



GVS Board of Trustees: Aug 11th, 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, Jess Flemming, Jeff Lamb, James Nichols, Courtney Thraen, Mary Connolly Ross, Lucy Whittier, Sherri Lazear, Jennifer Clark

Call to Order Public Participation

**Anthony Meyer
TBD**

NOTE: PLEASE KEEP YOUR COMMENTS TO 2 MIN

Staff Reports (Written and Oral)

Executive Director

Courtney Thraen

Communication/Membership

Rachel Lewellen

Advocacy

Kristy Ramey

Officer Reports (Written and Oral)

Presidents Report

Anthony Meyer

Vice President Report

Anne McGee

Secretary Report

Cynthia Watson

*Motion to approve July Minutes

Treasurer Report

Scott Glaser

*Motion to approve July Report

*Review of Statement of Understanding for Boogie for Bricks

Committee Reports

- Meeting House Master Plan
 - o Visitor Center
 - o Building Committee
 - Roof/Security/Scheurer Room
- Haus and Garten Pre and Tour
- GVBC
 - o *Motion to approve changes to Visitor Map
- HPAC
- ODC

Mary Ross (written)
Scott Glaser (oral)

J Clark/L Whittier(oral)
Robert Caplin (written)

Michael Gallagher (written)
James Nichols (oral)

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS



German Village Society
Executive Director's Report
August 10, 2026

I. Organizational Development and Operations

- a. **Staff is making an collective, immediate impact through deepened content in Neighbors4Neighbors that has received a lot of positive feedback.** Staff is also working organically together on projects, such as the deteriorated properties project from an advocacy, history, and communications perspective.
- b. **Member Database** – The CRM exploration team met, and the next step is to develop a very robust grading rubric for the two CRM proposals we've received that will precede the next set of demos in September. Goal is to have a CRM identified by November for onboarding in mid-December.
- c. **Digital Front Door** – GVS will be updating our website's navigation menu to support our focus areas when it comes to research and archives, member services, and tourism/exploration.

II. Tourism (YTD through August 4, 2026):

- a. 957 visitors across 424 groups. June and July accounted for 465 visitors, or 49% of the total.
- b. 39% from Ohio → followed by Pennsylvania and Michigan
- c. Over 8% were international visitors led by France, Germany, and Canada.
- d. 22% discovered GVS through tourism-related research; 14% came due to word of mouth, and 6% found us directly through our website!
- e. 29% stopped in because they were visiting family and friends in the area. 22% came in because they were on a Midwest road trip.

III. Development Benchmarks

- a. Taking lead on Oktoberfest from a back-end GVS systems set-up while Rachel is taking point on Monster Bash and Village Lights!
- b. Post Boogie for the Bricks, I'll be working through the formal stages of donor development, and I've met resident with donor development experience.
- c. Related to development, Jeff Lamp on the IT side asked out how we're collecting demographic data. I said that's a massive area of opportunity since the Village is 42% renters.
- d. Last, my goal is to have the 2027 Sponsorship Packet reviewed, planned, and ready by November 1, 2026.

IV. Outreach / Engagement

- a. City's HP Modernization – Will be sending a records request to the City at the end of August to the Scope of Work from the hired consultant.
- b. Spoke at the GVC meeting last week in hopes that maybe some media was listening to simply share how the Commission has enabled the growth of housing and our population from 2010-2020. I also underscored that the developer for the Cedar Square project had only been before the Commission in the decision/action phase only since May of 2026 (so not over a year as has been reported).

Report Summary

Report Summary

July was a busy month of continued progress across communications, membership engagement, and event preparation.

Neighbors 4 Neighbors continued to perform well, sending 27,600 emails and achieving a 3% click rate. Communications work included building website pages for Ronan's America 250 chapters and documenting the ongoing ADA curb project through photos and video to keep neighbors informed.

Membership engagement remained steady, with 378 members now logged into GrowthZone. Continue to assist in the search for a new CRM system, along with regular membership support and renewal outreach. GVS's total membership is 523 households. GVBC total 101.

Also continued work on event preparation for Boogie for the Bricks, Oktoberfest, and Monster Bash, including branding, sponsorship materials, social media, and event planning. Volunteer coordination, Meeting Haus rentals, and intern supervision continued throughout the month.

Communication

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

Members2Members:

GVBC monthly meeting reminders and communications.

Website & BoT Reports:

Ongoing updates: Events; prepared board packets, email, and printed reports. Reworking the menu on the main page to reflect institutional work.

Operations:

GrowthZone: 378 members have created logins (7/26 #365)

Events:

Boogie for the Bricks - Design sponsorship signage – Social Media Posts

Oktoberfest – Design logo, branding guidelines

Monster Bash – Meeting with Co-Chairs, Andrew Ford & Jeff Lamb – theme and graphic design. Host information meeting August 31 @ 6 pm - Host Mixer Sept. 22 – Tickets on Sale to Mason + on Sept 10, public on Sept 17.

Membership:

Attended two GVS membership committee meetings. A committee member is currently calling 300+ lapsed members, working with him to get those contacts renewed.

GVBC Membership:

Membership Levels	Count of Membership
GVBC Membership - Level 1	55
GVBC Membership - Level 2	21
GVBC Membership - Level 3	15
GVBC Membership (Comp)	10
Total	101

GVS Membership:

Membership Type	2/9/26	4/14/26	5/12/26	6/9/26	7/13/26	8/10/26
Household	213	213	217	211	216	225
Individual	179	181	178	182	187	194
Mason	57	57	58	59	58	59
Builder	28	26	26	25	25	24
Archivist	13	14	14	14	14	14
Preservationist	5	4	3	3	3	3
Caretaker	2	3	3	3	3	3
Honorary Member	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals	498	499	500	498	507	523

Additional Tasks:

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

Coordinated rentals and use of Meeting Haus. 2 rentals last month + Actors Theatre use

Assisted members with our menu of services as needed.

Supervising Communications Intern & HS Intern

Write Up for Board Meeting

Parking Survey Follow Up Results

- Sent out initial parking survey, got results and saw the need for additional, more detailed, follow up. Sent out to the folks that said they had additional comments.
- Feedback has been great. Working to compile and set up a meeting with Anthony about the results/plan of action moving forward.

Columbia Gas

- Work continues to be done throughout the village on these projects.
- Columbia reps reached out to let us know that the contractor will work with impacted customers directly, and all areas impacted by the work will be restored to original condition.
 - For those interested in upgrading to brick, Columbus has provided a conversion interest form. This information will be going out in N4N this week.

ADA RAMPS

- The city is still working through ADA ramp installation. See below for the list of completed intersections, in progress, and upcoming intersections as drafted by the city.
- **Completed Intersections** (*additional sanding and street brick repair along curb for drainage between ramps/intersections will be completed once the entire street is ready)
 - Jackson St & Oscar Alley (all corners)
 - Jackson St & Rader Alley (all corners)
 - Jackson St & Margraff St (only NE corner included in project)
 - Lazelle St & Jackson St (only SE corner included in project)
-
- **In Progress Intersections** (*began excavating or otherwise still closed to pedestrians)
 - Lazelle St & Blenker St (only NW & SW corners included in project) – will be completed early next week
 - Mohawk St & Blenkner St (west side excavated, east side will be started once west is re-opened) – hoping to have west side completed before the end of next week, weather permitting
 - Mohawk St & Berger Alley (east side excavated, west side will hopefully follow after east is re-opened pending Columbia Gas information)

- **Upcoming Intersections** (*contractor ramp submittals have been approved)
 - 5th St & Blenkner St (only NW & SW corners included in project)
 - Mohawk St & Willow St (all corners)
 - Jaeger St & Lear St (only NW & SW corners included in project) – I received the layout submittal for this one, but am still reviewing it.

