



## HGDPC Board Meeting Minutes

### Details

Date: September 10, 2018, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.  
 Location: Riverside Hall  
 Attachments: Board Packet (Sept 2018)

### Attendees

**Board Members:** Candace Roberts, Mark Roberts, Jeanette Woehr, Marco Federico, Peggy Beuscher, Jerry Walker, Michael Schreiber, Tom Daley, Amy Grant  
**Guests:** Jim Ufiel (Rector's Warden), Terry Vernier (Tour Guide), Richard Woehr (Parishioner)

### Report from the Vestry

- Peggy Beuscher provided an update on the electrical system upgrade/air conditioning installation. The A/C installation has been completed in the church; nearing completion in Riverside Hall. Although the church received a grant from the Diocese for \$30,000 to support this project, the cost overrun is about \$3,000. Please consider making a donation to help offset the overage.
- The church will be switching to a new energy provider called WindPower.
- New recycling containers are being purchased to help curtail issues with storing garbage and recycling.
- A new shed will be added to the property for storing folding tables and chairs. This will clear up floor space in Riverside Hall.

### Report from the Chair

- Candace Roberts met with Mike Duffy of Liberty Tree and Landscape to discuss remediation of the Star of Bethlehem infestation. They also discussed making the brick pathways even (and safe), irrigation for the Churchyard and replanting of the crabgrass.
- Candace Roberts designed e-newsletters for September, October, November and December. Her goal is to send one newsletter out per month.
- Amy Grant created a 24-page "magazine" that contains many of the articles previously published in QVNA Magazine. This publication will be used as a fundraising tool. Our goal would be to publish a new magazine every year. Amy Grant would like to reach out to members of the congregation to see if they are interested in writing articles for future publications.
- Candace Roberts and Amy Grant met with Neil Ronk, the historian at Christ Church, to discuss opportunities for Historic Gloria Dei. Highlights from the meeting included:
  - The sacristy, which is currently closed to the public, could function like a "mini-museum" to showcase replicas of objects from our vault. Since the sacristy is used to store the vestments, locks would need to be installed on the drawers and on the closet door. Jeanette Woehr noted that the cabinets have been painted shut and would need to be repaired.
  - The church is very dark during the day — can we leave lights on to make the space more inviting for visitors. Marco Federico suggested installing a motion sensor light.
  - Christ Church is moving away from the notion of tourism and moving to a concept of visitation — to highlight that they are a living Church and not just a tourist attraction. Gloria Dei is the bridge between New Sweden and the English-speaking colonists. We should think about the stories that are relevant to various groups and create a "visitation" plan.



# HGDP

Historic Gloria Dei (Old Swedes')  
Preservation Corporation

916 S. Swanson Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19147  
(215) 389-1513  
[www.preserveoldswedes.org](http://www.preserveoldswedes.org)

- Jeanette Woehr noted that Andreas Rudman's naturalization papers were signed by William Penn. A replica of this item could be display in our proposed "mini-museum."
- Gloria Dei Church is reportedly the only building still standing that William Penn visited during his time in Philadelphia.
- Neil Ronk believes that we can be a venue of culture, faith and ideas. We are the oldest European presence as an institution of faith. We express a duality of looking forward, but with a sense of concrete history. He thinks that our church is the perfect size for lectures or movie screenings.
  - We may consider inviting the Bishop to talk about faith in the 21st century or the Mayor to speak about his vision for Philadelphia.
  - Tom Daley suggested that we consider forming partnerships with local Universities and offer to host lectures that would attract students and faculty. He also suggested that the Swedish Museum could host events here too.
  - Marco Federico noted that staff from Materials Conservation Inc. speak once a year at Christ Church. We could ask if they would be interested in speaking at our church.
  - Michael Schreiber suggested getting permission to screen Sam Katz's recent documentary on the Kalmar Nyckel.
  - We agreed to approach the Vestry about starting a lecture series with a goal of hosting 4 lectures per year.
  - Amy Grant donated a large projection screen to the church last year. We would need to obtain a projector for speakers to show presentations.
- Neil Ronk discussed the materials that Christ Church provides to help visitors engage with their burying ground: timelines, signage, maps, handouts. We should look into creating materials like these for Gloria Dei.
- Neil Ronk suggested that we form partnerships with the other historic churches and historical societies in the Center City district: Old Pine, St. Peter's, Christ Church, St. Joes, St. Marys, St. George's, the Friends Meeting House, M'kvai Isreal, Mother Bethel.
- Gloria Dei does not currently have the support staff or volunteers to receive regular visits from school groups. However, we may consider reaching out to our local schools to make teachers aware of our history.
  - Jeanette Woehr said that we used to have school groups visit Gloria Dei all the time during Dr. Roak's tenure.
  - Jeanette also noted that we used to receive tour groups with visitors from Sweden (and their interpreters!).
- Neil Ronk suggested that we consider hosting special services around significant Philadelphia events such as the anniversary of the Yellow Fever epidemic (1793) or the 100 year anniversary of Armistice Day (November 11th).
- He also suggested that we approach Sam Katz to see if he is interested in exploring our history in a future documentary.
- Candace Roberts created a comprehensive list of grants, two of which are due soon. The following projects may be considered eligible: churchyard signage project, pathway repair, pathway lighting, an irrigation system.

## Project Updates

- Churchyard Signage: Michael Schreiber and Amy Grant took a walking tour of all of the local churches to see how visitors engage with their burying grounds. St. Peter's Church relies on visitors to listen to an audio tour; Old Pine uses signage. Within the last year, Old Pine Church has installed approximately 65 engraved faux-stone signs (on stakes and affixed to table tombs) throughout their churchyard. These



signs are attractive and engaging but are expensive (\$305 each). If we decide to go this route, we will need to apply for a grant or amp up our fundraising efforts. Amy Grant has asked the vendor to report on durability. Mark Roberts is going to get a competitive bid from another company.

- Churchyard Map: Amy Grant has been filling the names of our permanent residents on a map that Mark Roberts created. Once complete, this could be used to create handouts for visitors.

## Other Business

- Reviewed and approved August 2018 minutes.
- Reviewed the financial report; no significant changes from prior month.
- Terry Vernier discussed his recent meeting with Reverend Cashman and Amy Grant to learn about Gloria Dei's history. Terry is currently working on creating a walking tour of South Philadelphia and hopes to make Gloria Dei one of his destinations.
- Terry Vernier inquired about the "witches potion bottle" that was found on Tinicum Island in 1972. Apparently it dates back to the 1600s. Jeanette Woehr suggested that the Swedish Museum may have this item in their collection.

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## Action Items

- Amy Grant will inquire about the durability of the proposed signage for the churchyard.
- Mark Roberts will obtain a quote from another vendor for a different style of churchyard signage.
- Candace Roberts will propose the "mini-museum" idea to the Vestry.
- Candace Roberts will approach the Vestry about leaving lights on inside the church during visitation hours.
- Candace Roberts will propose the "lecture series" idea to the Vestry.
- Candace Roberts will obtain a quote from Liberty Tree and Landscape for: 1) remediation of the Star of Bethlehem infestation, 2) making the brick pathways even (and safe), 3) installation of an irrigation system for the Churchyard, 4) replanting of the crabgrass.