

GERMAN VILLAGE SOCIETY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
January 9, 2018

Present: John Barr, Dennis Brandon, Terri Dalenta, Heidi Drake, Greg Gamier, Brittany Gibson, Joanne Keston, Marie Logothetis, Jim Penikas, Josh Miller, Kurt Miller, Joshua Zimmerman

Staff and guests: Roberta Zimmerman, GreenSpot Committee; Nancy Kotting and Shiloh Todorov, staff; Gary Seman, ThisWeek German Village Gazette

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by President Heidi Drake.

Public Participation

President Heidi Drake introduced German Village Society GreenSpot Committee chair Roberta Zimmerman, who explained that the GreenSpot Committee was formed to support the City of Columbus program of the same name, which is working to keep Columbus green and sustainable into the future. The program, among other things, recognizes communities as “GreenSpots” – and German Village was just added as the third in the city (along with the Discovery District and Dublin). This recognition reflects the fact that we meet several of the requirements already (in the form of things like repurposing used items via the annual Village Valuables yard/sidewalk sale) but also that we pledge to meet several other markers. The Committee is working on ensuring that 100 neighborhood residents or businesses join the GreenSpot program themselves each year and to get garbage and recycling cans placed along Third Street. The Committee has launched a Facebook group for those interested to get more info – “GreenSpot German Village.”

The board thanked Roberta and her group for their efforts and encouraged them to continue passing along updates, especially via monthly written reports to the board.

Reports of the President and Officers

President Heidi Drake shared with the board that the Organizational Development Committee had nominated Terri Dalenta for the seat left open by departing Board of Trustees member Anne Ring. She pointed out Terri’s passion for the community and experience volunteering for various non-profits and asked Terri to leave the room while the remaining board members considered her appointment.

MOTION: To appoint Terri Dalenta to a seat on the Board of Trustees, with a term effective January 2018 and expiring September 2020. [Drake, Penikas]

Approved.

Heidi alerted board members that the annual committee chair and pillar meeting will happen at the Meeting Haus on January 29 at 6 p.m.; she encouraged all board members to attend and all pillars to have a group meeting with their committee chairs in advance.

Vice President Joshua Zimmerman had no report at this time.

Secretary Brittany Gibson presented the minutes of the meeting of Nov. 14, 2017.

MOTION: Approve the minutes of the meetings of Dec. 12, 2017. [Gibson, Zimmerman]

Motion approved.

Brittany then recapped the board of the eVote that was taken since last month's board meeting and shared with board members that it had passed. She then asked to confirm that this motion had taken place and been confirmed.

MOTION: To confirm passage of the Dec. 13, 2017, electronic vote to approve an initial engagement related to the Meeting Haus redesign project with design firm Mode Architects, with costs not to exceed \$10,000. [Gibson, Miller]

Motion approved.

Treasurer John Barr gave an overview of the finances since the last board meeting. The Society ended the year \$20,000 in the black before recording the 10% fees for overseeing the designated funds. The estimate for excess revenues over expenses on a cash basis for the year is about \$30,000, which will be transferred to the For the Good of the Neighborhood account. The next Finance Committee meeting is set for Jan. 25.

John then asked us to consider passing the Society's non-profit tax return, as created by our auditing firm.

MOTION: To adopt passage of the German Village Society's Form 990. [Barr, Gamier]

Motion approved.

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.

Josh Miller reported that he met with Parking Committee chair Tim Bibler about the status of the Parking Committee meeting and reported that they're interested in having Ohio State University students assist with parking surveys this summer, as they occasionally have in the past. He also mentioned he and Tim have an idea GVBC could use that he will share with Mark Weiss. Nancy Kotting shared that as she understood it, the committee is looking for board approval of the parking values statement Tim presented at the November board meeting. Josh clarified that he (Josh) felt like that ended up no longer being a need because he'd discussed with Tim that it wasn't going to be enforceable.

Joshua shared that with GVS's 60th Haus Und Garten Tour on the horizon, the committee is planning a brunch that will bring together 15 years of past Tour homeowners to discuss pros and cons about their experiences. The team is in need of theme ideas. 2018 Tour commitments currently total 9 or 10 houses and 180 dinner seats.

Shiloh updated us on a calendar where she's planned out key discussion points for each month's board meeting that will keep us focused on active areas among the organization, as well as updates. In addition, we'll get to know one board member per board meeting via a Q&A included in each board packet.

Shiloh also shared that the Conflict of Interest and Board Member Responsibilities (formerly Commitment to Serve) forms included in the board packet are part of our annual process of reviewing and signing. The Board Member Responsibilities form is the only thing updating this year.

MOTION: To adopt the revised Commitment to Serve form for use by the Board of Trustees. [Drake, Dalenta]

Motion approved.