Neglected and At Risk Properties

- **Thurman Properties:** The Endangered Sites tour took place last Friday. Ronan gave a spirited history of the properties and Krisyt created a time line of their deterioration. Our liaison with the city has noted that both 147 and 157-159 have been referred to the City Attorney's office for further action.
- **Other Properties**
 - Kristy has created a tracking workbook for other concerning properties.

Organization and Accessibility

- New archival finding guide created
- Collections grouped by theme and content
- Boxes labeled based on medium of content (photos, tapes, etc)
- Special Collections subdivided and organized by theme and content

Digitization

- Archival scanner has been connected directly to cataloguing software
- Additional archival software, such as transcription programs, have been identified and set up
- Several folders of photographs and documents have been scanned, accessioned, and catalogued

Activation

- Archival material has been made readily available for the upcoming Visitor's Center displays
- Archive appointments are now available for members to view relevant items
- Archival material is accessible and easy to incorporate into social media and other promotional materials

Next Steps

- Continue digitization process with the help of archival intern
- Acquire reel tape digitization equipment
- Continue activating the archives through incorporating more archival material in social media, N4N, and GVS History Club
- Curate rotating exhibits for updated Visitor's Center



Character lives on.

The German Village Society

588 S. Third Street

Columbus, OH 43215

August 10, 2026

August 18, 2026

Resolution 2026: Reaffirming Support for the German Village Commission and Historic Preservation Authority

WHEREAS, the German Village Society was founded in 1960 by dedicated community members to arrest urban blight, pioneer neighborhood preservation, and establish the foundational architectural guidelines that saved and defined the historic character of German Village; and

WHEREAS, this successful preservation framework transitioned into a formalized civic partnership with the City of Columbus in 1960, when the city passed Ordinances #976-60 and #1221-60 to officially establish the German Village Historic District and codify its protections under Columbus City Code; and

WHEREAS, Columbus City Code Section 3119.23, as may be amended or renumbered from time to time, explicitly defines the structural bond between our two entities, establishing a seven-member German Village Commission where all commissioners are officially appointed by the Mayor, with the codified requirement that two of those members must be selected from a list of four recommendations submitted directly by the German Village Society; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus formally empowers these commissioners—serving as dedicated, uncompensated historic preservation experts—with the sole legal authority to interpret the German Village District Guidelines and determine architectural appropriateness; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that a comprehensive site plan must achieve dual compliance: harmonizing the German Village Commission’s jurisdiction over historic aesthetics, massing, and materials, while concurrently satisfying the City of Columbus’s rigorous statutory codes governing civil infrastructure, utility placement, public service sanitation management, and emergency vehicle access (including street widths and fire apparatus turning radii); and

WHEREAS, the integrity, property values, safety, and historic identity of German Village depend entirely upon the consistent, expert application of these guidelines through the issuance of Certificates of Appropriateness (COAs) working in tandem with city public safety standards; and

WHEREAS, the German Village Society maintains its historical mandate as the primary guardian of the district's historic integrity, necessitating active observation of Commission proceedings to ensure that the German Village District Guidelines are consistently, fairly, and strictly applied according to codified standards; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the German Village Society explicitly affirms its support for the German Village Commission, recognizing them as the authoritative body designated to interpret historic guidelines and render binding design review decisions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees commits to standing in full support of the Commission's codified regulatory authority, actively upholding their designated role in design review, championing their expert decisions to the community where applicable, and defending the rigorous preservation standards that protect our historic neighborhood for generations to come; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board preserves its independent advocacy role to identify, document, and constructively communicate to both the Commission and city leadership any instances where Commission actions, procedures, or decisions visibly diverge from the established German Village District Guidelines; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that to ensure a unified institutional voice and prevent unauthorized or conflicting public testimony, all official communications, positions, and formal critiques regarding Commission decisions or guideline interpretations, or city wrap-around site plans and lot assemblies representing the Society shall be issued exclusively by the Board of Trustees President or the Executive Director, or their explicit designees as authorized by the Executive Committee; and that individual members, committee leaders, and event chairs do not represent or speak for the Society on these regulatory matters unless expressly authorized by the Executive Committee.

ADOPTED this XXth day of XX, XXXX.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q1: Why now? Is this a reaction to a specific project or legal dispute?

A1: This is proactive organizational governance. As regional development pressures increase, ensuring clear communication channels becomes critical for effective advocacy. The Board is adopting this policy during a period of stability to ensure that our internal governance, institutional memory, and administrative chains of command are thoroughly documented and legally resilient for years to come.

Q2: Why are we explicitly citing the 1960 City Ordinances and the "2 of 4" recommendation rule?

A2: To reinforce the historical and legal foundation of our civic partnership with the City of Columbus. It reminds all stakeholders that the GVC is a codified entity deeply rooted in municipal law. Highlighting the legislative requirement for the Society to provide commissioner recommendations highlights our long-standing, collaborative role in stewarding the neighborhood's preservation pipeline.

Q3: Why does the resolution mention fire trucks, trash management, and road widths? Isn't our job just historic aesthetics?

A3: Because a project cannot move forward without passing both frameworks. By using the word "harmonizing," the Board is signaling to developers that city safety standards (like street widths or utility lines) are a minimum baseline, but they must be executed using historic design solutions. This prevents a developer from engineering an artificial conflict with the city to override our neighborhood guidelines.

Q4: The resolution says we support the Commission's authority, but also says we will "document where they diverge." Isn't that a contradiction?

A4: It is a principled partnership. The German Village Society is the original author and historic guardian of the Guidelines. Our ultimate allegiance is to the preservation standards themselves. We fully respect and support the Commission's administrative authority to make binding design review decisions. However, if a future proceeding exhibits a clear procedural deviation from the written Guidelines, the Society preserves its independent role to constructively communicate those technical gaps to city leadership. Support means defending the integrity of the process, not blindly endorsing every outcome.

Q5: Why does the resolution specify that we champion the Commission's decisions "where applicable" rather than unconditionally?

A5: Because the Society's ultimate allegiance is to the written German Village District Guidelines themselves. While we fully support the Commission's regulatory authority, if a specific Commission decision visibly departs from the codified guidelines, the Society must retain the flexibility to withhold public endorsement. Adding "where applicable" ensures we are never forced to publicly defend a flawed or contradictory decision, preserving our independent advocacy role to constructively hold the process to the highest standard.

Q6: How is the German Village Commission (GVC) structured within the City of Columbus, and what other departments have influence over neighborhood projects?

