



GVS Board of Trustees: July 14th, 2026, Meeting Agenda

Scheurer Room 6PM – German Village Meeting Haus (See the GVS Website for Zoom Instructions)

BOT: Anthony Meyer, Anne McGee, Scott Glaser, Cynthia Watson, Robert Caplin, Michael Cornelis, Michael Gallagher, Jessica Flemming, Jeff Lamb, James Nichols, Courtney Thraen, Mary Connolly Ross, Lucy Whittier, Sharri Lazear, Jennifer Clark

Call to Order

Public Participation

NOTE: PLEASE KEEP YOUR COMMENTS TO 2 MIN

Anthony Meyer

TBD

Staff Reports (Written and Oral)

Executive Director

Courtney Thraen

Communication/Membership

Rachel Lewellen

Historic Preservation

Courtney Thraen

Architectural Preservation

Jack Doran

Officer Reports (Written and Oral)

Presidents Report

Anthony Meyer

Vice President Report

Anne McGee

Secretary Report

Cynthia Watson

*Motion to approve June Minutes

Treasurer Report

Scott Glaser

Committee Reports

- Meeting House Master Plan
 - o Visitor Center
 - o Building Committee
 - Roof/Security/ScheurerRoom
- Haus and Garten Pre and Tour
- Membership
- GVBC
- Sidewalks
- HPAC
- ODC
- Tech

Mary Ross (written)
Scott Glaser (oral)

J Clark/L Whittier(written)
Jess Fleming (written)
Robert Caplin (written)
Tyler Mason (written)
M Gallagher (written)
James Nichols (oral)
Jeff Lamb (written)

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- Advocacy
- Gift Acceptance



German Village Society
Executive Director's Report
July 9, 2026

I. Organizational Development and Operations

- a. **Staff activity is in full swing.** Jack Doran will present tonight on his progress in his newly crafted role, including future opportunities. Kristy Ramey has jumped in full swing as the Advocacy Coordinator, undergoing extensive onboarding as she manages day-to-day constituent needs alongside more pillared advocacy strategies. Moreover, we've been blessed by three extremely motivated interns this summer.
- b. **Member Database** – GVS has received two proposals for a new member database with a deep focus on an enhanced user experience, heightened data accuracy, and an illustrative giving journey over time. The new database for 2027 will include a back-end user portal, volunteer hour tracking, and an intuitive ticketing platform.
- c. **Services** – GVS will be assessing our website's navigation menu and reordering our pages to support our focus areas when it comes to research and archives, navigating City regulations, and tourism/exploration.

II. Tourism (YTD through July 7, 2026):

- a. 745 visitors across 332 groups (64% of the visitors came in June along).
- b. 34% from Ohio → followed by Pennsylvania and Michigan
- c. Over 7% were international visitors led by Germany, Canada, and a three-way tie across India, China, and France.
- d. 18% discovered GVS through tourism-related research, 14% came due to word of mouth, and 14% came to digital marketing. 5% found us directly through our website!
- e. 32% stopped in because they were visiting family and friends in the area. 20% came in because they were on a Midwest road trip.

III. Development Benchmarks

- a. Massive focus on HGT development goals, including in-kind support that exceeded \$45,000! I started sponsorship development started in January for HGT, and we netted \$53,000 across 11 major sponsorships, exceeding 2025 amount by nearly \$13,000!
- b. I'm taking the lead on Boogie for the Bricks and Oktoberfest from a back-end GVS systems set-up while Rachel is taking point on Monster Bash and Village Lights!
- c. Post HGT, I'll be working through the formal stages of donor development and meeting for coffee with Frank Fetch Circle Participants.
- d. Related to development, I've been closely tracking and retracking membership data across levels and activation types with the relaunched membership committee.
- e. Last, my goal is to have the 2027 Sponsorship Packet reviewed, planned, and ready by November 1, 2026.

IV. Outreach / Engagement

- a. ADA Ramps Update – The group met in June and agreed for the GVS team to measure the sidewalk widths and proximity of homes to the sidewalks to help us anticipate where the City will start its work. On June 6 and 7 the GVS team measured corners along Jackson Street, and on June 8th GVS was alerted by the City that work would commence the week of July 13th. Two residents along Jackson agreed to participate in our subcontractor oversight initiative, enabling us to celebrate accessibility in action while assisting the City to ensure the work is conducted to the City's own standards.
- b. City's HP Modernization – As you know, the City selected Quinn Evans Architects as its consultant in late June. We learned new project details from Councilmember Dorans about the project scope of work that previously wasn't included in the RFP:
 - i. Per the Dispatch, the review will examine disparities between designated historic districts and unprotected historic structures elsewhere in the city.
 - ii. The review will also assess the cost and complexity homeowners face when complying with historic district requirements

We will continue to request records from the City as some level of public engagement will occur with area commissions. German Village is excluded from the SSAC, but the greater public is welcome to attend these sessions.

- c. Kristy Ramey will be sharing more details in her ongoing monthly reports from here on out in partnership with the Advocacy Chair, Robert Caplin.

Rachel Lewellen | Communications & Membership Manager –
July 2026 Staff Report

Report Summary

June was a month of steady progress across communications, membership engagement, volunteer coordination, and event preparation for a very active summer season.

On communications, *Neighbors 4 Neighbors* continued to perform strongly, with June editions reaching over 32K emails delivered and maintaining solid engagement rates. 4% click rate, 55% open rate.

Membership engagement remained stable. Research for a new CSM system continues. With a new Membership Chair, Jess Fleming, we held our second committee meeting on Monday, June 13th. The next meeting is scheduled for August 10th.

Behind the scenes, administrative work continued, including income and expense tracking, invoice processing through GrowthZone, membership renewal reminders, and ongoing data cleanup to improve accuracy and system integrity.

Communication

Neighbor 4 Neighbor (N4N): Edited and provided content for June-July newsletters.

