



GVS Board of Trustees: March 11th, 2025, Meeting Agenda

Scheurer Room 6PM – German Village Meeting Haus

See the GVS Website for Zoom Instructions

BOT: Anthony Meyer, Anne McGee, Nelson Genshaft, Cynthia Watson, Tim Bibler, Robert Caplan, Michael Cornelis, Jessica Flemming, Andrea Ford, Michael Gallaughier Jonathan Hoag, Scott Glaser, Jeff Lamb, James Nichols, Helen Speiser

Call to Order

Anthony Meyer

Public Participation (2 min limit)

TBD

Staff Reports

Communication/Membership

Rachel Lewellen (Written Report)

Historic Preservation/Civic Relations

Crystal Coon (Written Report)

Officer Reports

Presidents Report

Anthony Meyer (Oral Report)

Vice President Report

Anne McGee (Oral Report)

Secretary Report

Cynthia Watson

*Motion to approve Feb 11th, 2025, GVS Board Meeting Minutes

Treasurer Report

Nelson Genshaft

*No Report this month

Committee Reports

Maintenance Committee

Jim Nichols (Oral Report)

Motion to:

- To approve a contract with Midwest Elevator to evaluate, make a recommendation and provide a repair quote for our current elevator operational issue at a cost not to exceed \$1,000.

ODC

Jim Nichols (Oral Report)

GVBC

Cynthia Watson (Oral Report)

PPSCE

Katharine Moore (Written Report)

Visitor Center

Dan Pullen (Written Report)

Fund for Historic Preservation

Darci Congrove (Written Report)

Technology Committee

Jeff Lamb (Written Report)

Art Committee

Courtney Druen (Written Report)

Historic Preservation Committee

Michael Gallaughier & Robert Caplin (Written Report)

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS - Art Crawl

Communication

- **Neighbor 4 Neighbor:** Continuously editing and enhancing the weekly e-newsletter.
- **Members2Members:** GVBC monthly meeting reminder and communication
- **Historic Preservation Monthly Update:** Worked with Crystal Coon to create a new monthly newsletter for members only about HP in GVS (will go out 1st of every month)
- **Social media:** Created campaign for 2025 Membership Drive “For 65 Years, we’ve championed the past. Join us in shaping the future.”
- **Website:** Update events on site
- **BOT Reports:** provided a template for committee chairs to share monthly updates with BOT –online form version and Doc – print and prepare packet

Membership Development

Member-Only Activities for 2025 currently being planned by Membership Committee members

Membership Operations:

- Ongoing transition to GrowthZone CRM, continue training to ensure comprehensive data integration and formatting – New membership portal “hub” access – **231 currently members have created log in**
- New resident ‘**Welcome Bags**’ are now available for pick up at the Meeting Haus. The process involves a door hanger that will welcome and invite new residents to pick up the bag – currently, **19 GVBC members** are participating with the addition of a welcome letter from GVS, membership info, and a flyer about the COA process. Starting with 50 bags – currently working with Vutech Ruff to get new addresses of homes they have sold. Neighbors have reached out to let share know about other changes on their block.

Current list of new neighbors: 49 | 41 delivered | 10 joined

Picked up Welcome Bag: 5

Membership Level Data

GVBC: 3/10/25

Membership	Count of Membership
GVBC Membership - Level 1	50
GVBC Membership - Level 2	18
GVBC Membership - Level 3	15
Grand Total	83

GVS: Note – Feb. dropped members 70 * due to change of software those members who were on auto renewal previously need to reregister for membership. We were expecting there to be some loss due to this change. Steps are being taken to renew these dropped members – through emails and letters.

