
Cleveland Restoration Society

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Meeting Minutes
The Sara Benedict House
Cleveland, Ohio

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

All exhibits and attachments referenced herein are on file in the CRS office and are available upon request.

Trustees in Attendance

Michael Baruschke
Hannah Fritzman Belsito
Michael Chesler
Steve Coon
Michael Cummins
Kevin Dreyfuss-Wells
Charles Farro

Dale Hilton
Anthony Hiti
Douglas Hoffman
Scott Holbrook
William Hubbard
J. Gordon Priemer
Rosemary Reymann

Bill Saltzman
Nancy Seitz
Brian Stark
Robert Weeks
Debra Wilson
Lin Emmons

Staff in Attendance

Tom Jorgensen, Chief Operating Officer
Michael Fleenor, Director of Preservation Programs
Felicia Y. Hall, Director of Administration
Ann Bish, Business & Finance Manager

- I. Call to Order – Mike Cummins, Chair of the Board
 - a. Michael Cummings requested approval of the minutes of the September 16, 2014 Board meeting. Gordon Premier made the motion, which was seconded by Tony Hiti and approved by the Board.
 - b. Gordon Priemer, chair of the Nominating & Trustees Committee, nominated Richard Borsh to the Board. Brian Stark moved that Mr. Borsh be nominated. Nancy Sietz seconded the motion, and it was approved by the board.
 - c. Policy on Trustee Engagement – Mike Cummins circulated and explained a written policy regarding board engagement and expectations of the trustees. He then requested comments and discussion. Trustees commented that more boards are laying out similar clear expectations and it was a good idea. Steve Coon moved that the policy be adopted. Michael Chesler seconded the motion, and it was approved by the board.
- II. Financial Report
 - a. Tom Jorgensen, Chief Operating Officer, and Ann Bish, Business and Finance Manager provided a financial performance overview. They are forecasting a loss of \$23,352 due to the

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timing of NDA funds. Majority of those funds will be received in 2015 as opposed to 2014, as was anticipated. On a positive note, events were more financially successful than had been anticipated and a \$6,000 grant from KeyBank was received, which was not anticipated.

- b. The cash flow forecast was discussed and the Board questioned whether there was a better way to handle the issue. Though it is anticipated every year, it was recommended that the Board restricted endowment funds continue to be used to cover the negative cash flow. It is less costly to take the money out of the Board funds than to establish a line of credit on which interest would have to be paid.

III. Report on the Benefit 10/11 @ the 9 –Gordon Priemer, Vice Chair & Felicia Hall, Director of Administration

- a. Everyone thought it was a great success and recognized that the staff undertook extra efforts to secure additional sponsors. We have established new and re-established old relationships with sponsors including Medical Mutual, Precision Environmental Co., and Walter & Haverfield, LLP.

IV. Thriving Communities Institute Project Progress Report

- a. Michael Fleenor, Director of Preservation Services, reported on a project that he has undertaken for the Saint Luke's Neighborhood Revitalization Branch of Western Reserve Land Conservancy. All distressed properties in the Buckeye-Shaker, Woodland Hills, and Mount Pleasant neighborhoods were surveyed. Of 1020 houses, 18 were found to have architectural merit and worthy of action to save from demolition. Two have been transferred to the land bank, and are therefore in danger. The next step it is to further investigate the 18 and evaluate the current ownership status of the houses and consider what can be done to avoid demolition.

V. Update on Threatened Properties

- a. 2834 Courtland Boulevard Court Case
Scott Holbrook, Trustee and Tom Jorgensen, Chief Operating Officer, provided a summary of the process and reported that the parties have agreed to general settlement terms that will ensure the preservation of the property. Scott was congratulated on and thank for his hard work
- b. 3214 Prospect Avenue
At CRS's request, the City secured the property. CRS staff is evaluating if any action should be taken.

VI. Other Business

- a. Michael Chesler announced that the Chesler Group will be renovating the Stager-Beckwith mansion on behalf of the Children's Museum of Cleveland. Michael invited the Board to tour the building before substantial renovation started so that the Board could witness the transformation.

- VII. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00.
Minutes respectfully submitted by Bill Hubbard, Board Secretary.