Members2Members:

GVBC monthly meeting reminders and communications.

Social Media:

Active Ads for HGT: Instagram + Facebook

In Action Posts – highlighting GVS staff providing service to members/residents

Website & BoT Reports:

Ongoing updates: Events; prepared board packets, email, and printed reports.

Operations:

GrowthZone: 365 members have created logins (6/26 #354)

Events:

Haus und Garten PreTour + Tour = onsite before and during both days, provided shuttle and volunteer logistics, selling day-of ticket sales assistance. Setup and teardown of Volunteer Appreciation.

Membership Levels:

GVBC Membership:

Membership	Count of Membership
GVBC Membership - Level 1	53
GVBC Membership - Level 2	20
GVBC Membership - Level 3	15
GVBC Membership- Comp	9
Grand Total	97

GVS Membership:

Membership Type	2/9/26	4/14/26	5/12/26	6/9/26	7/13/26
Household	213	213	217	211	216
Individual	179	181	178	182	187
Mason	57	57	58	59	58
Builder	28	26	26	25	25
Archivist	13	14	14	14	14
Preservationist	5	4	3	3	3
Caretaker	2	3	3	3	3
Honorary Member	1	1	1	1	1
Totals	498	499	500	498	507

Additional Tasks:

Visitor Center Volunteers: Daily point of contact volunteers; interviewing and onboarding new volunteers.

Coordinated rentals and use of Meeting Haus.

New CRM/Volunteer demo – Bloomerang /Neon One

Assisted members with COA questions as needed.

Supervising Communications Intern & HS Intern



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Anthony Meyer

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*Motion to approve May Minutes

Treasurer Report

Scott Glaser

*Motion to approve May Treasurer report

Committee Reports

- Meeting House Master Plan

- Visitor Center
- Building Committee

- Roof
- Security
- Scheurer Room
- Windows

Mary Ross (written)
Scott Glaser (oral)

- Haus and Garten Pre and Tour Whittier(oral)

Jen Clark/Lucy

- Membership

Jess Fleming (oral)

- GVBC

Robert Caplin (written)

- Sidewalks

Tyler Mason (written)

- HPAC

M Gallagher (written)

- ODC

James Nichols (oral)

OLD BUSINESS

- **Gnome Partnership**

NEW BUSINESS

- **Bequest Policy**

Notes:

- **Call to Order – Anthony**
- **Public Participation – N/A**
- **ED Report – see Courtneys recap**
- **Membership Report**
- **Presidents Report**
 - **Call to board to support HGT and volunteers are needed!**
 - **Advocacy committee lead is open**
- **VP Report – N/A**
- **Secretary Report – Motion to approved with changes for last months Gnome vote. Jess F moved, Mike C 2nd = Motion passed**
- **Treasurer Report – Revenue slightly behind and expenses on budget. 2 ½ weeks to HGT.**
 - **Motion to approve May report, Mike C, 2nd Mike G. Motion passed**
 - **Motion to approve \$12K transfer money (Huntington Garden fund) Scott motioned, Jess 2nd. Motion passed**
- **Committee Reports**
 - **Roof - \$ transferred, working towards July/Aug for work to be done**
 - **Security – scheduling in progress**
 - **Scheurer Room – new carpet, chairs and tables are complete!**
 - **Reinstated the membership committee with Jess in lead**
 - **\$120K is goal, 50% to goal and telethon is coming!**
 - **ODC – Recommending Steve Fechter to ballot**
 - **LRP – Reviewed 1 pager for updates**
 - **HGT**
 - **Need final push on ticket sales and volunteers**
 - **Cocktail party – 50% sold and only 13 dinner spots open**
 - **Sponsorship goals met**
 - **Gnome – Mike C motioned, Scott 2nd for gnome at meeting haus. Motion passed unanimously**
 - **Bequest Policy – Details reviewed by Soctt and Mike C motion, Mary 2nd and motion passed for allocations for each fund with limits**