Membership	2/10/25	3/10/25
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Household	250	216
Individual	178	156
Mason	68	62
Builder	31	25
Archivist	18	17
Preservationist	8	7
Caretaker	2	2
Grand Total	555	485

Meetings:

2/11/25: Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting
 2/12/25: Donnellon McCarthy Enterprises Acct Manager
 2/13/25: Haus und Garten Committee Meeting
 2/18/25: GVBC Monthly Meeting
 2/23/25: Info Session for PreTour Hosts
 2/24/25: GVS Membership Committee Meeting
 2/27/25: Haus und Garten Committee Meeting
 3/4/25: VC Volunteer Meeting
 3/5/25: Met with OSU Class
 3/6/25: Check in meeting with Formation Studio – Design of HG program
 3/6/25: PPSEC

*weekly check-in meetings with BoT President

Additional Tasks:

- GVBC – German Village Passport Campaign – coordinating with Jeff Smith (designing book), Sticker/log designer (3rd & Sycamore), and Remington Lyman who is collecting all collateral from participating businesses. Currently 13 businesses have signed up – minimum is 20 (see details attached)

Events:

Haus und Garten –

- Patron Tickets, Sponsorship & AD sales are available to purchase online
- Permits are in process

Maifest

- Sponsorship levels available to purchase online – Maifest event page in progress

Administration:

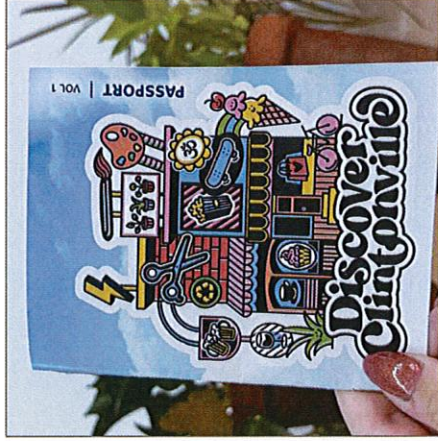
Filling in this role's duties – maintaining the German@ email, members thank you letters/cards, ordering all supplies.

German Village Passport Campaign

A FUN & ENGAGING WAY TO ENCOURAGE SUPPORTING LOCAL VILLAGE BUSINESSES

Inspired by a successful campaign in Clintonville, GV Passport is a creative and interactive way to encourage residents and visitors to explore German Village businesses. This initiative is open to all GVBC members who want to participate.

HOW IT WORKS



- GV Passports will be available for pickup at all participating businesses starting April 13 (no purchase necessary) until tentatively November 29th (Small Business Sat).
- Customers present their passport at participating businesses to receive a custom stamp (this can be any design you choose).
- Collect half the stamps to receive a special edition GV sticker.
- Collect all stamps to earn a GV-branded tote bag.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE



If you're already a GVBC member and would like to be featured in the GV Passport, please email the following details to Remington Lyman at remington@reafo.com. **No Later than March 31st to be included.**

- Your business logo
- Business address
- Website
- Hours of operation
- A short blurb (1-2 sentences) about your business or a special offer for passport holders
- (Optional) A QR code linking directly to your website

COST TO PARTICIPATE

The total cost is TBD, depending on the number of participating businesses. Thanks to generous GVBC members offering services for free, costs will remain as low as possible, with a range of \$100-\$250 per business.

- Jeff Smith (The Red Stable) is providing the passport design.
- Scott Castle (3rd & Sycamore) is offering his design team's expertise for the GV sticker.
- The remaining costs will cover printing of passports, stickers, and tote bags.



Not a GVBC Member Yet?

Join today at GermanVillage.com/join and be part of this exciting campaign. For questions, reach out to Rachel Lewellen at rlwellen@germanvillage.com.

Crystal Coon
BOT Preservation Staff Report
March 2025

Tasks

- Completed the full research for 3 Historic House Plaques including deeds, maps, dispatch articles, property files, and more, and wrote out the captions
- Met with Building Maintenance Committee and Board of Trustees to decide on the best window replacements for the Visitor's Center and got BOT approval to begin moving forward with the process of window replacement
- Wrote 2 Neighbors4Neighbors articles – one on the proposed Cedar Square project on Livingston Avenue and one on the Certificate of Appropriateness process for homeowners looking at upcoming projects
- Scheduled the 2025 Haus und Garten Tour Homeowners Library Research Day – H&G Homeowners have the opportunity to learn how to do research on their property and then have the opportunity to use the resources available at the Columbus Metropolitan Downtown Library
- Hosted 3rd Winter Lecture Series Presentation – Featuring Matt Weiderhold, the Executive Director of Heritage Ohio, who presented on why preservation is important and how Heritage Ohio is working towards preservation goals across the state – Presented on 2/20/25
- Created a Presentation for the German Village Garten Club on the history of gardening in America and what that would have looked like in German Village – pulled photos and artifacts from the GVS Archives and online resources – Presented to 27 people on 2/19/25
- Reached out to Italian Village and Victorian Village regarding ADA Ramp installation in their Historic Districts – minimal response from Italian Village and no response from Victorian Village
- Filled out detailed information about study plan with Summer 2025 Intern for Smith College's academic information policy
- Gathered background information regarding the homes that will be on the Haus und Garten Tour in 2025 for the program – this information will be utilized to draft the write-ups about each property that will be on tour
- Reached out to the Historic Preservation Committee regarding nominations for this year's Landmarks and Legends to be honored at the Maifest event
- Acted as HP Expert for building maintenance questions regarding window installations and elevator repair
- Picked up slides from Columbus Metropolitan Library after digitization and addition to the My History digital collection

