

GERMAN VILLAGE SOCIETY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
November 10, 2020

Present: Tim Bibler, Darci Congrove, William Curlis, Greg Gamier, Nelson Genshaft, Jay Godfrey, Chris Hune, Jessica Kaputsa, Marie Logothetis, Anne McGee, Tim Morbitzer, and Jim Penikas.

Guests and Staff: Jill D'Antignac, Kurt Miller, Jim Nichols, and Sal Reedus.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. as a Zoom conference call, by President Chris Hune.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Reports of the Officers

President Hune reported to our members and the German Village community on recent actions taken by the Board:

As of November 1, 2020, we eliminated two staff positions: the Manager of Events and Engagement and the Executive Director. The positions of Manager of Historic Preservation and Outreach as well as Development Coordinator will continue in support of our mission and membership. Both positions will report directly to the president of the board of the German Village Society. We want to thank Delilah Lopez and Dustin Speakman for their service and support to the German Village Society.

This difficult decision was made after several months of review of our financial situation and forecasting through the end of 2021 and with various potential scenarios including a complete shut down of the operations to retaining the full staff and determining how far existing funding expected revenues will hold. After extensive discussions it was determined that we would fund and retain those positions that will continue to serve our core mission of preservation and membership support. We will continue to monitor and expect to reforecast quarterly as the current climate shifts.

Continuing with other business of the Board, President Hune announced that she was appointing Beth Burson to the Five-Year Resident position on the Board of Trustees.

MOTION: To confirm the President's appointment of Beth Burson to the Board of Trustees as the Five-Year Resident member for a term expiring September 30, 2021. [Curlis, Morbitzer]

Appointment confirmed.

Vice President Marie Logothetis reported that winners of Caretakers Awards for 2020 had been selected and that she and her committee were working on research, scripting a program, and

videography with John Clark. She also noted that announcements of the program will be made “far and wide” to get public participation.

Secretary William Curlis reported that the minutes of the October, 2020, meeting of the Board of Trustees had been e-mailed and asked for their approval.

MOTION: To approve the Minutes of the October 13, 2020, meeting of the Board of Trustees. [Curlis, Genshaft]

Motion approved.

The Treasurer’s report was deferred to later in the meeting.

#### Active Issues Discussion

President Hune reported that many activities were moving forward to celebrate the end-of-the-year in German Village to include a Holiday Delights by the Dozen, a Village Lights holiday lighting display and contest, Village Singers Caroling, and maybe a Doggie Ugly Sweater contest.

GV Board of Trustee members, Greg Gamier and Jessica Kaputsa reported on their plans for Village Lights 2020 to include a German Village House Lighting contest, Santa roaming the Village on a “golf-sled”, along with GV businesses having special promotions and celebrations. Ms. Kaputsa reminded the Board that the celebrations and activities would take place throughout the month (and not on one evening) with all businesses observing Covid protocols.

Holiday Delights by the Dozen chair Jill D’Antignac reported that the former Cookie Caper event, a GV tradition of years past, was being revived and that she had over 30 bakers for dozens of cookies lined-up. Ms. D’Antignac outlined her committee’s plans and asked for feedback from the Board, as well as participation in baking. There was extensive discussion and support for the effort by the Board. More information will be shared with the community as the plans are finalized.

President Hune noted that with many GV activities scheduled during the holidays, she asked FUN Committee chair Mike Cornelis to be the coordinator for all of these events in December.

Treasurer Darci Congrove reported that because of the recent close-down of the Meeting Haus she and the bookkeeper were unable to meet until after this Board meeting to provide the Board with their monthly reports. As soon as they meet, she will forward the October financials to the Board and the Treasurer’s Report will be included in the December meeting.

Ms. Congrove noted that she was continuing to make updates to an “ever-evolving” operating budget and will keep the Board informed of activity. She further noted that the Board had made significant reductions in expenses and continues to seek alternative sources of revenue.

Annually, the Board of Trustees November meeting is the first presentation by the Treasurer of a projected budget for the coming year. Ms. Congrove provided the Board with a draft 2021 budget and noted that she and the Finance Committee were proposing a conservative budget that relied on no resources being transferred from savings or special funds. She also reported that she and the Finance

Committee would review 2021 income and expenses on a quarterly basis throughout 2021. The Board accepted the draft for review and will vote to adopt a 2021 balanced budget at the December meeting.

Historic Preservation co-chair Jay Godfrey gave an up-date on the Pizzuti development on the site of the Giant Eagle lot. The developers presented a new modified proposal to the original design that did not substantially address the density and parking issues. The new proposal reduced the number of units from 331 units to 279 units with 228 parking spaces (above and below ground). Retail space was increased from 8,000 square feet to 9,462 square feet. Parking and traffic studies are awaiting review by the City. Although there is a modest set-back from the property line, it is still edge to edge.

Mr. Godfrey noted that the letter the Society Board sent to City leaders has been well received and an on-line petition drive has generated significant response (in 48 hours over 250 signatures).

Several meetings are contemplated with decision makers over the next 60 days and Mr. Godfrey and the Historic Preservation Committee will keep the community aware of all opportunities for citizens to respond.

Long-Range Planning Committee chair Kurt Miller brought the Board up-to-date on the work of his committee as it works toward a three year Long Range Plan. The Committee is seeking the Board and community's help with direction, guidance and feedback by participation in its Strategic Planning Survey. Please sign-in and take the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PP8XC63>

Greg Gamier and Chris Hune reminded the Board that the Society was hosting the American Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday November 11th in the Warner Fest Hall.

Jessica Kaputsa also reminded the Board that she was leading the committee working on the German Village Society Annual meeting and is seek volunteers for this virtual meeting.

The business of the November 10, 2020, meeting of the German Village Society Board of Trustees having been concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William Curlis, Secretary

Attest:

Chris Hune, President