German Village Society

June 2026

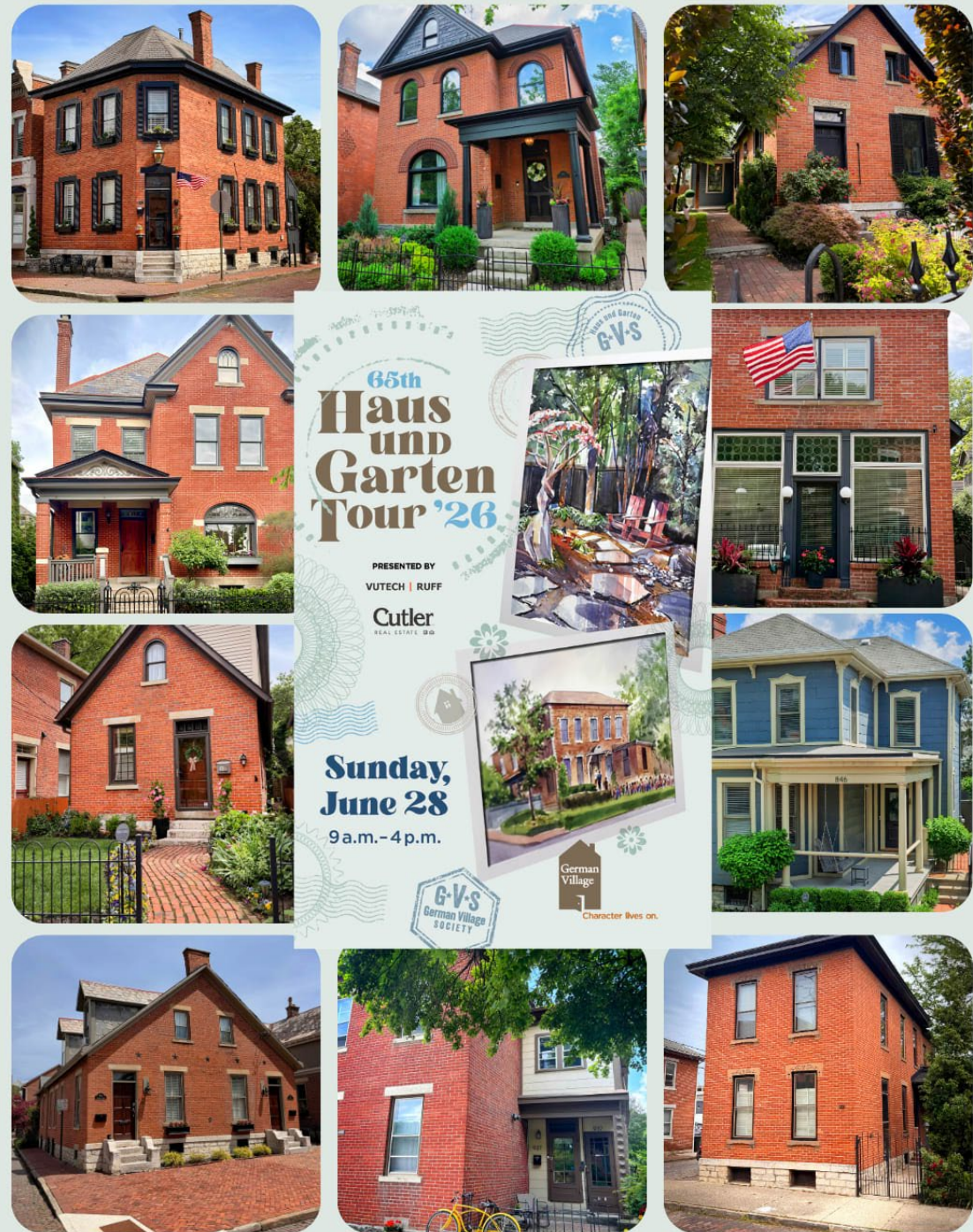
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Board of Trustees

July 14, 2026



Character lives on.



Headlines

- **June financial statements are NOT terribly useful due to the timing of Haus & Garten Tour the last weekend of the month and the fact that so much HGT activity wasn't posted by 6/30.**
- **On paper, YTD net operating income is +\$73K against a +\$103K budget.**
 - Total revenues of \$351K vs. \$414K budget and \$373K last year.
 - Total expenses of \$278K vs. budget of \$311K and \$249K last year.
 - The \$30K shortfall to net income is projected to close by \$15K-\$20K as HGT activity gets fully posted and \$5K of undesignated bequest funds get reclassified to Operations per the policy recently approved by the Board.
 - Reported revenues do not yet include \$46K of HGT ticket sales posted in fiscal July.
 - Vutech Ruff's \$20K 2026 sponsorship payment, received in the Spring last year, was received and posted in early July this year.
- **Our asset base of ~\$1.86M is up \$161K to last year, and cash is in good shape.**
 - Operating cash totals \$174K, which is slightly ahead of LY when considering the \$46K in accounts receivable that is +\$22K to LY. There's also ~\$91K in Operations funds in CDs.
 - Total cash, including designated/restricted funds, is \$1.43M, +\$153K to LY.
- **Other headlines:**
 - 50% deposit made to Muth & Co. Roofing – roof replacement work expected to be scheduled late July / early August.

Summary P&L – YTD June

	2025 YTD Actual	2026 YTD Budget	2026 YTD Actual	'26 Var to LY	'26 Var to Budget
MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$85,359	\$86,200	\$65,119	(\$20,240)	(\$21,081)
ADMISSION & EVENTS	\$231,803	\$243,000	\$231,275	(\$527)	(\$11,725)
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$34,109	\$44,500	\$25,032	(\$9,077)	(\$19,468)
IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS	\$15,647	\$30,000	\$21,479	\$5,832	(\$8,521)
OTHER INCOME	\$6,440	\$10,550	\$8,450	\$2,010	(\$2,100)
TOTAL REVENUES	\$373,357	\$414,250	\$351,354	(\$22,003)	(\$62,896)
TOTAL SALARIES & RELATED	\$116,466	\$146,735	\$133,233	\$16,768	(\$13,502)
IT EXPENSES	\$20,458	\$18,948	\$17,815	(\$2,644)	(\$1,133)
FINANCIAL EXPENSES	\$39,517	\$42,450	\$33,740	(\$5,777)	(\$8,710)
OCCUPANCY EXPENSES	\$14,901	\$17,160	\$17,618	\$2,718	\$458
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	\$9,354	\$22,430	\$18,211	\$8,857	(\$4,219)
IN-KIND EXPENSES	\$15,647	\$30,000	\$21,479	\$5,832	(\$8,521)
OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES	\$32,475	\$33,050	\$35,847	\$3,373	\$2,797
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$248,817	\$310,773	\$277,944	\$29,126	(\$32,829)
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$124,540	\$103,477	\$73,411	(\$51,129)	(\$30,066)

HGT Progress

- HGT 2026 was budgeted flat to LY's net income of ~\$170K. (Note LY was a major jump from 2024's \$134K.)
- Must HGT activity has not yet posted to Quickbooks, including \$46K in ticket sales revenue (through GiveButter) as well as our lead sponsorship from Vutech Ruff.
- Revenues from Pre-Tour and Tour tickets was off to plan and LY, but advertising and sponsorship revenue increases helped offset those drops.
- In-Kind revenues and expenses reflects much more accurate tracking, in line with tighter policy adherence and requirements from our audit partners.
- Total projected net income of \$158K would be ~\$13K below plan/LY (-7%).

