

Foggy Bottom Association
Minutes of Meeting of Board of Directors
February 2, 2021 at 7 PM

President John George called the Online meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Attendance:

Present Board Members: John George, Donna Barbisch (left at 7:45 PM), Eileen Carey, Christina Farnsworth, Peter Maye, Mary Ellen Signorille, Denise Vogt.

Absent Board Member Due to Technical Difficulty: Julia Gustafson

Approval of January BOD Minutes: There was a discussion of the January 5, 2021 minutes. Denise Vogt moved to accept the January 2021 meeting with changes as discussed, and Christina Farnsworth seconded the motion to confirm the positions. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

President's Report

- Foggy Bottom Association – Refining Mission and Goals
Exercise to reflect on mission and goals to start the process.

- Engage the community to determine what is important to them.
- Continuation of discounts
- Continue with goals on existing website – civic, historical, businesses
- Safety
- Beautification of community
- Establish Clean-Up campaign
- Growing the community to become one of the outstanding communities in DC.
- Promote culture
- Promote inclusiveness
- Work with other organizations to optimize impact
- Volunteerism – GW Students
- Understanding Foggy Bottom history
- Mission: Preserve the history, beauty, and charm of the Foggy Bottom community
 - Goal: Make Foggy Bottom a wonderful place for all neighbors
 - Goal: Support the arts, green spaces, and local businesses
 - Goal: Celebrate Foggy Bottom History
- Link GWU/Textile Museum and FBA for history

- GWU President to meet with FBA Board – Thursday February 11, 2021 7:00 pm
For an open conversation. Potential topics
 - o Rats, litter on the ground, and overflowing trash bins
 - o Washington Circle Hotel for student housing
 - o Vacancy rate for student housing and how does that effect the University
 - o COVID data – full transparency to FBA
 - o Can we use GW testing?
 - o Helipad record keeping
 - o Varsity building

 - Additional FBA Board member
 - o Interest from GWU Professor's spouse
 - o President George requested that other Board members refer candidates for the FBA Board position

 - Public Safety – President George will be Meeting with ANC and City officials re: sidewalk repairs (between 24th & 25th Streets NW near St. Paul's and mid-block on west side of 25th Street from tree roots) and storm drain clean-up on February 4, 2021
- Public Health / Public Safety – Abandoned Houses on I Street. Coordination between ANC and FBA. President George is expected to be meet with DCRA this week.
- Rat Patrol – Denise and Peter are coordinating with DC Health for regular Rat Patrol.
 - Adopt a Block Meeting – President George will be attending a meeting with DC's "adopt a block" group on Monday February 8 to learn more from that group and its benefits.
 - Board reviewed and discussed the release of letter acknowledging GWU Bicentennial from the FBA. Denise Vogt moved and Peter Maye seconded the motion to approve a letter congratulating GWU for its Bicentennial following changes and for President George to send it. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (President George)

- Approval of Bookkeeper Contract. President George discussed the need for the bookkeeper and Eileen indicated she would send comments to President George. As President George reviews changes, he will send a new version to the Board for email approval. The Board reviewed the amended contract by email. It was approved unanimously by email.
- DCRA business licensed revoked – President George is working to reinstate

- Annual Budget: Monthly income and expenditures after former treasurer's report for 2020 is received and the bookkeeper is onboard.
- Application to Foggy Bottom Defense Fund (The Trust) for 2021 funding is due March 1, 2021.

Technology (Eileen Carey)

- Eileen will continue to review and audit various technology uses. She will continue to meet with board members and inform the board when her review is complete. The Board discussed the possibility of calling a separate meeting to discuss findings.

Membership Report (Mary Ellen Signorille)

- Membership Status (208 current members; 173 former members, and 12 people who FBA knows have moved out of DC area or are deceased)
 - Discuss and document policy for COVID extension and renewals. Mary Ellen suggested to review in June 2021.
- Will consider change in membership due dates by anniversary date, align with calendar year or by quarter.

Garden Committee Report (Peter Maye)

- Garden Committee Activities
 - o Peter recapped January past activities.
 - o Peter recapped February planned activities.
 - o Peter suggested potential fund-raising donation form/volunteer form for website.
 - o Beautification of green spaces and issues with watering; keep things surviving.
 - o President George suggested potential collaboration with other groups, specifically the Citizens Association of Georgetown.

Communications (Christina Farnsworth)

- Christina obtained 2014 and 2018 surveys; they had very low response rates.
- She stated that it is helpful to keep survey questions somewhat parallel to see trends.
- She suggested getting FBA technology established and working before doing another survey.
- She suggested putting pet section on website because of "pandemic" pets and to build community.

Regular Monthly Community Meetings (President George)

- Standard Agenda – how did that work?

- Mary Ellen suggested having Board members talk on specific topics
- Monthly Topic: President George stated that suggestions should be placed on Trello

Foggy Bottom History – Denise Vogt

Denise will head the Foggy Bottom History Project. She talked about different “hard” historical items such as maps, documents, and photos. She suggested collecting the history of homes in the area along with oral history of homeowners. Denise will also determine the scope of the Project and provide an outline of this scope.

Trello Review – President George, Facilitator

This topic was deferred due to time constraints.

Other Announcements / Upcoming Events

- GWU President to meet with FBA Board – Thursday February 11, 2021 7:00 pm
- ANC2A Meeting Wednesday February 17, 2021
- FBA February Community Meeting – Tuesday February 23, 2021

Action Items:

- Next Board Meeting: Tuesday March 2, 2021 7:00 pm via Zoom. John to send invite
- Mary Ellen to send minutes to BOD
- President George to research E&O (Executive and Officer Insurance) coverage.
- President George as Treasurer will share annual budget.
- Eileen suggests a separate meeting on technology-related issues.
- Peter and Eileen should discuss Gardening Committee webform.
- Denise and Eileen will discuss the use of the website for Foggy Bottom History.
- President George will review Trello to determine the speaker/topic for FBA community meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 pm.

Submitted by Mary Ellen Signorille, FBA Secretary.