Meetings

- GVS BOT meeting – 2/11/25
- GVS BOT Retreat – 2/9/25

- HPC Meeting – 2/24/25
- 2/3/25 – Meeting with the Building Maintenance Committee regarding the choice of windows to recommend to the BOT for approval – selection: Pella
- 2/4/25 – Meeting with Haus und Garten Tour Committee regarding the timeline of events and updates to what is going on with H&G
- 2/6/25 – Meeting with Maifest Committee regarding timeline of events and the strategy of moving forward in an effective way
- 2/7/25 – Research Appointment for individuals seeking information about applying for a Certificate of Appropriateness for their home
- 2/10/25 – Research Appointment for individuals seeking information about applying for a Certificate of Appropriateness for their home
- 2/12/25 – Attended Historic Preservation Webinar: Navigating Congress and the Administration in 2025 and Beyond – gained insight on changing federal policies relating to historic preservation
- 2/13/25 – Meeting with the Clarks regarding Historic Preservation Month and their involvement in the month
- 2/13/25 – Meeting with Haus und Garten Tour Committee regarding updates to the timeline and needs of support
- 2/19/25 – German Village Commission Business Meeting
- Recurring Friday morning meeting with Anthony Meyer to touch base, request assistance, and seek clarity on any upcoming projects
- 2/26/25 – Meeting with the Maifest Committee regarding timeline and updates
- 2/27/25 – Meeting with the Haus und Garten Committee regarding timeline updates and support needs
- 2/27/25 – Attended a Webinar: Coffee with a Conservator – gained insight on photograph preservation in archival collections
- 2/28/25 – Meeting with Historic Preservation Committee Chairs regarding Caretaker of a Legacy Awards, Historic Preservation Emails, and Maifest
- Several residents stopped in for questions

Assistance

Assisted dozens of people with various preservation issues (window replacement, roofing materials, fences, COA Application procedures, Citizens Access Portal Questions, etc.). Assisted several people with research requests and archival information

Public Participation

Anthony Harke – New districts, New member Otto Beatty. He will not seek a full term. Have we reached any of the people running to endorse or educate? We cannot endorse, there is some language to prevent an endorsement. Determine how to engage? Crystal will take it from here. Agreed to move forward and create a plan.

Rachel - Staff Report – Membership drive in flight. 19 New members in 10 days. Welcome bags hand out is growing. 10 new members from that effort. Sharing in flight for stories for social media.

Crystal – Staff report – Lots of activity to support for new COA requests. Starting on HP month planning as well as Maifest planning.

President Report – Anthony

ED Search update – Meeting with 4 candidates this week, 2 yesterday, 2 later this week. Goal to make decision and have someone start end of Feb/beginning of March.

Lindsey Turner has resigned due to personal/professional conflicts, ODC will start recruitment process.

Board Retreat held this past weekend, great progress on culture, HP, bold goals.

VP Report – Ann

Bold goal session gave us some great ideas that will be part of our strategic plan

Secretary Report- Antony motion to approve. Nelson, Jim 1st and 2nd.

GVBC – Passport and New floral business

Prost – written

HG and Pre Tour – need house captains

Parking – meeting and work going on to review signage package. Hope to limit signage due to historical nature and short blocks. They were willing to reduce. Project will be in 6 phases, good precedent sent. May 1 for 1st wave for parking permit purchase.