Haus & Garten Tour				
	Actual 2025	Budget 2026	Projected 2026	To Date 2026 (QB)
Admission/Event Income	\$150,841	\$150,000	\$126,875	\$133,310
Advertising Income	\$6,600	\$7,500	\$10,200	\$6,200
Contributions	\$3,069	\$0	\$3,000	\$0
In-Kind Donations	\$26,368	\$22,000	\$78,356	\$0
Sponsorship	<u>\$40,652</u>	<u>\$46,000</u>	<u>\$53,000</u>	<u>\$35,000</u>
Total Income	\$227,530	\$225,500	\$271,431	\$174,510
Advertising	\$3,022	\$4,000	\$4,965	\$3,156
Equipment Rental	\$5,336	\$5,500	\$4,269	\$1,761
Food/Beverages	\$6,690	\$7,000	\$9,511	\$9,702
Gifts & Awards	\$2,900	\$3,000	\$1,751	\$1,751
In-Kind Expense	\$26,368	\$22,000	\$78,356	\$0
License/Fees/Permits	\$785	\$800	\$492	\$488
Miscellaneous Expense	\$0	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,547
Printing/Signage	\$5,984	\$6,000	\$6,817	\$1,549
Security	\$743	\$800	\$1,040	\$1,040
Supplies	\$1,169	\$1,500	\$244	\$134
Transportation/Towing	<u>\$4,175</u>	<u>\$4,200</u>	<u>\$4,479</u>	<u>\$4,479</u>
Total Expenses	\$57,172	\$54,800	\$113,423	\$25,607
Net Operating Income	\$170,358	\$170,700	\$158,008	\$148,903

Note: 2024 Net Operating Income was \$134,362

Balance Sheet Summary

- Operating cash totals \$174K as of June 30 against \$196K last year at 6/30. Note, though, that Accounts Receivable is UP \$24K to last year. This represents additional cash transactions, largely HGT related, that hadn't posted by June 30. In addition, the 2026 Vutech Ruff \$20K sponsorship, received last year in the Spring, was received in early July this year. Total cash, including board designated and permanently-restricted funds, is \$1.43M, up \$153K to last year. Total assets of \$1.86M are +\$161K to LY.
- As discussed last month, a new Designated cash account has been established. The Building & Maintenance Cash Fund contains designated funds liquidated from investment accounts for board approved roof and security projects. The first 50% of our roof replacement cost has been remitted to Muth & Co. Roofing to secure materials – work expected to take place late July/August.

						Y/E 2024	June 2025	Y/E 2025	June 2026
ASSETS	Cash: Operations Chkg + Petty Cash	\$75,701	\$195,724	\$103,860	\$174,188				
	Cash - Board Designated Checking	\$192,200	\$170,347	\$183,296	\$290,507				
	Meeting Haus Maintenance/Replacement	\$280,044	\$271,418	\$302,732	\$233,360				
	Village Singers Fund	\$23,395	\$23,395	\$22,098	\$21,598				
	Warner Maintenance Fund	\$288,863	\$292,667	\$324,690	\$349,266				
	Cash - Other Board Designated	\$592,303	\$587,480	\$649,519	\$604,224				
	Cash: Total Board Designated	\$784,502	\$757,828	\$832,816	\$894,731				
	Cash: Huntington Garden (Perm Restricted)	\$317,248	\$321,479	\$345,360	\$359,749				
	TOTAL CASH	\$1,177,451	\$1,275,030	\$1,282,036	\$1,428,669				
	Accounts Receivable	\$600	\$21,992	\$5,500	\$46,328				
	Chase CD's - Historic Preservation	\$146,485	\$146,485	\$150,416	\$102,975				
	Chase CD's - Operations	\$89,069	\$89,069	\$91,426	\$91,801				
	Gift Cards	\$3,184	\$6,411	\$65	\$65				
	Prepaid Expenses & Other	\$1,548	\$0	\$2,829	\$1,799				
	OTHER CURRENT ASSETS	\$240,886	\$263,958	\$250,236	\$242,968				
LIABILITIES	Building & Land	\$835,785	\$835,785	\$835,785	\$835,785				
	Leasehold Improvements	\$210,759	\$227,369	\$227,369	\$272,681				
	Furniture & Equipment	\$255,939	\$255,939	\$255,939	\$257,388				
	Accumulated Depreciation	(\$1,160,450)	(\$1,170,390)	(\$1,175,839)	(\$1,185,779)				
	Net Intangible Assets	\$15,535	\$15,535	\$12,140	\$12,140				
	FIXED ASSETS	\$157,567	\$164,237	\$155,393	\$192,215				
	TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,575,905	\$1,703,225	\$1,687,665	\$1,863,852				
	Art Committee	\$1,282	(\$810)	\$1,215	\$1,085				
	Boogie for the Bricks	\$0	\$0	\$7,135	\$1				
	Building & Maintenance Cash Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$31,910				
	Council of Historic Neighborhoods	\$1,539	\$1,539	\$1,539	\$1,539				
	For the Good of the Neighborhood	\$67,507	\$60,367	\$57,467	\$61,559				
	Frank Fetch Park/Maintenance	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50				
	Fund for Historic Preservation	\$26,149	\$26,462	\$23,880	\$51,634				
	German Village Business Community	\$69,404	\$63,816	\$62,831	\$69,796				
	Huntington Garden/Maintenance	(\$257)	(\$3,071)	\$758	\$7,546				
	Sidewalk Repairs	\$17,243	\$13,843	\$15,443	\$12,343				
	Southside Stay	\$8,830	\$7,805	\$8,056	\$7,805				
	Village Singers	\$453	\$347	\$1,397	\$807				
	Visitors Center Renovation	\$0	\$0	\$3,525	\$44,433				
	Accounts Payable	\$3,906	\$12,382	\$2,385	\$17,692				
	Credit Card Liability	\$1,297	\$10,136	\$5,246	\$10,785				
	Prepaid Dues	\$10,068	\$0	\$0	\$0				
	Other Liabilities	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$88				
	CURRENT & OTHER LIABILITIES	\$15,270	\$22,518	\$7,631	\$28,564				
	Unrestricted/Temp Restricted Earnings	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000				
	Restricted Earnings	\$957,242	\$957,242	\$957,242	\$957,242				
	Retained Earnings	\$556,626	\$593,613	\$593,613	\$713,793				
	Net Income	\$37,766	\$120,853	\$120,180	\$155,253				
	EQUITY	\$1,560,634	\$1,680,708	\$1,680,035	\$1,835,288				
	TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$1,575,905	\$1,703,225	\$1,687,665	\$1,863,852				

