

FBA Board Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2018

President Marina Streznewski called the meeting to order at 7:10pm. A quorum of six board members out of seven seated members was in attendance.

New Board Members

Board members discussed the nominations of three individuals to fill board member positions whose previous occupants resigned, leaving unexpired terms.

- **President Streznewski moved and Board Member Farnsworth seconded a motion to nominate Mary Baginsky for an at-large board member position. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously (6-0-0).**
- **Treasurer Labas moved and Board Member Farnsworth seconded a motion to nominate Mary Ellen Signorille for an at-large board member position. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously (6-0-0).**
- **Board Member Farnsworth moved and Treasurer Labas seconded a motion to nominate Elena Son for an at-large board member position. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously (5-0-0), with Board Member Kennedy recused.**

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Labas reported that the FBA's checking account contained a balance of \$35,571.91 as of the date of the meeting, of which \$6,209.24 belonged to the Garden Committee. The Sculpture Exhibit account contained a balance of \$26,327.90.

President Streznewski reported that the Foggy Bottom Defense and Improvement Corporation approved an annual grant of \$15,000 for the FBA's activities.

Membership

Board Member Kennedy, acting on an interim basis to handle membership duties, reported that he had received three or four membership initiation or renewal applications and would be working to fulfill those and update the membership database in order to ensure accurate information for the October membership report.

Board Member Baginsky expressed a willingness to assume membership responsibilities, and the Board agreed that President Streznewski and Board Member Kennedy would work over the next month to transition the role over to her. They agreed to set up a meeting with Board Member Baginsky in order to transfer all relevant materials and explain membership protocols so that she can assume the role's responsibilities in October.

Garden Committee

Board Member Maye reported that the process for securing improvements to the 26th Street Park – including streetscape improvements – was moving forward using funds secured in the 2100 Pennsylvania Ave NW Planned Unit Development process.

President Streznewski reported that neighborhood clean-ups associated with the 2018 GW Freshman Day of Service were successful in spite of inclement weather on the date of the clean-up (9/8).

Communications

Board members discussed ongoing efforts to improve Association communications with area residents, and President Streznewski announced the hiring of a social media intern – Helen Kimball – who will work part-time for the Association in order to maintain accounts previously kept active by former Board Member Pitcher.

The Board discussed distribution of the Foggy Bottom News and other ways to reach residents who are not online, a task made especially imperative by the decline of the Foggy Bottom Current newspaper.

Programs Report

The Board discussed a strategy for how to appeal to new residents and increase attendance at future meetings. Board Member Maye lamented the decline in attendance that he observed as compared to when he first moved to the neighborhood.

Board members reviewed the July 24th Association meeting featuring Councilmember Jack Evans, and looked ahead to other events scheduled for the rest of the year.

Board Member Kennedy announced that the originally-planned candidates forum on September 25th for candidates seeking the at-large positions available on the D.C. Council in November needed to be cancelled due to a drawn-out process that resulted in the disqualification of a leading opponent to the incumbents. By the time this process concluded, other candidates identified scheduling conflicts with the date originally planned.

In lieu of the at-large candidates forum, the Board agreed to host a candidates forum for those seeking election to the local Advisory Neighborhood Commission. The possibility of using Facebook Live to stream the September 25th forum was discussed.

For other upcoming events:

- It was reported that the picnic scheduled for October 14th was fully paid for and will be hosted at the 26th Street Park, with food provided by the Brooklyn Sandwich Company.
- A community shred day will take place on October 20th; location is being determined.
- The FBA annual meeting, previously scheduled for November 20th, was rescheduled for November 13th due to the original date falling in Thanksgiving week. It was discussed that the

FBA would procure food from Arlington, VA-based Pie-Tanza and other refreshments for the event.

- It was decided that the FBA holiday party will be held on December 10th. As with previous years, President Streznewski agreed to engage Avenue Suites in order to return the event to that venue.
- The Arts in Foggy Bottom sculpture exhibit will conclude on October 27th. Periodic tours are being offered until that date.

Issues

Board members discussed the current status of scooters and other dockless vehicles in the District. One particular point of focus was the scooter deployment practices of the company “Skip.” **Treasurer Labas moved and Board Member Farnsworth seconded a motion that the FBA draft a letter to Skip requesting that it not deploy multiple scooters on narrow sidewalks in the Foggy Bottom Historic District. The motion passed unanimously (7-0-0), with Board Member Kennedy recused.**

Other issue updates:

- It was reported that D.C. legislation enabling the construction of a helipad at GW Hospital had been signed into law by the mayor (both as a regular bill and as an emergency bill) and was on-track to pass congressional review sooner than expected due to the unusual number of session days this year.
- President Streznewski reported that she needed to cancel the previous scheduled meeting of the Homelessness Task Force due to her illness, and that a subsequent meeting would soon be scheduled.
- President Streznewski reported that the FBA’s previous initiative to connect residents with an individual who would clean their recycling bins and trash cans could not move forward, because the individual that was proposed for this service could not meet the standards necessary for FBA to promote it.
- The Board discussed the idea of having the FBA participate in the Adopt-A-Block street cleanliness program. President Streznewski estimated that the FBA would need to spend \$50 to \$75 per quarter on equipment, with an initial investment of \$500 suggested in order to print t-shirts that would encourage volunteer participation.
 - **Board Member Kennedy moved and Board Member Farnsworth seconded a motion that the president be authorized to enroll the FBA in the Adopt-A-Block program; that a \$500 one-time expenditure be authorized for printing volunteer t-shirts; and that a \$50 to \$100 quarterly expenditure be budgeted moving forward in order to cover any equipment or supply costs that may be incurred pursuant to participation in the initiative. The motion passed unanimously (8-0-0).**

Other Business

Board members discussed a request from the Fair Skies coalition for additional investment in litigation regarding increased flight noise that resulted from a change in approach patterns to Washington National Airport. Board Members Sonne and Kennedy expressed pessimism at the prospect of litigation succeeding, on the basis that the Supreme Court was unlikely to grant certiorari to an appeal of a lower court's decision to dismiss the lawsuit for being untimely.

The Board's reluctance to commit additional funds notwithstanding, Board Member Farnsworth expressed interest in attending a meeting on September 20th to review the coalition's strategy.

Adjournment

The Board agreed to hold its next meeting on Tuesday, October 2nd at 7pm at West End Place. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Submitted by Patrick Kennedy, acting as recording secretary.