HP/Bricks – Tyler will lead brick sidewalk committee. 2024 11 grants completed. \$7.5K awarded. \$17k balance. 11 pending applications so far this year. Crystal is holding HP meetings; they are on the events calendar.

Building Maintenance – Windows in visitor center. 3 quotes gathered. Pella windows \$13K estimate Delia Construction. Windows are on the approved list and COA will be presented. Water potential issues with door meeting the ground on a garage style door. Balance of windows will be reviewed for potential updates. Funds from Maintenance Fund. 1st and 2nd – Tim and Nelson

Additional item – elevator repair, proposal forthcoming

Visitor Center – written

PPSCE – written

Tech – written

Art Spaces - Courtney. New Co Chair. Working on grants and calendars and ask for participation from all! We are now tracking income and expenses within the operating budget. Some of \$ from art purchases go to GVS. 2nd Wed in March for 1st show.

ODC – Committee met and looking at list of potentials and need to move forward with recommendations for open seat. Next week in N4N will include a call out for applications. Look for email from Jim for BOT recommendations next week.

OLD BUSINESS – N/A

NEW BUSINESS

1/ Livingston building proposal – No vote scheduled currently. Conceptual only. 4 stories, 96 units. New zone in policy in play for protection. Title 34. Title 31 is in play not for Title 34 requests. This area is in our historic area. Concerns include height, materials and others. If commission says no, there is an appeal process. Commission Appeals Committee.

Motion to adjourn. Tim, Ann 1st and 2nd

Parks, Public Spaces & Community Events
February 6, 2025
Minutes of the Meeting

Members in attendance: Rachel Lewellen, Connie Swain, Laia Caplin, Rob Lucas, Mike Cornelis, Craig Kent, Katharine Moore

While Carol Mullinax basked in the Florida sun, Katharine Moore called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m., beginning with introductions. First-time attendees Craig Kent (German Village Running Club) and Rob Lucas (German Village Garten Club) were warmly welcomed.

The minutes of the December meeting were adopted into the record unanimously by all those who were in attendance at the last meeting of 2024.

Rob Lucas invited all to attend the Garten Club's February 19 program featuring a presentation by GVS preservationist Crystal Coon on the history of gardening from 1890 to 1945, including fascinating details about Village gardens over the years.

Rachel Lewellen and Mike Cornelis provided updates on German Village Society happenings. The January birthday celebration was a great success, featuring delicious soups, three awards, and an opportunity to thank Mike Cornelis for his service as president of the board. February is membership month, encouraging new and lapsed members to join or renew. Planning is underway for Mai Fest on May 1, to be hosted by the Petros at High Line Car House.

Katharine reported that the first of three Trivia Nights benefiting the Friends of Schiller Park had been a success and encouraged attendance at the next events on the third Tuesdays of February and March at 6:00 p.m. in the Brent Warner Fest Hall. She also shared that the Friends had received a grant from the Columbus Foundation to develop and begin implementing a plan for Schiller Pond improvements. 2025 will be the "Year of the Pond."

Connie Swain described the Highfield Garden in Schiller Park and the legacy of Ann Lilly—not only in nurturing the remarkable Hosta garden but in setting the expectation that every park project must include a well-thought-out and funded maintenance plan.

Connie then asked Mike and Rachel about the previous evening's German Village Commission meeting, noting a last-minute application for a significant residential development on Livingston Avenue, in the part of the district affected by the City of Columbus's rezoning. Mike said the board was aware of the project and the test of assurances it would bring, particularly regarding building height. Connie and Katharine urged the Society to communicate with its membership and to hold the city to the very specific zoning code language that leaves approvals in the hands of the commission.

Mike Cornelis announced that the Hobniggers Base Ball team would kick off spring training on February 10 in preparation for the season opener at home on April 27. The team is looking forward to a 12-game season, including a special event commemorating the Washington Nationals' game played in Schiller Park on July 11, 1867. Though the Nationals defeated the home team 90–10, the game established base ball as a favorite summertime recreation, and the exhibition game on July 11, 2010, launched the modern era of historic base ball in German Village.

Laia Caplin reported that Village Moms had installed a Valentine's display in the Visitors' Center, inviting community members to add to it. A Glow Walk, Easter Walk, and Swaparoo are all in the works for spring.