Finance Committee – June 18th Meeting

- YTD financials, including event updates on MaiFest + Haus & Garten Tour
- Building investments update:
 - Roof (follow up)
 - Security upgrades (follow up)
- Discussion of upcoming review of Financial & Risk Policies document.
- Audit update

Visitor Center Renovation

- Meetings with Sullivan Builders' casework provider and their subcontractors to initiate the development of construction cost estimates for the project. Discussions focused on reviewing project requirements, clarifying expectations, and gathering the information needed to prepare accurate pricing. Construction cost estimates are anticipated to be completed and available by August.
- Meetings with the Timeline Committee to determine the historic eras that will be featured in the German Village timeline. The committee is reviewing the German Village Society's artifact collection to identify items that best represent each era and support the exhibit's historical narrative.
- Continued coordination with the project team to identify key historical information and develop a storytelling framework that connects the community's past to the present, providing the foundation for the timeline exhibit.

German Village Society – July 2026 Board Report

Committee: 2026 Haus Und Garten Committee

- Chairs: Jenn Clark (Tour); Lucy Whittier (Pre-Tour)
- Committee Members: Darci Congrove, Chris Hune, Robert Caplin, Anthony Hartke, Brittany Gibson; Tracy Smith

The 65th iteration of the German Village Haus & Garten weekend has come and gone!

An incredible weekend and huge success. Even with the heat, the turnout was impressive!

You can use this link to see all the incredible photos from the weekend:

<https://alli-rose-photography.client-gallery.com/gallery/hugt-2026> (just enter your email).

Results Overview *(All numbers per Courtney Thraen)*

	Paid Count	
Sunday Only	1690	\$41,200.00
Patron	60	\$20,500.00
Dinner	153	\$34,175.00
Cocktail Only	248	\$31,000.00

- Total Ticket Revenue: \$106,435.
 - Scott will cover this but the preliminary data is: 92.7% of income budget; 90.3% of expense budget, and 93.5% of net income goal.
- Advertising (136%) and sponsorships (115%) both exceeded their goals
- Estimated funds raised for Pre-Tour was \$85,675 (LY was \$98,500) – TY we had 50 less dinners, but increased Dinner ticket price to \$225 (from \$200);
- Note we comp'd 43 dinners for sponsors, member levels, homeowners, etc. ~\$10K (this activity happens every year)
- Committee to meet to hindsight Tour and Pre-tour event and identify opportunities for 2027 by the end of July. Stay tuned for more information and 2027 chair announcements coming soon!

Pre-Tour Highlights

- Pre-Tour was a HUGE success! We sold 248 cocktail only tickets & 213 pre-tour dinner tickets, including 60 Patrons Tickets, hosted at 14 locations, big thanks to our 19 hosts.
- Lots of compliments on this year's format & layout of the Cocktail Party that was attended by our new gnome!
- BIG Thank you to Barcelona, Bendi, Cento, Hey Hey, Katzingers, Oscar & Emmy, Pistachio Vera, South Village Grille, Sycamore, and Valters, for donating 3200+ small bites and appetizers for the cocktail party. Lindeys for their donation towards the cost of the Wine, provided by Vintage Wines.
- Thank you to Hausfraus Haven for donating wine for the Pre-tour dinner hosts and Appreciation Event for Home and Dinner hosts.
- Thank you to Feather and her team from Befeathered for coordinating preparation and service of appetizers and beverages at the Cocktail event.

- Thank you to residents on Willow Street to enable street closure for the Cocktail Event.
- George Barrett generously sponsored the live entertainment from Fort Hayes All Stars, who were represented by 3 generations of musicians from the school.
- Thank you to Chris Hune, Darci Congrove and Patti Orzano for their help and support to bring our vision of the Cocktail party to life and for kindly providing the decorations for the Cocktail party.
- Thank you to Dave Randall who created histories of homes for the dinner hosts to be presented as a thank you gifts; and Ronan for getting the Haus plaques installed, too!

Pre-Tour Action Items

- Send out a host survey to all Pre-Tour Dinner Hosts to gain feedback. Also seeing if any hosts have interest in returning for 2027.
- Email sent to hosts to collect information on in-kind donation amounts and dinner costs by July 31, 2026.

Sunday Tour Highlights

Great weather, lots of shuttle usage, and there were plenty of photos of people reading the new story boards, too!

	Value	Paid Tickets	% Total Admissions Value
2026	\$41,200	1,690	32.47%
2025	\$55,644.00	2,251	36.11%
2024	\$33,290	1,344	27.84%

24-25 Change	25-26 Change	24 vs 26 Change
+67.49%	-25.96%	23.76%

All numbers per Courtney Thraen.

- 10 stellar homes- including one garden
- Huge Thank You's to: **Central Ohio Watercolor Society - 13 artists participated.**
 - A big thank you to Brown Bag Deli supplying boxed lunches to the artists

The total number of volunteers signed up for both Saturday and Sunday- 150

- Haus Frau Haven, Jenn Clark & Lucy Whittier for hosting the Homeowner Appreciation Party- having the combined group was great!

- Mikey's Late Night Slice for providing pizzas for our Volunteer Coordination evening.
- Schmidts for providing food for our Volunteer Appreciation Party.
- Vessel for providing flowers to homeowners; 3rd and Sycamore doing an in-kind gift to homeowners
- Ronan for his work with homeowners to gather insights and history on the homes for program and talking points for the tour.

