

Foggy Bottom Association
Minutes of Meeting of Board of Directors
April 6, 2021 at 7 PM via Zoom

President John George called the Online meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Attendance:

Present Board Members: John George, Donna Barbisch, Christina Farnsworth, Peter Maye, Mary Ellen Signorille, Denise Vogt

Absent: Eileen Carey, Julia Gustafson

Approval of March BOD Minutes

There was a discussion of the March 2, 2021 minutes. Donna Barbisch moved to accept the March 2021 meeting minutes, and Christina Farnsworth seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

President's Report – JPG

- Request to support School Without Walls fundraiser
President George explained FBA's past participation in the fundraiser and the purpose of the fundraiser. President George suggested \$100. Board members asked whether the FBA had previously contributed, and if so, at what the amount. Donna Barbisch asked if we had a policy for contributing to community fundraisers and, if so, what was the policy. The Board agreed that we should set a policy and procedures for these types of contribution requests. President George stated that he would research past contributions and write up a draft policy to circulate for comment.
- Congressional Earmarks Proposal
President John discussed the possible grant proposal. This is a very grass roots type of proposal, and had certain criteria concerning impact on the community. He forwarded the proposal to the Village for its review.
- DDOT Grant Program – Transportation Alternative –Open for proposals March 31 – May 12, 2021.
President George stated that he reviewed the proposal but was not sure if there are neighborhood projects that might be appropriate for this grant program. President George will circulate the program to the Board for input.

- Top community concerns in March based on inquiries to FBA Board Members:
 - Vaccination Distributions – DC will open up vaccine eligibility to all residents 16 and older on April 19. Everyone should pre-register.
 - Student behavior. Although things have been quiet recently, there are still residual reports from March that GWU is handling. GWU facilitates and/or mediates between neighbors and students. GWU has asked President George to be a representative of the neighborhood.

Treasurer’s Report – JPG

- DCRA business licensed has been reinstated. President George thanked the FBA bookkeeper for her diligence. The total costs and fees to bring the FBA in compliance and current were \$850.
- March Financial Reports – President George reviewed the financial statements.

Membership Report – Mary Ellen Signorille

- Membership Status (number of current members; inactive members, etc.)
 - o 197 actives; 190 former members
- Mary Ellen Signorille moved that the Board end the 6-month COVID incentive as of June 30; Christina seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mary Ellen Signorille will contact former members of the FBA to rejoin.
- Membership and other lists are not coextensive. They need to be compared so that we can do outreach to other list members so that they can become FBA members.

Technology – JPG

- Technology changes will be rolled-out in phases.
- FBA Board emails – Eileen Carey has suggested that emails in a “Gmail” account be established. To establish continuity with Board members, the email would have the Board members’ name and FBA affiliation; when the person “retires” the email address would be retired and then the emails would be archived. Mary Ellen Signorille moved that Eileen Carey who is working as our technology representative would establish emails for the Board members in a “Gmail” account for their work for the Foggy Bottom Association. Donna Barbisch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- FBA Cloud Storage. This will be for the FBA official storage of records; these records should be in a secure place. Denise Vogt moved that Eileen Carey be charged to recommend appropriate and secure cloud storage. Christina Farnsworth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
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Communications – JPG

FBA Newsletter –

- President George recommends reduction in frequency to twice per month.
- President George recommends a move to an email format rather than PDF. This will reduce the cost of producing the newsletter by \$5,000 annually.
- President George recommends current board member Peter Maye to take on coordination role, relieving responsibility from former President Marina Streznewski.
- President George recommends hiring a designer to complete new newsletter template for use by April 23, 2021.
- President George knows that members read the newsletter because he gets comments. He stated that with the new template, copies can easily be printed.
- If something occurs which FBA members need to know, an alert can be sent out.
- President George stated that a meeting with a designer and the design of potential templates will take about 3 to 4 hours.
- The Board discussed potential newsletter content.
- Peter Maye moved that the FBA hire a designer to revamp the newsletter template for no more than \$500; the newsletter will be produced twice per month in an email format. Donna Barbisch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

Garden Committee Report – Peter Maye

- March activities. Peter Maye reviewed (with pictures) what the FBA has done in March, particularly at 26th & I Streets. He stated that he and Denise Vogt raked the whole area and DC picked up the debris. Peter Maye and John George talked with the DC arborist.
- The Boathouse Cooling Tower. This is very noisy and the Boathouse is working to plant evergreens to hide the tower and to reduce noise.
- Denise Vogt suggested the FBA Garden Committee beautify the area where the Arts in Foggy Bottom will be held.
- Peter and Denise also discussed Meredith's work (a community member) in beautifying the area.
- President George stated that a group of parents want to "adopt" the kids' park.
- The Free Little Library in kids' park was damaged.

Arts in Foggy Bottom – Peter Maye

- The exhibition timeline is as follows:
 - o **INSTALL WEEKEND** - May 22 Saturday / May 23 Sunday.
 - o Exhibit **Launch** - June 5 Saturday
 - o Exhibit **end** - September 26 Sunday
 - o **De-install** - October 2 Saturday
- Due to COVID there will be no in-person tours. Instead, there will be videos of each artist and their work.
- There will also be a PR person for promotion.

FB/WE Infrastructure – Donna Barbisch

- Virginia Ave NW Bike Lanes Update and FBA Position
 - o Did not put a lot of detail in latest proposal
 - o Expects will be approved as is, even though ANC has expressed concerns

Donna Barbisch tendered her resignation as an FBA Board member due to her ANC commitments.

President George stated that LIME is delivering mopeds.

FB History – Denise Vogt

- House on GW's Campus – Corner of 22nd and I Streets NW
 - o Keven Days asked for more information. The FBA is attempting to find out what the development plan is and whether the building can be incorporated into the plan. President George did clarify that the destruction of this building was in the 2007 Campus Plan.
- History Project Planning is underway.

FBA Monthly Community Meetings – JPG

- Councilmember Brooke Pinto will be the speaker at the April 27, 2021, FBA community meeting.
 - o President George asked the FBA Board to forward questions for Councilmember Pinto by email.
- May / June - Monthly Topic
 - o The Board agreed that the presentation topics for the community meeting in April will be Arts in Foggy Bottom and in May the Kennedy Center.

Other Announcements / Upcoming Events

- ANC2A Meeting Wednesday April 21, 2021
- FBA March Community Meeting – Tuesday April 27, 2021
- FBA April BOD Meeting – Tuesday May 4, 2021

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Action Items

- President George stated that he would research past contributions and write up a draft policy to circulate for comment.
- President George will circulate the DDOT grant program to the Board for input.
- Mary Ellen Signorille will contact former members of the FBA to rejoin.
- Eileen Carey would establish emails for the Board members in a “Gmail” account for their work for the Foggy Bottom Association.
- Eileen Carey is charged to recommend appropriate and secure cloud storage for the FBA documents and records.
- President George asked the FBA Board to forward questions for Councilmember Pinto by email.

The Board agreed to hold its next meeting on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 7pm via ZOOM.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 pm.

Submitted by Mary Ellen Signorille, FBA Secretary.