



Historic Gloria Dei (Old Swedes')
Preservation Corporation

NOVEMBER 2017 BOARD MINUTES

Meeting start: 5:30 pm

Candace Roberts, Chair- presiding

Attendees: Peggy Buescher, Marco Federico, Amy Grant, Mark Roberts, Michael Schreiber, Alan Segal, Bob Stewart, Jerry Walker, guest Susan Weinman

Approved the October minutes and Report from the Chair

Approved Financial Report

Vestry Report:

- Churchyard regulations approved
- Churchyard fees for interment rights approved
- Churchyard sale of interment rights to area Christians approved
 - Discussed the legal considerations – must the proceeds be placed in escrow until the buyer is deceased? Bob Stewart will research.
 - Discussed reviewing the right for interment agreement to decide if it needs updating. Bob Stewart will review and comment.
- Discussed Church Improvement Grants available from the Diocese for up to \$30,000
 - It was reported that these grants are only available to Churches in the Diocese. The Vestry will follow up on this opportunity
- Discussed a capital campaign to raise funds for the Church roof and other repairs. This will be an ongoing discussion in the new year.

Committee reports/discussion

- Discussed Fundraiser event for Nebinger School. The Jazz Sanctuary will provide the talent and QVNA and HGDPC will likely co-promote
 - Suggested date is February 15th, 7:30-9:30
 - Friends of Nebinger will be contacted to help organize
 - Candy Roberts will work with Gloria Dei to check the church calendar for space availability
 - We agreed that this would be an opportunity to showcase our respective organizations
- Community Design Collaborative update – Marco Federico reported that the design team work is completed and the report is being finalized. We expect the completed report and drawings by Thanksgiving
- Self-guided tours Report: Jerry Walker reported that he has engaged a writer to assist with the scripts. These will be sent to the History Committee (Amy Grant, Michael Schreiber and Jeanette Woehr) for comment.
- Web site update: Amy Grant and Michael Schreiber reported that 92 profiles of the 524 identified by Materials Conservation have been added to the website. Amy and Michael are researching our permanent residents with the intent to write their stories for the web site.
- Brief discussion on Registered Civic Organizations (RCOs). We learned that Jeff Hornstein chairs the Crosstown Coalition (the RCOs) and they have summits twice/year. Candy Roberts will contact Jeff regarding hosting one of their summits at Gloria Dei.



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- Discussion of Pew Charitable Trusts report on Philadelphia's Historic Sacred Places (Oct 2017)
 - This is recommended reading for the Board and the Vestry (attached)
 - From the report:

Factors of vulnerability: There are internal and external challenges facing the congregations that occupy these buildings—not least among them the decline of religious participation in 21st-century America, as documented in a 2015 report by the Pew Research Center.

Internal factors of vulnerability were found to include the following:

- Poor financial condition.
- Poorly maintained buildings.
- Building size and configuration.
- Ineffective leadership or a poor relationship between the clergy and the membership.
- Shrinking or distant congregations.
- No sharing of space or other connection to the community.

External factors include:

- The movement away from piety.
- Changing neighborhood quality of life.
- Issues related to denominational structure.

Factors of resilience: The evidence from the study suggests that financial stability and the leadership abilities of clergy and other decision-makers are the primary elements of resilience.

Internal factors include:

- Strong leadership/good laity-clergy relationship.
- Financial health/endowment.
- Stable building condition.
- Adaptability of buildings/mixed use.
- Congregational growth and diversity.
- Sharing of space/use with civic partners.

External factors include:

- A stable or gradually improving neighborhood.
- Being located in a historic district or listed on a historic register.

We can be proud that we can tick off so many of the Resilience Factors!

6:50 pm: Adjourn

Next meeting: January 8, 2017

Thanks to Mark and Candy Roberts for dinner