Tour Action Items

- Send out a homeowner survey to all Tour Homeowners to gain feedback. Would like to also send to Haus captains.
- Prepare list of potential 2027 Homeowners to provide to 2026 Chairs.

Review of Tour Stops & PreTour Dinners:

Tour Stops

1. 129 E Beck - Bill and Carolyn Settina
2. 682 Mohawk- Mark Burnett and Ghayur Saed
3. 846 S 5th- Meredith and Jay Bonham
4. 847 S 5th Street - Sara Marketos and Jillian Alberico
5. 857 Mohawk- Robert Caplin
6. 910 Mohawk Street - Cara and Michael Whitley
7. 937 S 3rd- Vince Pecore
8. 911 City Park- Brady McCurdy
9. 857 City Park- Jamie and Gregor Giliom
10. 32 E Beck- Kyle Haines

Pre Tour Dinner Host/Locations

1. 756 Jaeger St. - Darci Congrove & John Pribble and Patti Orzano

2. 67 Deshler – Susan & Neil Rector
3. 565 S. 4th St – Andrea Schmitt
4. 847 Mohawk St - Lisa Stein & Craig Colvin
5. 710 S. 5th St - Steve & Carolyn Gifford
6. 205 Jackson St – Sally McDonald, Lynn Elliott & John Brownley
7. 767 Macon Alley – Kylie & Bobby Whitman
8. 618 Mohawk St – Britany Talley & Ryan McCuskey
9. 322 E. Beck Street – Michele McFadden & Maurice Manring
10. 229 E. Beck St – Kelly & Ted Lape; Deana & Drew Flora; Sylvia Fergus & Kent Rigsby; Jenny & Jonathan Barnes.
11. 729 S 5th St. - Doug Preisse
12. 242 Lansing St – Jennifer & Vince Mariucci
13. 231 E. Livingston/S. 6th Street - The Studio at the Kitchen
14. 347 E. Livingston - Gigi's China Cabinet

German Village Society Membership Committee Report

Committee meeting date: 6-15-26

Attendees: Jessica Fleming (Chair), Courtney Thraen, Rachel Lewellen, Remington Lyman, and Lucy Whittier

Agenda and Discussion Items:

1.) GVS membership numbers

- Goal: \$120,000 in membership dues
 - Determine breakdown by renters vs owner

Rev 6.1.26						
2026 YTD						
	Count		Count		Value	
New	64	Individual	102	Individual	\$5,100.00	
Renewal	208	Household	138	Household	\$17,250.00	
Reactivate	21	Mason	34	Mason	\$8,500.00	
Upgrade	3	Builder	13	Builder	\$6,500.00	
Downgrade	4	Archivist	10	Archivist	\$10,000.00	
Dropped	53	Preservationist	1	Preservationist	\$2,500.00	
		Caretaker	2	Caretaker	\$10,000.00	% of annual goal
		Total	300	Total	\$59,850.00	50.72%

2.) Annual Membership Telethon

- Remington Lyman taking on role of calling ~200 households with lapsed memberships- HUGE THANK YOU!
- Moving forward will making monthly calls rather than have the annual telethon.

3.) Membership Restructure Task Force

- Resume meeting on Friday 7/10

- Goal is to combine GVS individual/household and the business community memberships into a tiered system that also acknowledges in-kind donations, volunteering, and purchased event ticket contributions.

4.) Member appreciation events and efforts

- Goal to have quarterly events for GVS members.
- August 13th: Columbus Museum of Art Tour and Bar Art Music (BAM)
- October TBD: Greenlawn Cemetery Tour
- January 22nd: GVS Birthday Party (Plus Resource Fair?)
- Other efforts include updating welcome bag with GVBC

5.) Budget preparation (September)

- Buttons/printing/welcome/marketing materials
- Birthday party/other event costs

Next meeting: 5:30 PM on 7-13-26 at the GVS Meeting Haus

German Village Business Community Board Report

July 2026

Membership & Engagement

- The July GVBC meeting was well attended, including several first-time participants. Members also gathered for a new pre-meeting coffee and donut networking session, generously hosted by Schwartz Castle. Based on positive feedback and participation, this informal networking component will continue before future meetings.

Map Program

- An additional 5,000 copies of the German Village Map have been printed, bringing the current production run to approximately 10,000 maps. Distribution continues through member businesses, the Visitor Center, and other community locations.
- The committee discussed expanding distribution beyond the neighborhood and beginning development of a broader visitor and tourism guide that promotes both German Village's historic character and its business community.

Membership Recruitment

- The committee approved a recommendation that, beginning with the 2027 map editions, business listings will be limited to current GVBC members. Businesses currently receiving complimentary listings will receive advance notice and an invitation to join before the policy takes effect.

Quarterly Networking

- The recent quarterly mixer at The Kitchen was well attended and continues to demonstrate the value of informal networking among member businesses. The next mixer is scheduled for **September 22** at Raffensberger Photography & Framing.

GVS Collaboration

- Members discussed opportunities to further align GVBC with upcoming GVS initiatives, including Oktoberfest, Village Lights, and other neighborhood programming. The committee also explored ways to better connect local businesses with tourism, preservation, and community events through collaborative marketing efforts.

Looking Ahead

- Upcoming priorities include continued membership recruitment, planning for the Fall/Winter map edition, development of the visitor guide concept, Village Lights planning, and identifying additional partnerships that support both local businesses and the German Village Society's historic preservation mission.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Caplin

Chair, German Village Business Community

We have had 4 sidewalk projects completed this year. The most recent was completed on City Park Ave in June.

We currently have 3 other open approved applications, of those 1 is in progress.