A6: The GVC is a regulatory board administratively housed under the City's Department of Building and Zoning Services (BZS). While the GVC has sole authority over historic aesthetics and Certificates of Appropriateness (COAs), a project must concurrently clear reviews from other major city departments that hold independent jurisdiction. These include the Department of Public Service (governing Right-of-Way, parking, traffic, and sanitation), the Department of Development, and the Division of Fire. This resolution ensures GVS assists neighbors in navigating this broader web of city oversight, rather than focusing strictly on the GVC in isolation.

Q7: Why does the resolution include the phrase "as may be amended or renumbered from time to time" when referencing the City Code?

A7: To ensure this resolution remains legally ironclad for decades without needing to be rewritten. Municipal codes are occasionally reorganized by City Council. If the City renumbers Section 3119.23 in the future, this standard legal boilerplate ensures our resolution automatically references the correct successor section, permanently protecting our role in the appointment framework.

Q8: Does the "Unified Voice" protocol mean individual members or committees are being silenced?

A8: No. Every resident and member retains 100% of their right to testify as a private citizen. This policy simply prevents individuals from using their official GVS leadership titles or committee roles to give unauthorized or conflicting testimony. Furthermore, the text explicitly allows the Executive Committee to authorize specific designees to speak for the Society. If the President or Executive Director is absent or has a conflict of interest, a trusted surrogate can be deployed immediately so our advocacy never stalls.

Q9: Does this resolution mean the German Village Society will stop helping residents oppose inappropriate neighborhood developments?

A9: Absolutely not. The Society will continue to actively support members by providing the vital systems, logistical spaces, and fact-based data (such as historic records and neighborhood analytics) required for grassroots groups to effectively mobilize as concerned citizens. This resolution simply ensures that when the Society itself formally enters the public record before the Commission or City Hall, it speaks with a singular, authorized voice representing the official stance of the Board of Trustees.

Q10: If an urgent zoning or preservation issue arises, what is the process for a committee to request an official position from the Society?

A10: Committee leaders should immediately route the technical details of the issue to the Executive Director and Board President. The Executive Committee will review the matter against the German Village District Guidelines to determine if an official GVS position or public testimony is warranted. This ensures a rapid, organized turnaround that protects our collective interests without creating administrative delays.

Q11: Why is this being presented as a formal Board Resolution rather than an internal administrative Policy?

A11: A resolution serves as a formal, high-level declaration of institutional position and official legislative intent by the Board of Trustees, creating an enduring public record of our commitment to historic preservation and our partnership with the City of Columbus. An administrative policy typically governs routine operational mechanics. Because this document establishes a foundational governance position regarding our legal relationship with the City, our official advocacy protocols, and the protection of the Society's institutional voice before public commissions, a formal Resolution carries the necessary authority and permanence required for external legal and municipal resilience.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION & ROLLOUT TIMELINE

To successfully adopt this policy without creating a political divide at City Hall, a defensive reaction from the German Village Commission (GVC), or internal friction among our committee leaders, the Society will execute a strict "No Surprises" staggered communication plan.

Date Range	Target Audience	Primary Objective	Execution Lead
July 8 (Completed)	GVC Commission Chair (Anthony Hartke)	Briefed on baseline support for regulatory authority and internal unified voice protocol. Support received.	President & ED
August 10 – August 12	City Leadership (City Council Rep / CM Dorans' Aide)	Position GVS as a mature, streamlined civic partner. Highlight single point of contact.	President & ED
August 11 – August 14	Internal Committee Chairs & Vocal Event Leaders	Deliver updated FAQ one-on-one; emphasize Q8 (member rights untouched) and Q11.	Assigned EC Liaison
August 18	Full Board of Trustees (Board Meeting)	Present updated resolution incorporating Trustee feedback for formal vote and adoption.	President
August 19	Internal Leadership Network	Post-passage deployment. Distribute final resolution & FAQ as an official governance update.	ED



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The German Village Society
588 S. Third Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Board Governance Policy: Gift Acceptance & Designation Framework

To: German Village Society Board of Trustees / Executive Committee

From: Anthony Meyer, Board President

Date: July 27, 2026

Status: Executive Committee Review / Second Read Draft

SECTION 1: PURPOSE & GOVERNANCE SCOPE

1.1 Purpose

The German Village Society (GVS) actively encourages philanthropic support to advance its historic preservation and community missions. This policy establishes standard governance procedures for accepting, structuring, and managing contributions, ensuring transparency, protection of donor intent, operational sustainability, and sound fiduciary oversight.

1.2 Supplemental Policy Authority & Harmonization

This document supplements GVS D-01 Fundraising Policy. In accordance with Section 5.1 of GVS D-01, while operational staff and leadership evaluate contributions for basic mission alignment, this policy defines the financial and governance thresholds requiring formal Board review and approval.

This policy operates in full harmony with the GVS Bequests Policy approved by the Board of Trustees on June 9, 2026. In the event of procedural ambiguity regarding general gift acceptance thresholds, this Policy shall govern operational workflows; specialized testamentary structures, estates, and bequests remain governed by the June 9, 2026 Bequests Policy.

SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS & STEWARDSHIP INSTRUMENTS

Unrestricted Gift: A contribution given without donor-imposed terms or restrictions, allowing GVS to deploy the funds toward general operating expenses or immediate organizational priorities.

Restricted / Designated Gift: A contribution accompanied by specific donor-imposed terms directing its use toward a specific project, capital initiative, or program outside general operations.

Legally Binding Gift Agreement: A formal written contract executed between GVS and a donor specifying enforceable terms, payment schedules, designation parameters, and legal obligations for major restricted contributions or endowed funds.

Statement of Understanding (SOU): A non-binding memorandum of understanding detailing operational collaboration, project milestones, or publicity expectations for non-complex gifts, sponsorships, or community partnerships.

Variance Power: The standard legal authority retained by the GVS Board of Trustees under applicable law to modify or redirect a donor-imposed restriction if the original designated purpose becomes unlawful, impossible, obsolete, or impractical to fulfill, while adhering as closely as possible to the donor's original intent.

SECTION 3: STRUCTURAL PROTECTION FOR MAJOR GIFTS & COMPLEX ASSETS

3.1 Major Donor Protection & Long-Term Preservation

GVS recognizes that major donors, long-time benefactors, and estate planners seek maximum security and long-term risk management for their contributions. To ensure donor intent is protected against future administrative or policy changes:

GVS supports and encourages the execution of legally binding Gift Agreements for major restricted contributions.

Where permanent protection, specialized risk management, or independent trustee oversight is requested by a donor, GVS is authorized to collaborate with recognized community foundations (such as The Columbus Foundation) or third-party trustee structures to hold, manage, and administer long-term or endowed funds for the benefit of GVS.

3.2 Institutional & Foundation Grants

Grants received from private foundations, corporate philanthropic arms, or government agencies operate under specialized compliance, reporting, and accounting criteria distinct from

individual contributions. All institutional grant applications or agreements exceeding \$10,000 must be reviewed by the Executive Committee (in consultation with the Finance Chair as needed for budget alignment) prior to formal submission or execution.

3.3 Acceptance Thresholds for Restricted Gifts

Operational Threshold (Under \$10,000): Contributions under \$10,000 carrying suggested designations will be routed to existing, pre-approved operational funds or processed as unrestricted donations. Mass-market ticket sales and standard event sponsorships below this floor are processed as routine operational revenue.

