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**Cleveland Restoration Society**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Meeting Minutes**

Sarah Benedict House  
Cleveland, Ohio

November 19, 2013

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

**TRUSTEES IN ATTENDANCE**

Renee Beaver	Doug Hoffman	Stephanie Ryberg-Webster
Hannah Fritzman Belsito	Scott Holbrook	Brian Stark
Richard Cline	William Hubbard	Emily Sullivan
Michael Cummins	Joe Marinucci	Natoya Walker Minor
Kevin Dreyfuss-Wells	Gordon Priemer	Robert Weeks
Greg Frost	Rosemary Reymann	Anthony Whitfield

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Kathleen H. Crowther, President  
Tom Jorgensen, Chief Operating Officer  
Michael Fleenor, Director of Preservation Services

**I. Chair's report – Mike Cummins**

- A. The Minutes of the Meeting on September 5th, 2013 were approved by the board.
- B. Mike and Kathleen Crowther reiterated the importance of the 2013 Annual Fund 2013 in general and the importance that all Trustees participate.
- C. Mike and Kathleen explained that CRS received the Trustees Award of Organizational Excellence from the National Trust for Historic Preservation at the 2013 National Preservation Conference in Indianapolis. It was a very nice ceremony and a number of CRS Trustees were able to attend.

**II. Discussion Item – Challenges Ahead for Sacred Landmarks – Kathleen Crowther, President, Michael Fleenor, Director of Preservation Services**

- A. Michael Fleenor provided a presentation of historic churches that are facing preservation challenges.

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- B. The Board had a lengthy discussion about how to approach the problem. The Board recognized the importance of the churches Michael discussed and also identified additional churches that may be in danger. The Board voiced the importance of looking at other churches to identify them before they get into trouble and provide advocacy as to why the churches should be saved as well as technical assistance and provide a preservation voice on the issue through alerts and Façade Magazine. It was suggested that CRS assist with a review of churches and congregations and identify those that may be in trouble given the size of the congregation and help them strategize as to how to maintain their structures. CRS should look at the success stories to identify what has worked in the past. One idea was to create a development group to act as a resource to possibly drive deals and assist the pastors in figuring out what to do and how to deal with their structures. Some Trustees have provided technical assistance for free. Doing so made the congregations realize that small, affordable maintenance and repairs can have a substantial effect in protecting the building. It was also suggested that CRS could help by identifying flexible uses and looking at zoning strategies to alleviate some of the hurdles in re-using the buildings. It was suggested that an *ad hoc* committee be created to strategize as to issues to save such structures.

**III. Board and Staff Reports**

- A. Small Deals Project

Mike Cummings gave a summary of the status of the Small Deals Task Force. They have had two successful meetings and were working on a deliverable.

- B. Community Luncheon

Mike also announced that the Community Luncheon would be held February 6th at the Tudor Arms and that Christopher Connor, CEO of Sherwin Williams, would be the keynote speaker. Trustees were asked to consider being table sponsors.

- C. Advocacy Committee

Tony Hiti summarized two issues: (1) the design of the new convention center hotel, and (2) the redesign of Public Square. He announced two additional meetings regarding those structures.

- D. Treasurer's Report: 2013 Year End Forecast

Tom Jorgensen, Chief Operating Officer and Joe Marinucci explained that a small deficit of \$6,000 in the 2013 budget was currently being projected. They reiterated the importance of the Annual Fund.

- E. Franklin Circle Church Steeple Lighting, Snoop

Greg Frost reported that the Snoop at Franklin Circle Christian Church was well received. The Church was one of the award winners of the preservations awards that CRS holds in conjunction with AIA Cleveland. He thought that the Snoop was a great way to promote CRS and other preservation award winners.

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F. Legacy Cities Conference, Call for Presentations

Stephanie Ryberg Webster provided a summary of the status of Legacy Cities Conference and the call for presenters. She asked that everyone save the date for the conference which will be held June 5-7. CRS will be hosting a reception during the conference.

G. Heritage Home Program<sup>SM</sup> – 1,000th Loan

Tom Jorgensen explained that CRS had closed its 1,000th loan and it is now up to approximately 1,030 signed loans with \$38 million in investments. In addition, CRS has provided more than 5,700 instances of technical assistance for a value of more than \$130 million. CRS has also increased the number of cities participating in the program. The city of Euclid does not currently participate and is our biggest target. Anyone with contacts with Euclid was asked to help convince the city to support the Heritage Home Program.

**IV. Old Business**

There was no Old Business.

**V. New Business**

It was recognized that Bob Kaiser from the City of Cleveland Landmarks Commission will be retiring and that the Board may want to consider recognizing his service.

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned and the next Board Meeting is scheduled for January 21st.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bill Hubbard, Board Secretary.