Thank you,
Tyler Mason

Historic Preservation & Advocacy Committee (HPAC)

Board Report – July 2026

The Historic Preservation & Advocacy Committee (HPAC) met on June 22, 2026, at the Meeting Haus.

The primary focus of the meeting was a Commissioner Q&A session with German Village Commissioners Karen McCoy and Cynthia Hunt, who discussed the Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) review process, staff-approved applications, interpretation of the German Village Guidelines, case precedent, and the respective roles of the Commission, Preservation Office, Building & Zoning Services, and Code Enforcement. Commissioners also addressed questions regarding building permit coordination, 311 complaints, new construction, tree preservation, and opportunities to strengthen future preservation practices.

A detailed summary of the Commissioner Q&A discussion is available here: [HPAC Minutes – June 22, 2026 \(GVC Commissioner Q&A\)](#)

Following the commissioners' departure, the committee discussed the Cedar Square proposal and preparations for the upcoming German Village Commission meeting. Discussion focused on preservation concerns related to building massing, height, neighborhood compatibility, precedent, pedestrian improvements, and strategies for organizing public testimony.

Advocacy updates included:

- Columbia Gas restoration activities and coordination with affected homeowners.
- Continued monitoring of ADA curb ramp installations and utility restoration.
- Development of a neighborhood parking survey.
- Creation of a tracking process for neglected properties and recurring 311 complaints.
- Introduction of Advocacy Coordinator Christy, who has begun work supporting neighborhood advocacy initiatives.

The committee also discussed restarting the HPAC newsletter and continuing efforts to improve communication and resident engagement on preservation and advocacy issues.

Current priorities include:

- Monitoring significant GVC applications, including Cedar Square.
- Utility restoration and ADA curb ramp coordination.
- Neglected property tracking and Code Enforcement coordination.
- Expansion of resident communications through the HPAC newsletter.
- Continued advocacy regarding tree preservation and replacement standards.

The Tech Committee had a meeting scheduled for July 7th, but had a last minute venue problem (A car apparently crashed into the Daily Etc (formally Daily Growler) the day before) caused us to delay the meeting (The meeting is to be focused on website budget planning for next year).

Therefore nothing further to report.

We are supporting a meeting lead by Courtney on proposed tech / software stack in the coming weeks (still being scheduled).

The next Tech meeting will be August 4th.

--

Jeff R. Lamb



Character lives on.

The German Village Society

588 S. Third Street

Columbus, OH 43215

Board Governance Proposal: Gift Acceptance & Designation Policy

To: German Village Society Board of Trustees / Executive Committee

From: Anthony Meyer, President

Date: July 9, 2026

Subject: Establishment of Governance Framework for Designated and Restricted Gifts

Executive Summary

To protect the German Village Society's (GVS) long-term financial health and operational agility, the Executive Committee proposes the formal adoption of a Gift Acceptance & Designation Policy.

While GVS deeply appreciates philanthropic support, gifts accompanied by specific donor designations or restrictions can inadvertently limit the Board's ability to fulfill its fiduciary duty, adapt to shifting priorities, and manage administrative overhead. This policy establishes a clear, rigorous process for evaluating, accepting, and managing designated funds.

Core Policy Principles

- **Preference for Unrestricted Funding:** To maximize organizational flexibility and ensure resources can always be deployed where the need is greatest to achieve the GVS mission, non-designated (unrestricted) gifts are preferred and actively encouraged.
- **Absolute Board Authority:** The Board of Trustees retains ultimate authority over the acceptance of any award, gift, or grant accompanied by donor designations or terms. No staff member or committee may formally accept a designated gift without Board approval.
- **Fiduciary & Mission Alignment:** A designated gift will be declined if the associated terms restrict the Board's capacity to exercise its fiduciary oversight, or if the administrative cost of compliance outweighs the gift's benefit.

Proposed Policy Framework

1. Approval Authority & Sequence

The Board of Trustees retains ultimate authority over the acceptance of any award, gift, or grant accompanied by donor designations or terms. No Statement of Understanding (SOU) or gift agreement carrying donor designations may be signed or executed by staff or committee chairs without prior review by the Finance Committee and formal approval by the Board. Staff may negotiate draft terms, but all preliminary agreements must be explicitly contingent upon final Board approval.

2. Operational Capacity & Mandatory Administrative Fees

GVS will not accept any designated gift that mandates specific staffing requirements or unbudgeted labor terms. Furthermore, to ensure designated funds do not drain general operating capacity, all designated fund agreements or event SOUs must allocate a minimum of 20% of gross proceeds (or a Board-approved proportional flat fee) directly to the GVS General Operations Budget to cover staff administrative time and organizational overhead.

3. Mandatory Variance Power

To prevent funds from becoming permanently trapped or restricted, GVS will decline any designated gift or partnership agreement that does not grant explicit Variance Power to the GVS Board of Trustees. The Board must retain the ultimate legal authority to modify or redirect restrictions if the original purpose becomes incapable of fulfillment, obsolete, or inconsistent with the immediate critical preservation needs of the German Village Historic District.

4. Minimum Thresholds for Designated Funds

To prevent administrative bloat and the proliferation of small, difficult-to-track accounts, the Board will establish minimum financial thresholds required to create a new designated or restricted fund. Small, one-off designated gifts that fall below the established threshold will be routed to the closest existing pre-approved fund or politely declined, encouraging the donor to pivot to unrestricted giving.

5. Review of Non-Cash and Complex Assets

GVS will not automatically accept gifts of real estate, tangible personal property, securities, or other non-cash assets carrying donor designations. Any such complex gifts must undergo a strict due diligence review by the Finance Committee regarding liquidity, valuation, liability, and disposal costs before being presented to the Board for an acceptance vote.

Policy Authority & Governance Control

Board Approval & Revision Authority:

This policy is formally approved and enacted by the German Village Society Board of Trustees. Once adopted, this policy and all internal frameworks established herein remain continuously active and fully operational in perpetuity, unless explicitly amended, rescinded, or replaced by a formal majority vote of the Board of Trustees.

