
Cleveland Restoration Society

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting Minutes

Sarah Benedict House
3751 Prospect Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2705

January 17, 2012

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

TRUSTEES IN ATTENDANCE

John Anoliefo	Michael Cummins	Jan Devereaux	Kevin Dreyfuss-Wells
Tom Einhouse	Lin Emmons	Greg Frost	Anthony Hiti
Doug Hoffman	William Hubbard	Joe Marinucci	Neil Mohney
Analia Nanni Dimit	Gordon Priemer	Rosemary Reymann	Jonathan Sandvick
Nancy Seitz	Brian Stark	Michael Swearngen	Natoya Walker Minor
Anthony Whitfield	Debra Wilson		

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Kathleen Crowther, President
Tom Jorgensen, Chief Operating Officer

I. Chair's Report –Joe Marinucci

A. Approval of the Minutes of the November 15th Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 15 Board Meeting was seconded and passed by the Board.

B. 38th Annual Community Luncheon 2011 Report

The luncheon was very successful with Cuyahoga County Administrator Edward Fitzgerald as the featured speaker. The net profit of \$12,551 was nearly double last year's luncheon profit.

C. Annual Fund 2011-Thank You!

Chair Marinucci thanked the trustees for their contributions to the annual fund and for their help in signing letters of request to others. Some follow-up phone calls are being made by the Chair to get full participation of the Board.

II. Year in Review 2011 -- Kathleen Crowther

It has been a year of marked transition. Fortunately, we anticipate closing this fiscal year with a small profit due to the success of updating, restoring, and then selling the Upson House which had been donated to us. Also, our benefits, including the Community Luncheon, made profits. Also there was prudent hiring of three new staff to replace three we lost.

New efforts were made to publicize programs and events through website renewal, enhanced Facebook and Social Media and increased publicity via events and advocacy issues, which will be continued particularly with the Plain Dealer. Cleveland Councilman Jeff Johnson showcased how historical properties in a councilman's ward can and should receive Cleveland Landmark Designations. On the down side our Heritage Home Program was markedly underused mostly due to the poor economy.

III. Preservation Topics

A. Heritage Home Program Changes – Tom Jorgensen

The Heritage Home Program 2011 Overview shows that more loans were denied and withdrawn than signed in the past year. Sometimes the home equity, even on the improved basis, would not support the loan. In general, however, housing values were decreasing and homeowner incomes stressed making it more difficult to justify some of the proposed improvements.

A table with the Heritage Home Program Loan Application Volume from 2000 to 2011 indicates a high of 117 signed loans in 2006 and a low of 25 signed loans in 2011 with the highest number denied in 2011.

Tom Jorgensen, as newly appointed Chief Operating Officer, has taken the lead in identifying problems the Heritage Home Program is facing and in proposing new initiatives:

1. Help homeowners improve the energy efficiency of their homes.
2. Allow houses with existing aluminium or vinyl siding or windows to participate in the loan program without having to replace the siding or windows.
3. Make loans more affordable with a new interest rate of 1.4% which has just been negotiated with Cleveland City. Next, CRS will try to get the county to reduce the interest rate on county HHP loans from 3.5% to 1.4%.

B. Cleveland Clinic & Area Churches -- Anthony Hiti & Craig Miller

Cleveland Clinic has demolished several historic buildings in its area in the past and is poised to take down two Euclid Avenue churches: Euclid Avenue Church of God and Church of the Transfiguration. This prompted a team from CRS consisting of Kathleen Crowther, Craig Miller, Michael Fleenor and Tony Hiti to talk about the seriousness of this issue and the loss of other historic buildings with the editorial board of the Plain Dealer.

In addition, this group is seeking a meeting with the Cleveland Clinic which has indicated plans to release information on its master plan.

C. Historic Schools – Anthony Hiti & Kathleen Crowther

Regrettably the Cleveland School of the Arts on Stearns Avenue is in the process of being demolished. The new structure on this site will incorporate some of the historic building's decorative terra cotta elements.

The John Marshall High School, a landmark building, has also been approved for demolition. The existing building has 300,000 square feet, a pool and a grand auditorium. It will be replaced by a simpler 207,000 square foot structure that will not have a pool, an auditorium and the same kind of the architectural decorations that the existing building has. Discussion centered in getting the public more involved in saving their historic buildings.

D. Forest City Brewery – Tom Jorgensen

This building on the Historic Register was expedited for demolition by the City citing it as a threat to public safety. CRS had no time to take a stand.

E. 6512 Superior Avenue E. – Kathleen Crowther & Tom Jorgensen

A fine Italianate frame house is at this site but it has fallen into disrepair and has been condemned. An effort will be made to help the owner with a loan if possible and feasible.

IV. 2012 Benefit Report

A. Venue Recommendation

Calfee Halter law firm is restoring a 1911 building at 1405 East 6th Street for its offices. The building was originally the headquarters of East Ohio Gas Company and later of WKYC. Once completed it will be an excellent venue for a CRS benefit.

Those volunteering to help plan such a benefit include Neil Mohney, Nancy Seitz and Lin Emmons.

B. Committee Chair & Launch of Planning

The anniversary begins in November, 2012 and can run for a year with celebrations dotted through it. Those volunteering to work on that celebration include Analia Nani Dimit, Brian Stark and Joe Marinucci.

V. 40th Anniversary Plans

A. Task Force Needed

The anniversary begins in November, 2011 and can run for a year with celebrations dotted through it. Those volunteering to work on that celebration include Analia Nanni Dimit, Brian Stark and Joe Marinucci.

VI. New Business

None

VII. Old Business

None

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm. Minutes respectfully submitted Lillian Emmons, Board Secretary.