

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FRIENDS OF POPLAR HILL MANSION

May 19, 2021

Open Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Board Chair, David Scheid, Vice Chair, Jeanne Mears, Treasurer, Sharon Murphy; Board Members: Ginny Hussey, Betsy Wolfe, and Loudell Insley; Curator & Recording Secretary, Sarah Meyers; Guest: Nancy Robertson

I. Call to Order:

The May Open Board Meeting of the Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion was called to order on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. by Board Chair David Scheid.

II. Approval of Minutes:

The Board Chair asked if there were any corrections or additions to the April 21, 2021 Open Board Meeting Minutes. (Betsy had a question about Board recruitment mentioned in the minutes, but not the way the minutes were written). Hearing no corrections to the minutes, the April Open Board Meeting Minutes were approved.

III. Reports:

A.) Chair: David Scheid

- 1.) David addressed the question about the Bylaws Betsy asked in regards to Board recruitment. Betsy said she wants to recruit Jeanne Laws to the Board. David said that the Friends will try to have a time when potential Board members can come in, possibly at the August meeting, so that the other members can meet potential Board members. He went on to say that there has been a wait mainly due to restrictions from COVID from the City since the Board has not been able to meet in person. With those restrictions being lifted, the Board can once again consider new members.
- 2.) David reminded everyone that the ribbon cutting for the pollinator garden is tomorrow, May 20, at 11:00. He said that day was chosen because it is World Bee Day. He mentioned that he and Sarah were interviewed by WMDT about the garden.
- 3.) The City has issued new rules in regard to COVID and the Board can resume in person inside meetings starting in July.
- 4.) David suggested that since the Friends have no activities in June and does not usually meet in July, that the Friends postpone the next meeting until August.

B.) Treasurer Report: Chair Sharon Murphy

- 1.) There is \$12,362.51 in the operating budget.
- 2.) There has been quite a few Mansion rentals and deposits, which has contributed to the income. The Mansion's first Quincenera is coming up.
- 3.) The Newtown Association donated \$200.
- 4.) The Hospitality Committee will have the report about the Derby Day Tea.

IV. Curator Report: Sarah Meyers

- 1.) See written report on file at Mansion.
- 2.) Discussion Curator Report: There was a brief discussion about the uptick in event inquiries. Sarah mentioned that other venues have cancelled on people due to COVID restrictions.

V. Committee Reports:

A.) Membership:

- 1.) Peggy Scheibe became a new member after attending the recent tea.
- 2.) A new Membership Chair is needed.

B.) Hospitality: Jeanne Mears

- 1.) Derby Day Tea was successful. Food was good and people enjoyed it. There was a prize for best hat (a gift card to the Mad Hatter). David did centerpieces for each table and also two arrangements which were raffled off. The tea brought in \$612.00, after expenditures and Sarah's commission, the profit was \$325.27.
- 2.) Jeanne talked to Susan Peacock, who asked about a possibly private tea for the Jr. Board at the Hospital.

C.) Publicity:

- 1.) David mentioned that he and Sarah were interviewed by WMDT about the garden.

D.) Acquisitions: Carol Smith

- 1.) No report.

E.) Mansion Improvements: Betsy Wolfe

- 1.) Loudell said she and Betsy had talked about a possible fundraiser for the Mansion. She suggested that people could donate furniture and items they no longer want for the Mansion to sell. Either to sell as is or possibly find people to paint the pieces to sell or consign. One big issue will be to find storage for any of these items. Jeanne mentioned that the furniture could be sold at the Festival and it might be a draw for that.
- 2.) Betsy also suggested that we add different items to the gift shop.

F.) Review Committee: Carol Smith

- 1.) No report.

G.) Garden: David Scheid

- 1.) David will be purchasing new hoses for the Mansion to replace the current ones that have holes.
- 2.) David will be adding irises to the garden as they were used medicinally to help treat wounds.
- 3.) David commended the students who worked so hard creating the pollinating garden, including mentioning that they worked in the rain and at other times outside of class time.

H.) Grant: Ginny Hussey

- 1.) No report.

VI. Old Business

- A. There is still some back and forth with the City Council and other representatives from the City about the ADA ramp versus lift question. Council President Heath wants a ramp with the main argument being that in case of emergency, or if there is a problem with a lift, there would still be access out of the building with a ramp. Council is planning further discussion.
- B. Sarah said the Wicomico Women's Club sent in a thank you card for the private tea that was done for them.

VII. New Business

- A.) Betsy asked about a handicapped parking place and if there is a plan to install one.
- B.) David talked about the need for outdoor interpretive signage. He'd like to add four signs to interpret the Garden, Smokehouse, Privy, and the Kitchen. The signs will probably cost about \$4,000. They would meet the standards set by and similar to what the City already has in place. The question was asked about the similarity to the signs at Parson's Cemetery. It was unknown by those present if they are similar. Sarah pointed out that they would be like the ones at the Potter's Field Cemetery and the Riverwalk. David asked for a motion to proceed. Loudell made the motion to create the four outdoor signs. Ginny seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- C.) David talked about the fence to go behind the pollinating garden. It will be a white Chippendale style fence. He would like it to be a PVC fence if MHT will allow that material. It will take approximately 10 premade units to build the fence with additional posts. The cost for the fence will be approximately \$4,000. He would also like to add two 6x6 posts at the entrance of the parking lot to mimic gate posts. Loudell asked where the money for this project was coming from. David said it would come from the Friends available Community Foundation money. David asked for a motion to move forward with the fence. Ginny made the motion. Sharon seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- D.) Sarah mentioned that Steve Deggendorf, who donated money in memory of his mother, former Board member Gen Deggendorf, would like to donate more and asked about any special projects at PHM. Loudell suggested the Friends develop a wishlist of projects in response to anyone who might want to donate monetary gifts so they can know where their money is going and how well that worked when she was a member of the Chamber.

VIII. Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sarah Meyers
Curator, Recording Secretary