVS's funds during the gas line project. It is upon not just current staff and residents, but future staff, boards and property owners to make constant reference to the agreement and continue to vigilantly implement it alongside Columbia.

The German Village Commission was asked to approve the first 12 installations of the interpretive trail funded by Tea 43206, Ohio Humanities Council and United Way Neighborhood Partnership Grants. Assuming success, the first foundried example will be attached to the Meeting Haus by Nov. 3, and 11 more will be produced in a temporary fashion as we invite a group of neighbors and tourism experts to assess the content and visual appeal. Pending their feedback, we are working to finalize the first 30 stories and create the signs by walking season next year.

I led a meeting on Sept. 25 of the Council of Historic Neighborhoods, who heard from Randy Black about conservation neighborhoods. Merion Village has begun an application to be the pilot for that project.

The Haus und Garten Tour host committee for 2018-19 has met twice now under Joshua Zimmerman's leadership. We are proposing some simplification of ticket prices for PreTour, maximizing our rental investment at the park, and beginning to think about how to make the 60<sup>th</sup> annual event truly special in 2019.

### **Advocacy**

Third Street Chair Nelson Genshaft and I have a date on the calendar with city departments to look at Third Street and where it sits in the city's priority list.

Nancy Kotting and I will return to the Livingston Avenue project about which the city present to the board in September. We'd like to direct some advocacy toward brick sidewalks to better complement the sandstone curbs already committed for that reconstruction.

### **Quality of Life**

It's a Directory year, and I'm asking the age-old question: Should the Directory be print, digital or both? An informal N4N survey showed a preference for both initially, but people are ready to go digital. We are talking with a GVS member who has this expertise to see if functionality and cost are within our scope.

Michelle Mazeke, along with regular group tour volunteers Gail Stoy and John Clark, have been meeting with me to think about what's next for our tour program. Thanks to Michelle's ownership of that project for the past 9 months, we have a LOT of data we've never collected before. We also have a great deal of passion and fresh ideas for marketing the tours and bettering their historic preservation education content from Gail and John. This, added to a new tool from Experience Columbus to automate more of the online booking process than we currently can, is likely to result in a higher-impact approach to this education piece with less hours spent by staff or volunteers – or that's the goal.

Jeff Lowe, Greg Gamier, Chelsey Craig, Mark Weiss and I met about Art Crawl and how we can build on 2017 improvements to make 2018 even better. I expect to pull together a single-meeting focus group to reflect on the items discussed during the decision-makers meeting, then proceed to build the committee for 2018.

### **Financial Stability**

Most of the transition to Huntington for our banking and credit card processing is in place – we just await final fee details and an order of checks. The Finance Committee meets Oct. 25 to discuss investing some of that money in low-risk tools.

Budgets are due October 15 so that Finance and then the board can also begin to consider next year's income and expenses.

### **Governance**

ODC has begun work on the 2018 and beyond pipeline!

The German Village Society Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, Nov. 5, from 3-5 p.m. at Franklin Art Glass.

### **Enhance Communications**

The first draft of the annual report is in design for unveiling at the Nov. 5 annual meeting.

### **Operational Stability**

An RFP for design on the Scheurer Room, Visitors Center, lobby and Platz updates is near-final and will go out mid-month. The board should expect bids to come in around \$50,000 for this step of the work, and expect to see the budgeting for the project in my 2018 numbers. The correlation of this project to the interpretive trail and to the business community has prompted me to inquire with Fund for Historic Preservation and GVBC about making an investment in the project.

Board Report, October 2017

Nancy Kotting

Monster Bash

We are gearing up for Monster Bash. As staff liaison, I've been meeting with the committee and working with our Charis, Sarah and Jim Penikas. We are currently on track to sell out rather early this year, a good thing! So far the weather forecast is good, which will certainly help. Columbus Crew will be sponsoring the party upstairs, complete with a 'celeb' announcer for our costume contest. We have set up a web site through which live voting will occur the night of Monster Bash for the winning home/stop and the costume contest winners. Bashers will be able to vote on their phones as well as navigate the route. We are very thankful for a talented group of volunteers!

Interpretive Trail

The Interpretive Trail Signage project got a solid boost with our approval from the HDC for our first two trails. We have identified the first trail stories and images, are manufacturing the first sign and will be leading a focus group tour of the trail, mocked up temporarily, on November 3. We will then proceed with the production of the signs and placement on homes and fences.

Visitor Center RFP

We have the Request for Proposals for the design phase of the Visitors Center/Platz/Lobby/Scheurer improvement project in its final draft form. It will be reviewed one more time then we will distribute it. We are very proud of the process, teamwork and input from virtually all user groups of the Meeting Haus that went into producing this RFP. We are off to a very good start!

Sidewalk Incentive Program

We are closing in on our quarterly deadline for applications (October 31<sup>st</sup>). As mentioned last month, demand has slowed so we are pushing it once again through N4N. With our Columbia Gas settlement, we should see increased interest in this financial incentive going forward.

Historic Preservation Committee

Joann Kesten and I have met twice now and are beginning to develop some ideas for re-igniting this segment of our mission. Our goal is to attract the next generation of preservationists, while continuing to engage those whose dedication remains active. Look for some innovative thinking .....

