

Foggy Bottom Association
Minutes of Meeting of Board of Directors
January 5, 2021 at 7 PM

President John George called the Online meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Attendance:

Present Board Members: John George, Donna Barbisch, Eileen Carey, Christine Farnsworth, Julia Gustafson, Peter Maye, Mary Ellen Signorille, Denise Vogt.

Absent Board Members: 0

Late joining Board Members: 0

Confirmation of FBA Officers

Donna Barbisch moved to accept Julia Gustafson as Vice-President and Mary Ellen Signorille as Secretary and Denise Vogt seconded the motion to confirm the positions. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

President's Report

President George recapped his meeting with George Washington University (GW) representatives – Renee McPhatter, Esq., Assistant Vice President for Government and Community Relations, Kevin Days, Director of Community Relations, and Gabrielle Sosa, Assistant Director of Government Relations.

President LeBlanc would like to meet separately with Board; the Board agreed to meet with him at the next Board meeting (in February) if he is available.

For the membership meeting, GW has asked for an agenda and potential questions. President George asked the Board for areas of concern and questions to which the FBA membership may want answers. Among the suggested areas of concern included: COVID & trash compliance, discussion of the GW policy for noncompliance with rules and what the process is for the community to access those rules; cooperation between off campus students and the community; parties and the related UBER/LFYT pickups and noise; dorm issues; and COVID testing policy. Donna suggested that as to trash issues, the community pitch to the students as an environmental issue. Eileen sent around for reference the list of GWU environmental / climate / sustainability student groups from their get involved site: <https://sustainability.gwu.edu/student-groups>. Another suggestion was to add the community's suggestion to this website (<https://www.gwoffcampus.com/about-off-campus-living>) and then request GW email students about off campus neighborhood rules/guidelines once we sign off on the

process. Another suggestion was to link the GW website to our website. Another idea was more global but to have welcome packets for new residents including students; someone pointed out that GW probably does that for new students and that perhaps we could just add something to that information.

During his meeting, President George raised the issue of whether there was a candidate (faculty member or student) who would like to join the Board and whether a student might be willing to work as an intern to help produce the FBA newsletter or write articles. GW is looking for potential Board candidates and at their Communications Department for potential interns.

GW stopped senior citizens from auditing classes and other community benefits when they closed down for COVID. Donna suggested that this figuring out a method to reinstitute some or all of these benefits, within COVID restrictions, would produce much good will in the community.

President George also met with Denise Snyder, Executive Director, and Jonas Frumkin, Assistant Director, from Foggy Bottom West End Village to discuss potential ways to coordinate and collaborate as well as various other groups including the Citizens Association of Georgetown; DuPont Circle Association; West End Citizen's Association; Francis Field; representatives from the Mayor's office and Councilwoman Brooke Pinto's office.

Treasurer's Report

President George is evaluating the use of a bookkeeper to fill the majority of the Treasurer's role, including paying bills. A Board member stated that the person President George is considering for this role is highly regarded. President George also discussed the need for the FBA Treasurer to oversee the bookkeeper. The FBA accountant is responsible for and will continue to do our tax filings.

President George discussed the potential application to the Foggy Bottom Defense and Improvement Corporation for a grant of between \$10,000 to \$15,000.

He also discussed the annual budget along with monthly income and expenditures.

Membership Report

Mary Ellen Signorille reported about a potential new membership system.

The Board would like to explore moving to one anniversary date.

We currently have approximately 180 members.

Communications

Everyone agrees that the FBA website, and social media including the FBA Facebook page must be updated. Eileen Carey will review these "technology related" issues along with the potential membership system.

Everyone also agrees that a refresh of the newsletter would be worthwhile, but no decisions were made as to frequency, style, or content.

Trello Review:

President George reviewed the Trello cards and Board members commented.

Upcoming Events

The FBA will hold a virtual membership meeting with Kevin Days, Director of Community Relations, on January 26, at 7 PM.

Action Items:

- Next Board Meeting Tuesday February 2, 2021 7:00 pm via Zoom. John to send invite
- Mary Ellen to send minutes to BOD
- Mary Ellen and Eileen will review membership list
- BOD to send suggestions for a BOD candidate
- Eileen will do a technology audit of all platforms.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm.

Submitted by Mary Ellen Signorille, FBA Secretary.