Board Approval Threshold (\$10,000 and Above): Any proposed individual gift or custom agreement carrying specific donor restrictions equal to or exceeding \$10,000 must be reviewed by the Executive Committee and formally approved by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees prior to execution.

3.4 Complex Assets & Mandatory Legal Review

Gifts of real estate, closely held securities, partnership interests, or tangible personal property carrying ongoing obligations must undergo due diligence coordinated by the Executive Committee regarding liquidity, valuation, liabilities, and maintenance costs before Board submission.

Any complex gift agreement, real estate conveyance, multi-year binding contract, or non-standard donor restriction must undergo formal review by qualified legal counsel prior to Board presentation.

SECTION 4: OPERATIONAL BOUNDARIES & COST ALLOCATION

4.1 Protection of Baseline Programs

Staff, committees, and event organizers may not alter the established terms, qualification criteria, payout ratios, or match parameters of any formal, Board-approved community or capital program (including historic preservation rebate or incentive programs) as part of a fundraising campaign without explicit, prior approval from the Board of Trustees.

4.2 Administrative Overhead & Project Cost Allocation

GVS seeks to maximize the direct impact of every contributed dollar while ensuring organizational operational capacity:

Direct Individual Gifts: Direct contributions from individual donors will not be subject to automatic administrative overhead deductions or fees unless explicitly agreed upon in writing between the donor and GVS.

Institutional Grants & Dedicated Project Budgets: Proposals for institutional grants, government funding, or multi-partner capital project campaigns must incorporate line-item budgeting for direct project administration, accounting, software licensing, and operational oversight expenses where allowable by the grantor or campaign framework.

4.3 Flexibility in Donor Negotiations

Absolute rules that hinder appropriate donor stewardship are avoided. The Executive Committee maintains sole operational authority to evaluate custom donor terms, negotiate flexible arrangements in good faith with staff, and present tailored proposals for Board consideration.

SECTION 5: TRANSITION & SAFE-HARBOR CLAUSE

To protect active operational budget commitments and safeguard ongoing fundraising campaigns, gift solicitations, sponsorships, and ticket sales formalized under active event campaigns prior to August 1, 2026 are exempt from the review thresholds and framework of this policy, provided they comply with prior GVS fundraising guidelines.

SECTION 6: POLICY CONTROL & REVISION

This policy is enacted by the GVS Board of Trustees and remains continuously active until explicitly amended, rescinded, or superseded by a formal majority vote of the Board.

Approved Date: _____

By Vote of the Board of Trustees: _____



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588 S. Third Street

Columbus, OH 43215

BOARD GOVERNANCE & POLICY FAQ: GIFT ACCEPTANCE & DESIGNATION FRAMEWORK

August 2026 | Prepared for the Executive Committee, Finance Committee, and Board of Trustees

GVS Internal Governance FAQ: Gift Acceptance Policy

Q1: Why are we enacting a comprehensive Gift Acceptance & Designation Policy now?

A1: As the German Village Society expands its community initiatives, capital preservation efforts, and fundraising campaigns, clear governance standards are necessary to protect organizational solvency, ensure legal compliance, and protect donor intent. This policy establishes clear financial floors, approval processes, and committee review steps so that staff, board members, and donors have a shared understanding of how gifts are accepted and managed.

Q2: How does this policy interact with our existing GVS D-01 Fundraising Policy and the June 9, 2026, Bequests Policy?

A2: This policy directly operationalizes Section 5.1 of GVS D-01 by defining the specific financial thresholds (\$10,000+) and asset types that require formal Board review.

To maintain clear governance, oversight responsibilities are divided by gift type:

- Gift Acceptance & Designation Policy: Governs day-to-day operational gifts, unrestricted donations, institutional/foundation grants, restricted project contributions, and complex non-cash assets.
- June 9, 2026, Bequests Policy: Governs estate gifts, bequests established through wills or trusts, and beneficiary designations.

Q3: Does this policy apply retroactively to past donations, existing endowments, or active event campaigns?

A3: No. This policy is strictly prospective and takes effect following Board approval in August 2026. It contains an explicit Safe-Harbor Clause (Section 5) exempting all sponsorships, ticket sales, and gift commitments formalized under active 2026 event campaigns prior to August 1, 2026. Past gifts, existing endowments, and previous donor agreements remain fully governed under the terms under which they were originally accepted.

Q4: How does this policy address the concerns of major donors who want long-term protection for their funds?

A4: Major donors rightly want assurances that their gifts are protected over the long term and managed with strict risk oversight. Internal balance sheet labels alone can be modified by future boards, which is why this policy explicitly authorizes two primary safeguards for major donors:

- Legally Binding Gift Agreements: Enforceable contracts executed between GVS and the donor defining exact restrictions, terms, and reporting requirements.
- Third-Party Foundation Partnerships: For donors seeking perpetual protection or independent fiduciary management, GVS is authorized to partner with established third-party foundations (such as The Columbus Foundation) or independent trusts to hold and administer endowed or long-term funds.

Q5: What is the distinction between a Statement of Understanding (SOU) and a binding Gift Agreement?

A5:

- Statement of Understanding (SOU): A non-binding memorandum used for routine sponsorships, event partnerships, or operational collaborations. It outlines shared goals, publicity obligations, and project timelines without creating formal legal liability.
- Binding Gift Agreement: A formal legal contract required for major restricted gifts, complex asset transfers, or naming rights. It creates legally enforceable obligations on both the donor and GVS and undergoes mandatory legal review prior to Board approval.

Q6: When is formal legal review required before accepting a contribution?

A6: Mandatory legal review by qualified counsel is required prior to Board presentation for:

1. Direct conveyances of real estate or land interests.
2. Complex non-cash assets (such as closely held stock, partnership interests, or personal property carrying ongoing liabilities).
3. Legally binding, multi-year donor agreements or custom restriction contracts.

Q7: What is "Variance Power" and why is it required in donor agreements?

A7: Variance Power is standard legal authority retained by the Board of Trustees to modify a gift restriction if the original designated purpose becomes unlawful, impossible, obsolete, or impractical to execute over time. Including Variance Power prevents donated funds from becoming permanently trapped or unusable, while legally binding GVS to redirect the funds to a purpose as close as possible to the donor's original intent.

Q8: Will individual donors have administrative fees or "cost recovery deductions" taken out of their donations?

A8: No. Direct contributions from individual donors will not be subject to blanket administrative fees or percentage tax deductions. 100% of an individual donor's contribution goes to the designated purpose

unless a specific administrative arrangement is mutually agreed upon in writing. Cost allocation and administrative line items are applied strictly to institutional grants, foundation proposals, and large multi-partner project budgets where grantor guidelines permit funding for project management, compliance, and back-office oversight.

Q9: Why are grants treated differently from standard donor contributions in this policy?

A9: Institutional, corporate, and government grants are non-profit-to-non-profit transactions that carry distinct legal, accounting, matching, and reporting requirements. Unlike general individual donations, grants frequently require specific performance deliverables, formal financial audits, and line-item budget tracking. Section 3.2 routes grant proposals over \$10,000 through the Executive Committee to ensure GVS has operational capacity and administrative oversight to fulfill grant obligations prior to application or acceptance.

Q10: How does this policy protect established GVS programs while maintaining flexibility for donor negotiations?