Historic House Plaques

The second round has arrived! We are packaging them up as I type and we will be notifying owners shortly. I have one order in already for the 3<sup>rd</sup> round. Hopefully, with the more in-depth research and presentation, a positive word will spread on this program. It is a valuable component of our signage efforts. Big thanks to Darci and John!

### Street/Sidewalk/Curb Survey

We have created 48 different routes, encompassing the entire district, that we are handing out to volunteers who will be walking the district for us. They are surveying all three of these components simultaneously for efficiency. They will be grading for condition, citing specific issues which we will then prioritize. We will be communicating our findings with the city regarding needed street repairs, including curbs and we will also be using it to measure our progress in repairing sidewalks.

Oh, about that gas company...

SO proud of our agreement reached finally with Columbia Gas of Ohio! By setting the preference/starting point for all meter location discussions at the rear façade, we have successfully re-oriented the activity of Columbia Gas toward meeting our preservation standards. And, we were able to reach this compromise without inhibiting their responsibilities as a utility service provider. The agreement invites participation from the owner in the decision making process, allowing us to continue educating residents in the activity of historic preservation. We will be meeting with Columbia Gas today (October 5) to begin the process of creating the protocol for communications. Look for more updates!

Respectfully submitted

Nancy Kotting

## **October Board Report**

*– Mark Weiss, Manager Donor Development & Marketing*

### **Development Committee**

The Development Committee toasted to our Phase I goal of \$240,825 committed by donors over the next five years. The milestone was worth celebrating, but the committee acknowledges that there's still work to be done in Year 2 of the three-year Development Plan launched in Sept. 2016.

The goal remains \$1.245 million pledged over the next five years. And the approach to meeting individually with donors to achieve this goal has not wavered.

The measurable success achieved thus far has been heavily outweighed by the intangible lessons learned. Not every meeting with a donor leads to 5-year commitment as one might imagine. Rather, the discussions lead to a better understanding of why our donors prioritize giving to German Village Society over other deserving nonprofits. We better understand the impact we make through the donors' perspective and we focus on how to sustain that impact.

Our first objective is to listen, and our second objective is to extend an invite to donors to help us plan for the future and achieve our goals as set forth in the 2015 Strategic Plan.

Through September, staff has been carefully budgeting and setting expectations in comparison to Year 1. Most notably, a tighter forecast of how many donors we anticipate would be open to a multi-year commitment and a deeper dive into past community support beyond financial means (i.e. hosting, volunteering for events, chairing committees).

### **GVBC Map Brochure**

Maps to promote the business community were delivered October 3. We sent 20,000 to the storage unit in Grove City which makes quarterly deliveries to 10 different Tourist Information Centers managed by the Ohio Department of Transportation across the state. The other 70,000 were delivered to the Meeting Haus, where staff keeps boxes stored throughout the year for distribution locally among German Village businesses but also city-wide with distributors like DayTrip Advisor, Greater Columbus Convention Center, Experience Columbus, Ohio State University and Greater Columbus Sports Commission, to name a few.

### **Village Lights**

Promotional and production efforts are underway.

With partners CD 102.5 and WOSU 89.7, staff meets to create on-air scripts to promote 50 radio spots to promote the Sunday, Dec. 3 event that attracts thousands from across Central Ohio to kick off the holiday season. Additionally, I meet with Sway the Crowd Production in October to create a video spot for future promotion of Village Lights to use in 2018. Last, Chelsey and I work with Key Blue Prints to create 5,000 program flyers to be delivered in November to promote the event among 45 GVBC members.

On the production side of things, I've connected with last year's Irish Dance Academy to invite their internationally-recognized dancers back for another year of entertainment. Columbus Dance Theatre is another connection I've made to enhance guest experience. Actors' Theatre and The Book Loft will be back for another year of Santa and Mrs. Claus reading holiday stories and gifting activity books to children on Dec. 3.

Throughout the month of October, we will be finalizing volunteer needs, lighting and decorations for the GVBC's signature holiday event.

## **Chelsey Craig, Donor Relations & Marketing Coordinator**

### **Database Conversion:**

With the support of the board and staff I have started the process of conversion from PastPerfect to Donor Perfect. The journey is sure to be one of tedious detail but a fruitful one nonetheless. My first meeting with our implementation coordinator is October 12. Our current estimated timeline is 6 weeks. Updates will follow the October 12 meeting.

### **Donor Management**

After weeks of Development Planning with Shiloh and Mark donor correspondence has been updated and is ready to be rolled out November 1. These updates include new letters, emails and promotion of membership. This month I will be updating PastPerfect in preparation for November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Donor recognition for the Annual Report is also underway.

### **Village Lights**

Working with Mark, I am coordinating with businesses for our print publication. This month we will continue to prepare for the upcoming event.

### **Social Media**

With Fall upon us our social calendar is packed to the brim. We continue to grow followers and use our platform to promote GVS, GVBC, historic preservation and German Village.

We have been using social media to promote the Big Give. Don't forget, OCT 10 @ 10AM!

### **Miscellaneous**