Suzanne Schwartz was teaching a Superhero class at the Community Center and was unable to attend, so provided a written report for the group:

I will not be attending. Here's the Schiller Recreation Center News-

- Great Winter Registration numbers- 40% of our classes are fully enrolled.
- Youth Basketball has an in house league for 6u, 7-9 year olds and 12 u. We have teams for 15u and 18u as well.
- We are collecting gently used prom dresses for a dress drive on March 29 from 10 am- 2pm in our upper gymnasium. Dresses can be dropped off at Schiller.
- Summer Camp registration is February 25, 2025. Registration opens at 12:00 pm for residence, 7:00 pm for non-residence.
- Girls Empowerment Day is March 22, 2025 from 10:00 am-3:00 pm. Registration will open to the public on February 21, 2025 for participants ages 8-18.

I hope everyone is well and I wanted to thank the Friends of Schiller Park again for the Village Light Award. It was so unexpectedly wonderful! I have it sitting on my fireplace. I immediately called my dad and told him about it and when I went to call my siblings they already knew because it Dad had called them! 😊 I hope to join you in March!

Craig Kent, attending as a new committee member representing the German Village Running Club, provided an overview of the three-year-old group. They host a Monday evening run, a Wednesday morning run, and a women's run on the third Thursday evening of each month. The club includes a broad range of ages and experience levels, with a strong emphasis on safety and camaraderie. Craig generously offered to collaborate with other community groups, and the Friends of Schiller Park quickly invited the Running Club back to help with luminaria on Village Lights. Lauren Kraft will attend future meetings. The group was warmly welcomed to the committee.

New Business

Mike Cornelis announced an art event on August 23 between Mohawk and Lansing, with free admission and a VIP component at Lisa Stein and Craig Colvin's home.

Mike also relayed a suggestion from German Village Society board members to rename the Parks, Public Spaces & Community Events Committee, as the current name is a bit unwieldy. The name Quality of Life was proposed, as it aligns with the Society's structure, though there was concern that it might cast too wide a net, particularly with the business community, which has a distinct ecosystem. The group agreed that a name change would provide clarity and decided to continue brainstorming.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

[View results](#)

Respondent

15

Anonymous

09:20

Time to complete

1. Reporting Period:: [Month, Year] *

February 2025

2. Committee Name: *

Fund for Historic Preservation

3. Committee Chair's Name: *

Darci Congrove

4. Last Meeting Date: *

March 3

5. Next Meeting Date: *

TBD

6. Attendees Names: *

Darci Congrove, John Pribble, John Clark

7. Summary: (provide a brief overview of the committee's activities during the reporting period. Highlight and achievements, challenges, and goals met, or progress made)

*

Darci Congrove met with Anthony Meyer, Crystal Coon and several members of the GVS Historic Preservation Cmte in January to discuss the re-launch of The Brickline project. Efforts are underway to finalize the sign content for phases 2 and 3 of the project and to re-engage a design firm and a fabricator for producing the signs this spring.

8. Activities and Initiatives: (Describe the activities undertaken by the committee during the month, i.e. meetings, events, projects, etc) *

We are working to identify all of the necessary personnel to move forward with the logistical issues.

9. Issues and Challenges: (Any issues or challenges encountered by the committee during the reporting period. Include any obstacles faced and how they were addressed or plans to address them in the future.) *

There are a number of steps to the process beyond just telling the story and finding a location to place the sign. Easements must be signed, design, fabrication and installation coordinated, and approval from the GV Commission for the placement of each sign is required.

10. Future Plans: Outline the committee's plans for the upcoming months. Highlight any upcoming events, projects, or goals that the committee will focus on. *

The Brickline has 6 phases. We expect to complete phases 2 and 3 this year, while starting the process for phase 4. Funds remaining in the designated Fund for HP will be used toward upgraded signage and storytelling in the Visitor Center.