Approved Date: _____

By Vote of the Board: _____

DRAFT



Character lives on.

The German Village Society

588 S. Third Street

Columbus, OH 43215

June 23, 2026

A Message from the Board President: Caretakers of a Legacy, Securing Our Future

Dear German Village Neighbors, Society Members, and Friends,

As we look forward to our upcoming Haus und Garten Tour on June 26th and 27th—a celebration of the brick, mortar, and brilliant spirit of our neighborhood—I find myself reflecting deeply on the incredible journey we have shared. An event of this massive scale simply does not happen without an extraordinary collective effort. I want to extend an incredible thank you to this year's Tour Chairs, our dedicated Host Committee, the army of volunteers, and our phenomenal staff at the Meeting Haus. Your tireless energy and passion are the heartbeat of this weekend, and you are the reason our community shines so brightly.

It is because I know firsthand the sheer volume of work, coordination, and heart required to produce an event of this magnitude that this season carries such a profound personal weight for me. Having stepped in to guide this massive engine through its revival, I understand deeply what it takes to protect and execute our traditions. With that shared journey in mind, this fall, I will step down as President of the German Village Society, transitioning into my sixth and final year on the Board of Trustees as Past President.

When I joined the board in the fall of 2021, we were navigating the thick of a deeply uncertain world, and our immediate, most pressing challenge was right here at the surface: this very Haus und Garten Tour had been dark for two consecutive years. We were facing a neighborhood of homeowners who were understandably hesitant and intimidated to welcome crowds back inside their private spaces. The foundation of our signature event needed immediate reinforcement, and I committed first to serving two years as the Chair of the Haus und Garten Tour to stabilize and secure our core economic and cultural engine.

Bringing this tradition back to life required an incredible layout of community trust and operational grit. Much like tackling an old historic home, we had to strip things down to the studs to see exactly what we were working with.

Beyond rebuilding the tour, we had to reassess the entire structure of the organization itself. We identified critical infrastructure needs, fortifying the operational bones of the Meeting Haus and preparing the ground for a modern workforce and future staff. Recognizing the need for strict fiscal stewardship during this volatile time, I transitioned from Tour Chair into the role of Treasurer, a path of service that ultimately led me to these past two years as your President. It was a massive undertaking, but you can't build a lasting future without a solid, up-to-code foundation.

Over these last five years, our work has been defined by that exact brand of resilience and execution. We didn't just weather the storm; we actively restored the essential programs that define our mission. A tremendous milestone of this effort was the successful reinstatement of our historic brick sidewalk incentive program, which had gone unfunded during the pandemic. Today, our infrastructure is literally being restored because of that persistence.

We are never short of ideas on ways to improve, but today, we finally have the established structure and unified vision to execute them across our core pillars of Preservation, Advocacy, and Community. A prime example is our upcoming project to renovate the Meeting Haus and Visitor Center. This project is our collective opportunity to modernize our footprint, better engage our neighbors, and warmly welcome visitors to our community from all around the world.

The Discipline of Stewardship

Whenever I am asked why I have dedicated so much of my time to this neighborhood, I think back to the values that have anchored my life. Raised Catholic, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout, and serving eight years in the Ohio Army National Guard, I was taught early on that community service must be rooted in pure altruism.

My love for German Village stems from that exact belief. Over the years, I have experienced this neighborhood from nearly every perspective possible: as a renter, a homeowner, and a landlord. I have felt the unique joy—and the unmistakable dust—of renovating several of our homes, which gave me a profound, firsthand appreciation for the rigorous stewardship required to protect our neighborhood's architectural integrity.

Every step of this journey has driven home a deeper reality: in any passion-driven organization, there is an ongoing struggle between those who serve selflessly for the collective well-being and the competing pressures of personal benefit or individual agendas. We face these issues on a regular basis from developers and business owners whose interests don't always align with the greater good of our historic footprint. True civic leadership requires navigating those fractions, standing firm against external pressures, and keeping our focus entirely on what protects the village as a whole, rather than what serves the few.

Leadership is ultimately about balancing the what with the why. As Caretakers of a Legacy, it is the spirit of giving and a shared appreciation for our history that I find to be our greatest strength. Because of that, I want to ask our neighborhood to continually open their doors and their minds—not just to welcome new neighbors moving into our community, but to actively engage them, building relationships that educate and inspire them on the rich history and immense value of safeguarding our unique streetscapes. Historic preservation is a living, continuous choice that every generation must make together.

Securing Our Future

True leadership, however, isn't just about rebuilding in the present; it is about ensuring stability long after you step aside. I am incredibly proud of the intentional, thoughtful succession plan we have cultivated to guarantee a seamless transition for the organization's long-term success.

Central to this future is the structured leadership team currently in place. In 2025, we took a vital step by bringing on Courtney Thraen as our Executive Director. Courtney has provided steady operational guidance and capability, establishing a solid foundation for our day-to-day work.

Crucial to that progress has been our Vice President, Anne McGee. As a trusted partner on the Executive Committee, Anne has been instrumental in every major milestone we've achieved since the pandemic. While our bylaws dictate that the next President is officially elected by the Board of Trustees, I am incredibly confident in the leadership pipeline we have built. Anne has been a seamless partner in our executive strategy, and she represents the exact dedication, institutional knowledge, and forward-looking vision needed to guide the Society into its next chapter.

The combination of Courtney's focused execution of our daily operations and Anne preparing to step into board leadership represents a strong, stable trajectory of continuity for the German Village Society.

As you prepare to enjoy the beautiful homes and gardens during the upcoming tour, please know how deeply grateful I am for your trust, your partnership, and your shared love for this historic village. The future of our neighborhood is exceptionally bright.

Prost!



Anthony Meyer

President, German Village Society Board of Trustees