A10: The policy sets a clear boundary: event organizers, committees, and staff cannot unilaterally alter the rules, matching ratios, or financial parameters of Board-approved community programs (such as historic preservation incentive programs) during a fundraising drive. At the same time, the policy explicitly avoids rigid or absolute mandates regarding donor negotiations. The Executive Committee retains full authority to evaluate unique donor requests and bring customized, tailored recommendations to the Board of Trustees for approval.

German Village Society
Board of Trustees

Minutes of the Meeting of
July 14, 2026

Present: Anthony Meyer, Anne McGee, Jess Fleming, Robert Caplin, Michael Gallagher,
Mike Cornelis, Jim Nichols, Mary Connelly-Ross, Lucy Whittaker, Jenn Clark
Via Zoom: Sherri Lazear
Absent: Cynthia Watson, Scott Glaser
Staff: Courtney Tharen, Jack Doran, Rachel Lewellen

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by President Anthony Meyer

No Public Participation
Staff Reports:

Executive Director Report:

Tourism report shows that 64% of tourists visit in June and 34% of tourists were from Ohio.
Working on sponsorship development want to start earlier next year.

Outreach and engagement – curb ramps ramps are being installed on Jackson Street. Three residents are monitoring the work

Historic preservation modernization – city is looking at the cost and complexity of certificate of appropriateness process.

Staff Reports: (written and oral)

Rachel Lewellen- reported on gathering information from visitors and noted we currently have 507 membership accounts

Jack Doran presented a slide presentation

Report of the Officers:

President: none

Vice-President: none

Secretary: Anne McGee in Cynthia Watson's absence reported that a copy of the meeting minutes for June were submitted to the Board for review in the packet and moved for acceptance by the board. (Cornels/Caplin)

MOTION: To accept and approve the minutes for the meeting of June,2026
Motion passed without exception.

Treasurer: Due to house and garden the Treasurer's report was not complete. However, the audit review is being conducted. We reached 95% of goal for house and garden. We need help in encouraging membership and we need to make more profit at Oktoberfest and Village lights.

Committee Reports:

GVBC, Robert Caplin reported that the quarterly mixer was well attended. They are moving forward with new map distributions. They discussed broader visitors guide they are recommending that 2027 maps only include members of GVBC.

ODC, Jim Nichols recommended the ballot of nominees for Board of trustee election has been discussed and published in neighbors for neighbors seeking petitions to be on the ballot. None have been submitted

Motion: GVS Board of trustees approves the election Slate as follows. Jess Fleming, Jeff Lamb, Mary Ross, Sherri Lazear, and Steve Fechter

Motion passed. Jim Nichols/Mike Cornelis

New Business;

Proposed Board Resolution regarding the relationship between GVS and GVC
Proposed policy regarding gift acceptance

Motion to Adjourn at 7:15 (cornelis/McGee)

German Village Society

July 2026

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Board of Trustees

August 11, 2026



Character lives on.



Headlines

- **YTD net operating income is +\$63K against a +\$74K budget.**

- We have implemented a more disciplined and timely process for tracking and booking in-kind activities this year, resulting in total revenues and expenses both materially exceeding budget and LY. The better comparisons exclude the in-kind activity.
- Operating Revenues excluding in-kind total \$377K vs. \$399K budget (-\$22K) and \$369K last year (+\$8K).
- Operating Expenses excluding in-kind total \$314K vs. \$325K budget (-\$11K) and \$277K last year (+\$37K).
- The net \$11K shortfall to budgeted operating income compares to -\$30K as of June month end, and is still missing the reclass of \$5K in bequest contributions from Designated to Operating.

	2025 YTD Actual	2026 YTD Budget	2026 YTD Actual	'26 Var to LY	'26 Var to Budget
TOTAL REVENUES	\$397,183	\$429,700	\$476,713	\$79,531	\$47,013
<i>Revenues excl. In-Kind</i>	<i>\$368,896</i>	<i>\$399,700</i>	<i>\$377,353</i>	<i>\$8,457</i>	<i>(\$22,347)</i>
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$305,347	\$355,217	\$413,575	\$108,229	\$58,358
<i>Expenses excl. In-Kind</i>	<i>\$277,060</i>	<i>\$325,217</i>	<i>\$314,215</i>	<i>\$37,155</i>	<i>(\$11,002)</i>
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$91,836	\$74,483	\$63,138	(\$28,698)	(\$11,345)

- **Event updates:**

- Haus & Garten Tour finances are largely now booked. Total net income projected at \$160K vs. \$170K budget/LY and \$134K in 2024.
- Boogie for the Bricks event finances to be finalized in August close. Total event revenues of ~\$31K, which are being matched by Lisa Stein and Craig Colvin – big win for sidewalk preservation and restoration. \$7,500 of proceeds will accrue to GVS Operations.

- **Our asset base of ~\$1.85M is up \$157K to last year, and cash is in good shape.**

- Operating cash totals \$190K compared to \$178K as of last year 7/31. There’s also ~\$92K in Operations funds in CDs.
- Total cash, including designated/restricted funds, is \$1.45M, +\$167K to LY.

- **2025 audit process nearing completion.**

Revenues – YTD July

	2025 YTD Actual	2026 YTD Budget	2026 YTD Actual	'26 Var to LY	'26 Var to Budget
<i>GVS Membership Dues</i>	\$83,705	\$88,000	\$66,873	(\$16,832)	(\$21,127)
<i>GVBC Membership Dues</i>	<u>\$4,375</u>	<u>\$4,500</u>	<u>\$4,050</u>	<u>(\$325)</u>	<u>(\$450)</u>
MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$88,080	\$92,500	\$70,923	(\$17,157)	(\$21,577)
<i>Sponsorships</i>	\$66,552	\$69,000	\$88,600	\$22,048	\$19,600
<i>Admissions & Tickets Sales</i>	\$162,126	\$166,500	\$161,361	(\$765)	(\$5,139)
<i>Advertising</i>	<u>\$10,625</u>	<u>\$11,000</u>	<u>\$8,750</u>	<u>(\$1,875)</u>	<u>(\$2,250)</u>
ADMISSION & EVENTS	\$239,303	\$246,500	\$258,711	\$19,409	\$12,211
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$34,334	\$48,500	\$38,089	\$3,756	(\$10,411)
IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS	\$28,287	\$30,000	\$99,360	\$71,074	\$69,360
<i>Rental Income</i>	\$3,757	\$6,000	\$4,887	\$1,130	(\$1,113)
<i>Tour Income</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Merchandise Sales</i>	\$3,372	\$4,450	\$1,693	(\$1,678)	(\$2,757)
<i>Other Income & Interest</i>	<u>\$52</u>	<u>\$1,750</u>	<u>\$3,050</u>	<u>\$2,998</u>	<u>\$1,300</u>
OTHER INCOME	\$7,180	\$12,200	\$9,630	\$2,450	(\$2,570)
TOTAL REVENUES	\$397,183	\$429,700	\$476,713	\$79,531	\$47,013
Revenues excl. In-Kind	\$368,896	\$399,700	\$377,353	\$8,457	(\$22,347)

- TOTAL revenue shows a large pickup to both budget (+\$47K) and LY (+\$80K) due to much more rigorous and timely booking of in-kind income versus prior years.
- The more relevant comparison, excluding in-kind activity, shows YTD revenues +\$8K to LY but (\$22K) below the budget.
- Versus last year, event revenue growth is more than offsetting the reported drop in membership revenues.
- Contributions does not yet reflect the Board-approved transfer of \$5,000 from the designated For the Good of the Neighborhood Fund related to the \$25K Jim Daly bequest under our new Bequests Policy.