11. Submitted by: *

Darci Congrove

12. Date: *

March 3, 2025

[View results](#)

Respondent

16

Anonymous

05:04

Time to complete

1. Reporting Period:: [Month, Year] *

February, 2025

2. Committee Name: *

Technology

3. Committee Chair's Name: *

Jeff R. Lamb

4. Last Meeting Date: *

March 4, 2025

5. Next Meeting Date: *

Unscheduled

7. Summary: (provide a brief overview of the committee's activities during the reporting period. Highlight and achievements, challenges, and goals met, or progress made)

*

Reviewed screen replacement quotes and suggestions, traced AV wires both downstairs and upstairs, tested a more practical, neater solution to USB-C cable in board meeting room (did not work). Discussed better security of AV access for non-technical users.

8. Activities and Initiatives: (Describe the activities undertaken by the committee during the month, i.e. meetings, events, projects, etc) *

Screen replacement topic requested for next board meeting.
Solution for Chair AV to single screen to be recommended.

9. Issues and Challenges: (Any issues or challenges encountered by the committee during the reporting period. Include any obstacles faced and how they were addressed or plans to address them in the future.) *

The better wall mount USB-C pass through did not work when tested, so we need to go back to the drawing board on that one. . .

10. Future Plans: Outline the committee's plans for the upcoming months. Highlight any upcoming events, projects, or goals that the committee will focus on. *

Hope to get approval or denial of screen replacement initiative.

11. Submitted by: *

Jeff R. Lamb

Reporting Period: February 2025

Committee Name: German Village Society Arts Committee

Committee Chair's Name: Courtney Druen

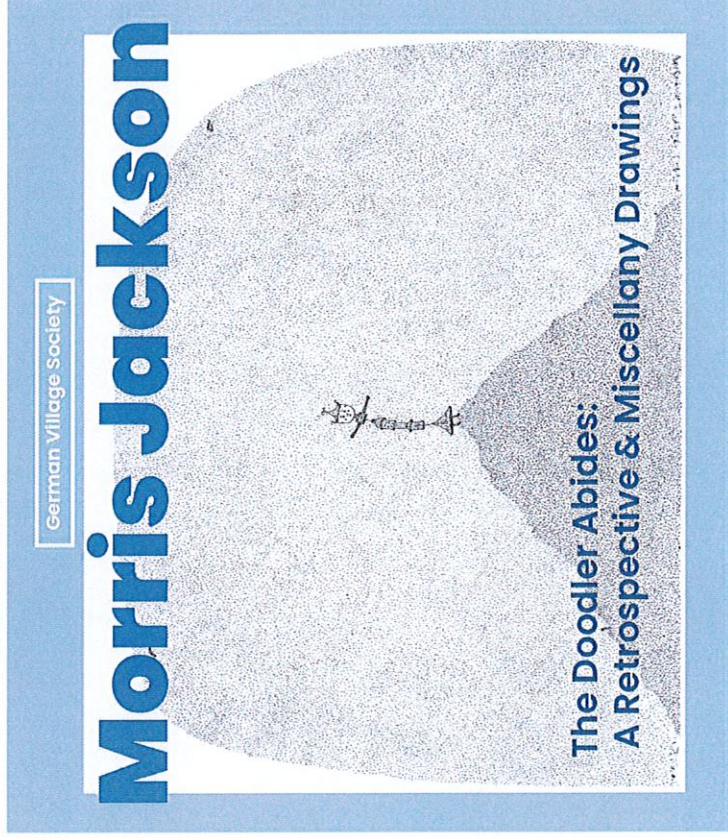
Last Meeting Date: Saturday, March 1, 2025

Next Meeting Date: Monday, March 10, 2025

Attendees Names: Lisa Becker, Courtney Druen, Caitlin Laudeman, Marketa Leeuwenburg, Jordanne Renner, David Schooler, Nancy Turner, Dareth Douglass

Summary: *(Provide a brief overview of the committee's activities during the reporting period. Highlight and achievements, challenges, and goals met, or progress made)*

- Caitlin Laudeman has stepped down as co-chair.
- Morris Jackson's retrospective is up in Fest Hall. Caitlin Laudeman, Courtney Druen, Dareth Douglass, David Schooler, and Jordanne Renner hung the show.
- We have established a cadence for our exhibits, events, and meetings:
 - We will have an opening or arts event on the second Thursday of every month.
 - Morris Jackson's opening is on Thursday, March 13, from 5-7 pm in Fest Hall. **Board members, please come and support our committee.**



Opening Reception
Thursday, March 13th | 5 pm - 7 pm | 588 S. Third Street, Columbus, OH

- Morris Jackson will give a talk and walk through his exhibit at Fest Hall on Thursday, April 10, at 6 pm.