Everyone was asked to sign the Conflict of Interest and Board Member Responsibilities forms this evening, if possible. For purposes of the Conflict of Interest form, Shiloh asked board members to closely review the list of vendors GVS works with. Heidi emphasized that it's perfectly OK to have conflicts of interest, but it's necessary to disclose them — and that board members may themselves from discussions/votes as appropriate.

Staff Reports

Shiloh shared that the Visitors Center and Group Tour committees are having their quarterly meeting (in the form of a potluck) at the Meeting Haus on Jan. 21 starting at 1 p.m. She encouraged board members to stop by.

Nancy Kotting shared that 247 addresses in German Village are part of the next round of upgrades planned for Columbia Gas's lines, although an exact timeline hasn't been announced yet. She's sent letters to all addresses to explain the Society's potential role in determining the location of exterior meters and has heard from some people already. Nancy and Shiloh are attending a meeting tomorrow hosted by Columbia Gas for residents of the first phase, which mainly affects Schumacher Place but does include some German Village addresses.

Nancy also drew attention to news that the Mannerchor building is being considered for demolition because of a proposed development by its new owner. Nancy is in touch with Columbus Landmarks about the status of the building and pointed out that although it's not in our historic-district footprint, it plays a role in German Village history. Her first step will be to meet with current owner and developer.

Shiloh introduced the latest we know about the project at 4th St. and Thurman Ave., including a drawing of the Lykens Company proposal: 37 micro-units with parking interior to the project. At the June German Village Commission meeting, the GVC asked Lykens to add a commercial element to the streetscape, but no further plans have been reviewed again by GVC since. In a meeting with Lykens, their reps told Shiloh and Joshua that they haven't spent time on this project since. The firm has three years remaining on their lease with Red Rooster for the old firehouse building; Lykens may eventually use that space for condos if it seems like it would be a better use of their investments. Shiloh and Joshua requested for a series of public meetings with the Lykens team so neighbors can voice opinions and GVS can help facilitate the outcome. Neighbors representing those immediately surrounding the project met in November and are dividing and conquering gathering answers to questions related to other Lykens properties, variance info for the property and other info. Shiloh and Nancy are looped into their work and helping to gather facts. The next step will be to get a small group of neighbors together to meet with the Lykens team and a few people from the Society.

Nancy shared a version of the Preservation Values Statement that included notes reflecting what the group discussed when they first looked at during the board retreat on Saturday. She asked for any additional feedback from the board as she refines it. She pointed out how forming this statement relates to development that's currently pending around the district, like the project at 4th St. and Thurman Ave. as well as at the Mannerchor. Kurt Miller pointed out that a Lykens project was recently written about in the paper and that the article mentioned that conversations with neighbors caused Lykens to adjust their plans accordingly. Nancy pointed out that whenever German Village is faced with significant infill, those decisions are mostly handled by the Commission – but that we need to figure out what triggers us to enter into a discussion, as well as the response protocol that follows. Related to the 4th and Thurman project, Dennis questioned if there are any similar “series” of condos currently in the neighborhood (that therefore have been approved) – board members pointed to several,

including along South Lazelle Street, east of the Meeting Haus. Nancy added that once GVS's preservation plan is in place, the opportunity is there to educate developers as well as neighbors. Joshua and Kurt both brought up that in addition to those within the district, it might be worth looking at underdeveloped, surrounding properties just outside the historic district and also at identifying partners in that area.

Shiloh pointed out that neighbors in the 4th and Thurman vicinity are hoping to fight to keep in place the R2F (residential, 2-family) zoning that applies to the neighborhood, which is something for the board to continue thinking about. Josh reiterated, as he mentioned at the November meeting, that he'd like to hear from neighbors in that micro-neighborhood about what they would like to see there—knowing that something will eventually be built there.

Shiloh asked the best way for her and for Nancy to keep us updated. Dennis said he felt like we'd need to be kept abreast of progress on the Preservation Values Statement but also that we need to know what the boundaries are, generally, as far as staff getting drawn in to a negotiation. Heidi pointed out that as the plan is fleshed out, we'll have an easier time picturing it and be able to respond. Nancy said she'd send along the second draft of the Values Statement draft when she has it ready and the full draft of the issues and opportunities document in March or so. Heidi urged board members to pay close attention as these materials come through.

Old/New Business

Volunteer highlights: The board recognized the exceptional generosity, hard work and time spent by our Tour Program volunteers, as noted by chair Michelle Mazeke: Norm Burns; John Clark; Terri Dalenta; Erin Donovan; Jeff Jaynes; Mary Marsh; Sue McManus and Gail Stoy; Chris Coffin; Bill Curlis; Ken Hunger and Tim Moore, Mary and Dave Ross; and Jeff and Jeani Stahler.

Having wrapped up the agenda, Heidi suggested the board end the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

MOTION: Adjourn the January 9, 2018, meeting of the German Village Board of Trustees. [Drake, Dalenta]

Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Brittany Gibson, Secretary

Attest: Heidi Drake, President