NOTE: The January 2025 deposit of a \$10,000 rental check from the 2024 GV Farmer's Market Platz rental has been adjusted out of the LY numbers for better comparability.

Expenses – YTD July

- Overall expenses are being well managed against our budget.
- TOTAL expenses appear to be way up to LY and budget due to the more complete and timely recording of in-kind activities.
- As with revenues, the better comparison is made excluding the in-kind expenses. On this basis, expenses are +\$37K to LY, driven by full staffing as well as event, IT, and administrative expenses.
- Against our budget, expenses (excluding in-kind) are DOWN \$11K, driven by staffing/salaries. Combination of periods with opening and net impact of more agile PT staffing model.
- OTHER NOTES:
 - Bank fees are DOWN \$5K due to lower digital transaction fees.
 - Repair & Maintenance will likely continue to run high due to plumbing, elevator, and other building needs.
 - Printing & Postage is up to budget and LY due to the new/annual Sponsorship Booklet + increase in MaiFest investment. But total admin expenses are down \$3K to budget.

	2025 YTD Actual	2026 YTD Budget	2026 YTD Actual	'26 Var to LY	'26 Var to Budget
Salaries & Bonus	\$113,521	\$140,060	\$128,381	\$14,861	(\$11,679)
Payroll Taxes	\$8,568	\$10,437	\$9,830	\$1,262	(\$607)
Benefits	\$15,947	\$20,516	\$17,706	\$1,759	(\$2,810)
Training & Dev't	<u>\$192</u>	<u>\$1,175</u>	<u>\$250</u>	<u>\$58</u>	<u>(\$925)</u>
TOTAL SALARIES & RELATED	\$138,227	\$172,188	\$156,168	\$17,940	(\$16,020)
IT EXPENSES	\$21,530	\$22,106	\$25,617	\$4,088	\$3,511
Acc'g & Audit Fees	\$25,700	\$28,000	\$30,450	\$4,750	\$2,450
Bank & Payroll Fees	\$13,096	\$12,310	\$7,705	(\$5,390)	(\$4,605)
Insurance Expense	\$3,592	\$4,800	\$6,684	\$3,092	\$1,884
Licenses, Fees, & Permits	<u>\$1,354</u>	<u>\$1,445</u>	<u>\$1,216</u>	<u>(\$138)</u>	<u>(\$229)</u>
FINANCIAL EXPENSES	\$43,742	\$46,555	\$46,055	\$2,313	(\$500)
Cleaning	\$6,707	\$6,542	\$5,283	(\$1,424)	(\$1,259)
Landscaping	\$1,079	\$1,166	\$1,291	\$212	\$125
Repair & Maintenance	\$2,470	\$3,300	\$7,414	\$4,944	\$4,114
Utilities	\$5,692	\$6,700	\$6,094	\$401	(\$606)
Security & Storage	<u>\$1,353</u>	<u>\$2,010</u>	<u>\$2,754</u>	<u>\$1,402</u>	<u>\$744</u>
OCCUPANCY EXPENSES	\$17,301	\$19,718	\$22,835	\$5,535	\$3,117
Printing & Postage	\$5,918	\$10,850	\$12,263	\$6,345	\$1,413
Supplies	\$2,680	\$4,900	\$2,186	(\$494)	(\$2,714)
Advertising	\$4,022	\$6,400	\$6,367	\$2,346	(\$33)
Dues & Memberships	\$1,320	\$1,100	\$2,482	\$1,162	\$1,382
Gifts & Awards	<u>\$5,193</u>	<u>\$5,600</u>	<u>\$3,046</u>	<u>(\$2,147)</u>	<u>(\$2,554)</u>
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	\$19,132	\$28,850	\$26,345	\$7,213	(\$2,505)
IN-KIND EXPENSES	\$28,287	\$30,000	\$99,360	\$71,074	\$69,360
Food & Beverage, Sponsor Dini	\$15,174	\$16,200	\$17,886	\$2,712	\$1,686
Equipment Rental	\$8,051	\$8,300	\$5,262	(\$2,789)	(\$3,038)
Transportation/Towing	\$4,175	\$4,200	\$4,479	\$305	\$279
Misc / Legal Expense	<u>\$9,729</u>	<u>\$7,100</u>	<u>\$9,567</u>	<u>(\$162)</u>	<u>\$2,467</u>
OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES	\$37,129	\$35,800	\$37,195	\$66	\$1,395
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$305,347	\$355,217	\$413,575	\$108,229	\$58,358
Expenses excl. In-Kind	\$277,060	\$325,217	\$314,215	\$37,155	(\$11,002)

HGT “Final” Numbers

- HGT 2026 was budgeted flat to LY’s net income of ~\$170K. (Note LY was a major jump from 2024’s \$134K.)
- Most HGT activity has now posted to Quickbooks, including all ticket sales revenue 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 \$160K would be ~\$11K below plan/LY (-6.5%).

	Actual 2025	Budget 2026	Projected 2026	To Date 2026 (QB)
Admission/Event Income	\$150,841	\$150,000	\$126,925	\$134,625
Advertising Income	\$6,600	\$7,500	\$10,200	\$6,200
Contributions	\$3,069	\$0	\$3,000	\$0
In-Kind Donations	\$26,368	\$22,000	\$83,472	\$77,881
Sponsorship	<u>\$40,652</u>	<u>\$46,000</u>	<u>\$53,000</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>
Total Income	\$227,530	\$225,500	\$276,597	\$268,706
<i>Excluding In Kind</i>	<i>\$201,162</i>	<i>\$203,500</i>	<i>\$193,125</i>	<i>\$190,825</i>
Advertising	\$3,022	\$4,000	\$4,965	\$4,892
Equipment Rental	\$5,336	\$5,500	\$4,393	\$3,540
Food/Beverages	\$6,690	\$7,000	\$7,884	\$9,702
Gifts & Awards	\$2,900	\$3,000	\$1,751	\$1,751
In-Kind Expense	\$26,368	\$22,000	\$83,472	\$77,881
License/Fees/Permits	\$785	\$800	\$492	\$488
Miscellaneous Expense	\$0	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,547
Printing/Signage	\$5,984	\$6,000	\$6,817	\$6,818
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	\$117,036	\$112,272
<i>Excluding In Kind</i>	<i>\$30,804</i>	<i>\$32,800</i>	<i>\$33,564</i>	<i>\$34,391</i>
Net Operating Income	\$170,358	\$170,700	\$159,561	\$156,434

Note: QB does not yet reflect a portion of beverage expenses (~\$2K) shifting to prepaid and out of event expense.