- We will meet on the Monday before our Thursday events.
- I met with Kylie Whitman regarding an arts event at ROY G BIV on Thursday, May 8.
- I met with COWs regarding a Summer German Village Watercolor Retrospective during the Haus und Garten Tour and opening on Thursday, June 12.
- I spoke to artist Jimi Jones about his upcoming exhibit in September.

Activities and Initiatives: *(Describe the activities undertaken by the committee during the month, i.e. meetings, events, projects, etc)*

- The Arts Committee will start working on more arts events programming.
- Jordanne Renner will be applying for additional grant assistance. She will also help with the Ohio Humanities grant (we received feedback from them and need to incorporate their suggestions to make the grant more viable).
- Rachel applied for the UEI number, which is still needed to receive Ohio Humanities grant funding.
- Rachel will coordinate with Morris Jackson on a talk with St. Mary's and Stuart School (I will also ask other committee members to help).

Issues and Challenges: *(Any issues or challenges encountered by the committee during the reporting period. Include any obstacles faced and how they were addressed or plans to address them in the future.)*

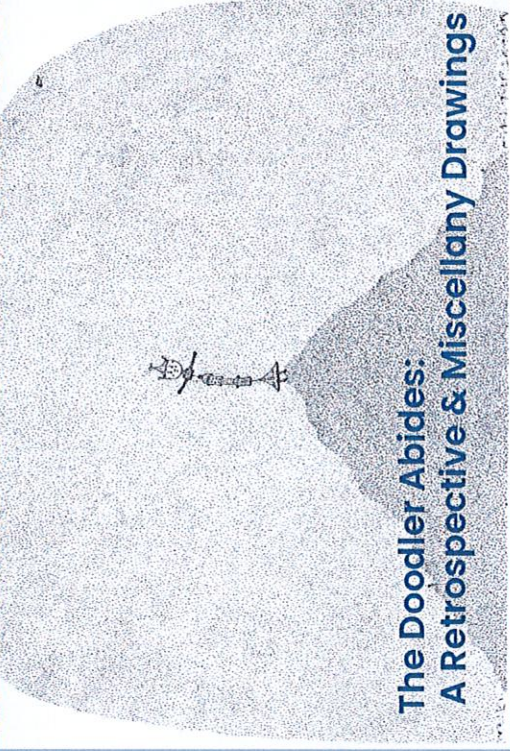
- Coordinating with Michael Kocinski regarding taking down his show.
- When we hung Morris's show on Saturday, March 1, David Schooler spent three hours cleaning up Fest Hall.
 - I think anyone who books the space (including the Arts Committee) should have a credit card on file.
 - GVS should create booking guidelines (e.g., no dirty dishes left in the kitchen sink). When guidelines are not followed (e.g., dirty dishes are left in the kitchen sink), a \$50 charge is issued.
- I will request the remaining budget from the Arts Committee for printing signage and opening expenses for Morris Jackson's show.

Future Plans: *(Outline the committee's plans for the upcoming months. Highlight any upcoming events, projects, or goals that the committee will focus on.)*

- Morris Jackson's opening is on Thursday, March 13, from 5-7 pm in Fest Hall. **Board members, please come and support our committee.**

German Village Society

Morris Jackson



**The Doodler Abides:
A Retrospective & Miscellany Drawings**

Opening Reception
Thursday, March 13th

5 pm - 7 pm

588 s. Third Street, Columbus, OH

- Morris Jackson will give a talk and walk through his exhibit at Fest Hall on Thursday, April 10, at 6 pm.
- We will work to confirm a possible arts event at ROY G BIV on Thursday, May 8.
- We will partner with COWs regarding a Summer German Village Watercolor Retrospective during the Haus und Garten Tour and opening on Thursday, June 12.
- We will plan on Jimi Jones's opening on Thursday, September 11.

