

Foggy Bottom Association
Minutes of Meeting of Board of Directors
December 8, 2020 at 7 PM

President John George called the Online meeting to order at 7PM.

All members of the Board were present: John George, Donna Barbisch, Eileen Carey, Christine Farnsworth, Julia Gustafson, Peter Maye, Mary Ellen Signorille, Denise Vogt.

John shared his screen to discuss the agenda, a copy of which is attached.

He asked all board members to introduce themselves, discuss their background, and explain what they hoped to accomplish by participating as an FBA Board member. All of the Board members enthusiastically did so. For those Board members who had previously served they explained what committees they had worked on.

FBA By-Laws

John began with a discussion of the FBA Bylaws and reminded everyone that the Board can have nine members instead of the current eight. He stated that it would be helpful to ensure that there are no ties for votes. The Board discussed various ideas of the type of person who might bring a different perspective to the Board. Eileen had a candidate in mind. Board members also voiced ideas to include a board member associated with the GW University. John was going to discuss potential GWU student/faculty participation during his meeting with GWU representatives later in the week.

John asked the Board to share information about potential BOD candidates to consider. As well, he asked each to share their contact information among the Board members. Mary Ellen stated she would compile such a roster.

FBA Officer Discussion

President George stated that the FBA Board needed to vote for a Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Mary Ellen stated she was willing to be Secretary. Julia Gustafson expressed interest in the office of Vice President, but warned her ability to serve may be impacted later in year due to work obligations. Outsourcing the duties of the office of Treasurer was discussed.

Confirmation of FBA Monthly Membership Meetings

The Board agreed that the FBA Monthly membership meetings would be held on the last Tuesday of each month (except July, August & December) for up to 90 minutes). Zoom virtual meetings will be conducted until DC pandemic rules allow in-person meetings.

Confirmation of FBA BOD Meetings – Day / Time

The Board agreed that the FBA Monthly Board of Director meetings would be held on the first Tuesday of each month for up to 90 minutes. Zoom virtual meetings will be conducted until DC pandemic rules allow in-person meetings.

What is the Foggy Bottom Association? Setting the vision for 2021 and beyond

John transitioned to discuss Board priorities and vision. Discussion included:

- John introduced an online visual planning tool called Trello. Trello allows creation of activity cards and to group them by category and to track progress until completed which will serve as both a directional guide and a list of accomplishments once done.
- The Board had a robust discussion concerning what the group should use to guide decisions. History became a focus. The history of Foggy Bottom and the FBA as well as how that history might be reflected in the actions of the FBA.
- There was discussion of the types of issues the FBA should be involved in, how membership should be structured and how to meet our members where they are, what the vision should be of the FBA, the relationship between FBA and area businesses, and how COVID is impacting our community.
- BOD members added more Trello cards and John review the items and categorized a few. John took the action item to use Trello to further categorize activities, tasks and ideas.
- During this discussion, several comments were posted to the chat including:
 - o eileen carey : there's a book at cvs on the history of foggy bottom / west end that I've given to my neighbors and I'll find the title
 - o https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781596293328?qclid=Cj0KCQiA5bz-BRD-ARIsABjT4nixEdyVYmXBDoX-3cxMzGxbFIK0UTNy0H7dQP0-In2_vTZPj7Q5yo8aAqhSEALw_wcB&ef_id=X9AkhAAABRRKSwkj:20201209011236:s
 - o eileen carey : Foggy Bottom & the West end by gilmore and Olsen
 - o Donna Barbisch : https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foggy_Bottom
 - o eileen carey : Here is an example of the gwu foggy bottom restoration archives collection for 1945-84
 - o eileen carey : <https://searcharchives.library.gwu.edu/repositories/2/resources/315>
 - o Question: eileen carey : so they do have these historical artifacts open sourced?

Action Items:

- Next Board Meeting Tuesday January 5, 2020 7:00 pm Zoom. John to send invite
- BOD to send suggestions for a BOD candidate
- Mary Ellen to send minutes to BOD
- Mary Ellen to gather and confirm contact information for each board meeting
- John to use Trello to further categorize activities, tasks and ideas
- John to give Trello access to each BOD member (individual use is optional, but John will use at each BOD meeting for tracking priorities.

President George adjourned the meeting at 8:41 pm.