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

Balance Sheet Summary

- Operating cash totals \$190K as of July 31 against \$178K last year at 7/31. Accounts Receivable is also up \$7K to last year. Total cash, including board designated and permanently-restricted funds, is \$1.45M, up \$167K to last year. Total assets of \$1.85M are +\$157K to LY.
- Boogie for the Bricks designated account reflects partial receipts as of 7/31. Full event revenues and any expenses will be reflected in the August month-end close.
- \$5K still needs to be transferred, as approved by the Board, from the For the Good of the Neighborhood designated fund to Operations (Contributions) related to the \$25K Jim Daly bequest.

ASSETS		Y/E 2024	July 2025	Y/E 2025	July 2026		Y/E 2024	July 2025	Y/E 2025	July 2026	
	Cash: Operations Chkg + Petty Cash	\$75,701	\$177,862	\$103,860	\$189,820		Art Committee	\$1,282	(\$810)	\$1,215	\$1,051
							Boogie for the Bricks	\$0	\$0	\$7,135	\$17,801
	Cash - Board Designated Checking	\$192,200	\$171,069	\$183,296	\$306,941		Building & Maintenance Cash Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$31,910
	Meeting Haus Maintenance/Replacement	\$280,044	\$281,196	\$302,732	\$231,289		Council of Historic Neighborhoods	\$1,539	\$1,539	\$1,539	\$1,539
	Village Singers Fund	\$23,395	\$22,395	\$22,098	\$21,598		For the Good of the Neighborhood	\$67,507	\$57,467	\$57,467	\$61,559
	Warner Maintenance Fund	\$288,863	\$302,629	\$324,690	\$347,106		Frank Fetch Park/Maintenance	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
	Cash - Other Board Designated	\$592,303	\$606,220	\$649,519	\$599,993		Fund for Historic Preservation	\$26,149	\$26,462	\$23,880	\$50,930
	Cash: Total Board Designated	\$784,502	\$777,290	\$832,816	\$906,934		German Village Business Community	\$69,404	\$61,560	\$62,831	\$69,478
							Huntington Garden/Maintenance	(\$257)	(\$5,985)	\$758	\$6,973
Cash: Huntington Garden (Perm Restricted)	\$317,248	\$331,633	\$345,360	\$357,469		Sidewalk Repairs	\$17,243	\$21,635	\$15,443	\$12,343	
						Southside Stay	\$8,830	\$7,805	\$8,056	\$7,805	
TOTAL CASH	\$1,177,451	\$1,286,785	\$1,282,036	\$1,454,224		Village Singers	\$453	\$1,347	\$1,397	\$1,072	
						Visitors Center Renovation	\$0	\$0	\$3,525	\$44,433	
Accounts Receivable	\$600	\$4,450	\$5,500	\$11,554		Accounts Payable	\$3,906	\$9,800	\$2,385	\$31,814	
Chase CD's - Historic Preservation	\$146,485	\$146,485	\$150,416	\$102,975		Credit Card Liability	\$1,297	\$6,257	\$5,246	\$9,885	
Chase CD's - Operations	\$89,069	\$89,069	\$91,426	\$91,801		Prepaid Dues	\$10,068	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Gift Cards	\$3,184	\$6,411	\$65	\$65		Other Liabilities	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$353	
Prepaid Expenses & Other	\$1,548	\$0	\$2,829	\$1,799		CURRENT & OTHER LIABILITIES	\$15,270	\$16,057	\$7,631	\$42,052	
OTHER CURRENT ASSETS	\$240,886	\$246,416	\$250,236	\$208,195							
Building & Land	\$835,785	\$835,785	\$835,785	\$835,785		Unrestricted/Temp Restricted Earnings	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	
Leasehold Improvements	\$210,759	\$227,369	\$227,369	\$272,681		Restricted Earnings	\$957,242	\$957,242	\$957,242	\$957,242	
Furniture & Equipment	\$255,939	\$255,939	\$255,939	\$257,388		Retained Earnings	\$556,626	\$593,613	\$593,613	\$713,793	
Accumulated Depreciation	(\$1,160,450)	(\$1,172,047)	(\$1,175,839)	(\$1,187,435)		Net Income	\$37,766	\$119,869	\$120,180	\$130,890	
Net Intangible Assets	\$15,535	\$15,535	\$12,140	\$12,140		EQUITY	\$1,560,634	\$1,679,724	\$1,680,035	\$1,810,925	
FIXED ASSETS	\$157,567	\$162,580	\$155,393	\$190,558							
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,575,905	\$1,695,781	\$1,687,665	\$1,852,977		TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$1,575,905	\$1,695,781	\$1,687,665	\$1,852,977	

MaiFest Snapshot

	MaiFest					
	Actual 2025	Budget 2026	YTD 2026 per QB	Projected 2026	Proj Var to Budget	Proj Var to LY
Admission/Event Income	\$11,310	\$16,500	\$20,130	\$13,385	(\$3,115)	\$2,075
Contributions	\$9,687	\$9,000	\$0	\$10,690	\$1,690	\$1,004
In-Kind Donations	\$6,390	\$6,500	\$0	\$12,152	\$5,652	\$5,762
Sponsorship	<u>\$22,000</u>	<u>\$22,000</u>	<u>\$15,700</u>	<u>\$30,650</u>	<u>\$8,650</u>	<u>\$8,650</u>
Total Income	\$49,387	\$54,000	\$35,830	\$66,877	\$12,877	\$17,490
Subcontractor	\$0	\$0	\$306	\$306	\$306	\$306
Food/Beverages	\$6,040	\$6,500	\$0	\$4,284	(\$2,216)	(\$1,756)
Gifts & Awards	\$500	\$1,500	\$281	\$281	(\$1,219)	(\$219)
In-Kind Expense	\$6,390	\$6,500	\$0	\$12,152	\$5,652	\$5,762
Miscellaneous Expense	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,100	\$100	\$100
Printing/Signage	\$317	\$500	\$631	\$1,298	\$798	\$981
Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$18	\$18	\$18	\$18
Total Expenses	\$14,247	\$16,000	\$1,236	\$19,438	\$3,438	\$5,191
Net Operating Income	\$35,140	\$38,000	\$34,594	\$47,439	\$9,439	\$12,299

Notes:

- 50/50 raffle payout shown here as a contra to Contributions revenue
- In-Kind Donations and Expenses do not yet reflect the value of silent auction donation items

Finance Committee

- No July meeting (planned)
- August Meeting (Thu 8/20)
 - YTD financials
 - 2025 audit status
 - 2027 budget process
 - Building projects
- Review of Financial & Risk Policies document

Visitor Center Renovation

- The design work is continuing.
- The initial costs for the desired millwork came in higher than we wanted so we are exploring alternative providers.
- It is likely that the total cost will be higher than we originally projected and we'll be working with the right partners to strategize the additional fundraising that will be needed. We'll be back with the Board with these discussions over the next couple of months
- Our design work is currently centering on the development of the German Village Historic Timeline that will cover the entire South wall of the Center. It will contain pictures, written text and artifacts showcasing our history along with a touch screen offering additional information and stories about our history.

German Village Business Community

August 2026 Board Report

The August GVBC meeting was held August 4 with Brent Beatty and Neal Raffensberger leading in my absence.

Membership, Map & Outreach: The committee received an update on its recommendation that the 2027 German Village map return to being a GVBC member benefit, which is now before the Board for consideration. Members also discussed keeping map advertising accessible to smaller businesses and unanimously recommended a \$200 advertising rate for the next edition.