Submitted by: Courtney Druen

Date: 3/7/2025

Board Report

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

March 2025

Co-Chairs: Robert Caplin, Michael Gallagher

The **Historic Preservation Manager** provided an update on the ongoing **ADA Ramp Project**, detailing the latest progress and any necessary next steps.

The **Maifest Committee** held its latest meeting on March 4, where members reviewed updates on the sponsorship deck, event video, and social communication plan. The sponsorship target list was officially approved, and outreach efforts are ongoing. Ticket prices have been confirmed, and the High Line Car House is in the process of updating the contract. Key upcoming tasks include securing sponsorships, gathering silent auction contributions, reviewing recommendations for the Legends & Landmarks segment, finalizing the event website, and selecting locations for “old vs. new” social media photos. The event menu is being finalized with High Line Car House, and a wine tasting is scheduled as part of the preparations.

Regarding **brick sidewalks**, there have been no new applications for improvements or repairs. The status of the Jane Forbes corner survey remains unchanged, with no new updates to report.

The topic of **parking** was addressed, with the Historic Preservation team and the German Village Society (GVS) Parking Chair reviewing Phase 1 of the new parking signage plan. Through this review, they were able to reduce the number of signs by 15. The city has agreed to follow a similar approach in future phases, ensuring that signage aligns with both historical aesthetics and parking enforcement goals.

Additionally, discussions at the Board Retreat led to the suggestion of developing a self-guided tour app for German Village, which would enhance visitor engagement and education.

An article titled ***Brick Sidewalks and Streets: The Squeaky Wheel*** was published in the March 6 edition of **N4N**, drawing attention to ongoing maintenance and preservation efforts.

The **Brickline Project** continues to progress, with Phase II moving forward following discussions with John Clark, who has made key editorial connections. However, there is no new information to report regarding Phase III at this time.

During the meeting, the discussion turned to **projects and priorities**, particularly in relation to the German Village archives. A call for volunteer involvement was made, with Crystal organizing an “Archive Day” to train and guide participants in helping with archival needs.

A **new project concept, *German Village: A Legacy in Images***, was presented by Robert. This initiative aims to secure funding to digitize and curate historic materials—including photographs, slides, and documents—from the GVS archive. The goal is to compile these materials into an elegantly designed coffee table book that tells the story of German Village and reinforces the GVS mission of historic preservation. This book would serve as a tangible resource to showcase the Society’s contributions, offering a compelling visual narrative for residents and visitors alike.

Beyond its role as a historical record, the book would provide an opportunity for community engagement, as content would be shared through social media and the website. Additionally, the project would explore revenue-generating avenues, including book and product sales at the Visitors Center, local bookstores, and businesses. The initiative would also support donor engagement by offering incentives for higher-tier memberships and donations. To further expand its reach, promotional efforts such as press releases and a book launch event would engage local print and television media, reinforcing the importance of historic preservation in German Village.

During **open discussion**, it was noted that the meeting saw the largest turnout in several years, with 13 attendees, including new participants from both homeowner and renter communities. A significant point of interest was the **Cedar Square development at 244-277 E. Livingston**, which generated strong community engagement. Attendees emphasized the importance of maintaining a high level of participation in future German Village Commission (GVC) meetings regarding this topic.

To increase awareness, a suggestion was made to publish an N4N article on the matter, with M. Gallagher volunteering to write it. Commissioner Ned cautioned against making premature assumptions, as the project remains in the conceptual review stage. The city attorney clarified the contractor's amendments to Zone-In Phase I, affirming that the GVC maintains overall approval authority.

Another proposal emerged to create a dedicated **Historic Preservation newsletter**, separate from N4N. This idea was quickly implemented, resulting in the launch of the *Historic Preservation Monthly Update*, which has already been distributed as an e-blast to GVS members. The newsletter will provide key highlights from Historic Preservation meetings, a report from Historical Preservationist Crystal Coon, and direct links to German Village Commission meetings and agendas. Additionally, this new communication channel presents an opportunity to secure sponsorships, potentially generating additional revenue for GVS.

In reflecting on recent trends, GVC Vice Chair Ned Thiel expressed surprise at the lack of community engagement with the Commission's agenda, particularly noting the high number of uncontested Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) applications. He suggested that greater awareness and outreach efforts are necessary to encourage broader participation from the community.