
Cleveland Restoration Society

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting Minutes

Harvard Community Services Center
Cleveland, OH

Tuesday, September 1, 2015

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

Trustees in Attendance

Chad Arfons	Douglas Hoffman	Rosemary Reymann
Michael Chesler	William Hubbard	Stephanie Ryberg-Webster
Michael Cummins	Denise Huck	Bill Saltzman
Jan Devereaux	Rick Kirk	Dan Siegel
Gary Fischer	Jeremy Paris	Robert Weeks
Greg Frost	Gordon M. Priemer	Debra Wilson
Anthony Hiti	J. Gordon Priemer	

I. Call to Order — Michael Cummins, Chair of the Board

Michael called the meeting to order and requested approval of the minutes of the May 12, 2015 Board meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Tony Hiti, seconded by Doug Hoffman, and approved unanimously. Michael then introduced the new trustees: Chad Arfons, Gary Fischer, Denise Huck, Rick Kirk, Jeremy Paris, Gordon M. Priemer, and Dan Siegel.

II. Ward 1 Presentations

Councilman Terrell Pruitt welcomed the Board and provided an overview of Ward 1, one of the largest enclaves of African Americans in Ohio and the largest in the City of Cleveland. The Ward has the highest percentage of occupied housing units in the City, 85% of the Ward is residential, and the vast majority of those units are single family. Seven pocket parks and schools are located throughout the community. The Councilman explained the history of the neighborhood and explained how that history has shaped the neighborhood and how the changing conditions provide new opportunities to develop parks and senior housing. The closing of some schools provide larger parcels upon which development can take place.

Ms. Debra Prater, program manager, and Ms. Michelle Oliver, executive assistant, welcomed the Board to the Harvard Community Services Center and explained its significant role as a Social Service Provider. The Center has recently added a community development role.

Kathleen Crowther summarized the work that CRS has done in Ward 1, which includes conducting an architectural survey of the neighborhood. The Ward was developed largely after World War II and is the most complete post WWII suburb in the City of Cleveland. CRS conducted oral interviews of eleven neighborhood elders to memorialize their experiences in the neighborhood. CRS also identified the Arthur Bussey neighborhood and is in the process of getting the neighborhood designated as a local historic district. CRS submitted an application to the National Endowment for the Humanities to work

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collaboratively with Cleveland Memory to digitize historical images of the neighborhood. It is hoped that the oral history of the neighborhood can be used to market the neighborhood as it gets re-branded.

III. Courtland House Update

Michael Cummins provided an update on the Courtland House. CRS has received and filed a deed in lieu of foreclosure and is now working on the sale of the property. Last week a committee of Trustees met to brainstorm best ways to sell and market the property and some informal offers have already been received. Optimistically, it appears that the property might sell and close by year end.

Michael proposed to the Board that the Executive Committee be given authority to market the property and sell it for an appropriate price. CRS has less than \$100,000 into the project. A motion to provide the EC with such authority was made by Doug Hoffman, seconded by Tony Hiti, and approved unanimously. The Board will form a committee to identify similar real estate opportunities.

IV. Financial Report and Staff Transitions

Tom Jorgensen reviewed the financial performance of CRS. Included in the forecast is a profit of \$100,000 from the sale of the Courtland House. However, the 2015 benefit has been cancelled, which will result in a budget deficit. The Board discussed the reality of closing on the Cortland house within this calendar year and whether requirements imposed by the Shaker Heights may slow the closing.

Felicia Hall has accepted a position as the Manager of the West Side Market. Mary Ogle has accepted a position as Project Reviews Manager, Section 106 Department of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office.

V. Sacred Landmarks Support Initiative Report

Doug Hoffman distributed a written report on the Sacred Landmarks Support Initiative (SLSI) and provided an oral report. The Committee is working with seven different congregations.

VI. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bill Hubbard, Board Secretary.