Tourism & Historic Preservation: Discussion continued around the map and a potential historic preservation/visitor guide. The group generally favored keeping the two products distinct, while potentially incorporating the map into a future guide. Members also identified opportunities to improve map color coding and digital distribution.

2027 Planning: The committee began discussing future uses of GVBC designated funds, including potential German Village merchandise that could generate revenue while incorporating neighborhood history and preservation messaging.

Business Collaboration: The Garden Club presented an update on the successful Gnome project, generating considerable interest in stronger GVBC collaboration and opportunities to expand the initiative in 2027. Members also expressed interest in having the chairs of Oktoberfest, Monster Bash and Village Lights attend future GVBC meetings to discuss ways businesses can participate.

Advocacy: Following the fire code concern raised by Winans, discussion identified at least two additional German Village businesses that have encountered similar basement storage/fire code issues. GVBC will continue gathering information to determine the scope before considering a broader survey or advocacy response.

Engagement: The committee continues to focus on increasing in person participation, networking and attendance at GVBC social events.

Action Items / Board Consideration:

- 2027 map membership benefit recommendation

Robert Caplin
Chair, German Village Business Community

Historic Preservation & Advocacy Committee (HPAC)

Board Report

July 27, 2026 Meeting Summary

Advocacy Committee Report

Parking & Traffic Safety: Advocacy members reviewed the parking survey and meeting with the City. Members discussed opportunities to recover some parking spaces through NSAT sign review. Approximately 300 spaces may have been lost over time, although only a portion may ultimately be recoverable. Long-term impacts from future redevelopment of the Nationwide parking lots along Livingston Avenue were also discussed.

Tree Canopy Initiative: Coordination with City Forestry and the Columbus Tree Coalition continues.

Neglected & At-Risk Properties: Monitoring and tracking efforts continue.

Utilities & Infrastructure: Columbia Gas restoration and ADA ramp work continue.

Street Lighting: Members supported dialogue with the City regarding historic district lighting standards.

Historic Preservation Committee Report

GVC COAs of Interest: HP members reviewed August 5 agenda items and reaffirmed HPAC's educational role.

GVC Minutes Archive: A searchable archive dating to January 1, 2020 is complete and available through the HPAC shared drive, with AI enhancements planned.

Sidewalk Repair / Restoration Incentive Program: Members discussed expanding participation.

Brickline Update: Phase II work continues.

Looking Ahead

HPAC will continue advancing Advocacy and Historic Preservation initiatives related to parking, preservation education, tree canopy planning, neglected properties, Brickline, and the Brick Sidewalk Incentive Program.



German Village Society

2026 Candidate Information

At the July 14, 2026 meeting of the German Village Society Board of Trustees, the Organizational Development Committee placed in nomination the names of five candidates for election to the Board of Trustees. No self-nomination petitions were received by the Election Committee.

The 2026 Board of Trustees candidates nominated for election are: Stephen Fechter, Jessica Fleming, Jeff Lamb, Sherri Lazear, and Mary Connolly Ross.

Candidate biographies are provided on the following pages. If anyone prefers to vote in person, please reach out to the GVS office for a hard-copy ballot.

**Voting Starts:**

Friday, August 7, 2026 at 9:00 AM

Voting Ends:

Friday, August 28, 2026 at 4:00 PM

Voting Opens Aug 7th

Stephen Fechter



Jessica Fleming



Jeff Lamb



Sherri Lazear



Mary Connolly Ross



German Village Society

2026 Candidate Information



Stephen Fechter

German Village resident Stephen Fechter is an accomplished advertising executive, creative leader, entrepreneur, and longtime member of the Columbus community. Recently retired, Stephen founded Fechter Advertising in 2003, a Columbus-based agency known for strategic thinking, memorable creative work, and strong client relationships. Over a career spanning more than four decades, Stephen has helped organizations tell their stories through thoughtful, engaging communications while earning recognition as a respected creative thinker and mentor. Beyond his professional career, he has been actively involved in the Columbus community, including service with Franklinton Cycle Works, the Columbus Music Commission, and the Ohio Diversity Council. He lends his experience and perspective to community and creative endeavors, and you can find him volunteering in the GVS Visitor Center.



Jessica Fleming

Jess grew up in Canton, Ohio, and moved to Columbus in 2006 to attend graduate school at The Ohio State University. She progressively moved south and landed in German Village in 2014. She loves everything about this neighborhood, including the beautiful homes and gardens, the access to amazing coffee shops and restaurants, and most importantly the people. The ease in which to make friends and to be able to walk to their homes is such a perk of living in German Village. As a board member, Jess wants to promote community involvement and connectivity within German Village because she believes this is what makes this neighborhood so special. She co-chaired the 2023 Haus und Garten Tour and enjoyed engaging with friends and neighbors to benefit the German Village Society. Jess is an avid runner and biker and has also taken up playing squash at the Athletic Club of Columbus. At the Athletic Club, she also serves on the Membership Committee and considers the club her home away from home. She has worked as a cancer researcher at The James Cancer Center for a little over a decade and is passionate about developing personalized therapies for cancer patients.

German Village Society

2026 Candidate Information



Jeff Lamb

Jeff's love of German Village began decades ago with his love of Actors' Theatre of Columbus, the group that puts on "Shakespeare in the Park" in Schiller Park every summer. He still makes a point of seeing at least one performance of each of the four shows they put on every summer. Jeff's home is often a stop for Monster Bash ("The Pirate House" and "The Moulin Rouge House"). He is actively involved in many of the technology initiatives of German Village; chairing the IT Committee before joining the board, supporting efforts to refresh the website, and creating the package system (which he wrote the computer programming for). Jeff is an active member and supporter of Germania, the Athletic Club of Columbus, and Actors Theatre of Columbus. Professionally, Jeff is the Chief Technology Officer of DOmedia, a software company headquartered here in Columbus.



Sherri Lazear

Sherri serves as General Counsel of Lazear Capital Partners, Ltd. She also advises business owners on ESOP transactions, particularly in the construction, architectural, and engineering sectors, helping ensure smooth and compliant ownership transitions. Sherri had more than 30 years of experience as a litigator at BakerHostetler, a major national law firm, where she focused on construction, bankruptcy, and real estate litigation, as well as alternative dispute resolution. She is a member of the National Council of the Moritz College of Law and serves on several nonprofit boards in Central Ohio, including Families Flourish and Jewish Family Services.



**Mary
Connolly Ross**

Mary Connolly Ross has lived in German Village for more than 35 years and brings a long record of professional experience and community involvement to the German Village Society Board. She earned her undergraduate degree from Miami University and her graduate degree from the University of Cincinnati. Mary spent 32 years as a consultant working with retail, hospital systems, financial institutions, and law firms, focusing on employee counseling, program development, assessments, and seminars related to work life issues. She later transitioned to a second career as an interior designer, which she continues to practice, and has served on numerous nonprofit boards. Mary's commitment to German Village is deep and longstanding. Her home has been featured on the Haus und Garten Tour four times, and she has hosted and co-chaired multiple Pre Tour events. She is a recipient of the German Village Society Village Valuable Award, has welcomed local and national visitors through her home as part of neighborhood tours, and volunteers weekly at the Visitor Center.