



## Board Meeting Minutes

### Details

Date: November 12, 2018, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.  
Location: Riverside Hall  
Attachments: Board Packet (November 2018)

### Attendees

Board Members: Candace Roberts, Mark Roberts, Amy Grant, Peggy Beuscher, Jeanette Woehr, Michael Schreiber  
Guests: Alan Segal, Jim Ufheil (Rector's Warden), Mary Ryan, Richard Woehr

### Action Items

#### Pending

- Inquire with property committee to see if a structural engineering report was generated for the church roof.
- Mark Roberts, Candace Roberts, Amy Grant and Jeanette Woehr to remove artifacts, repair cabinets, and clean the sacristy to prepare for St. Lucia exhibit.
- Contact the Swedish Colonial Society about obtaining contact information for the Forefathers.
- Add a field to the guest book located inside the church for collecting email addresses.

#### Completed

- Amy Grant tested website to make sure that donors can enter any amount they would like on the churchyard donation form; the form works perfectly (unclear why donor had an issue).
- Candace Roberts met with the Vestry to discuss the Keystone Grant application.
- Amy Grant licensed images from the Temple Urban Archives for our upcoming mini-museum exhibit on Saint Lucia.
- Candace Roberts contacted DipJar — they do not offer a volume discount.
- Marco Federico and Candace Roberts met to develop a detailed scope of work for the churchyard path, irrigation, and greening project.
- Mark Roberts obtained a quote from another vendor for a different style of churchyard signage.

### Report from the Vestry

- Walkway may not be the most pressing need right now; repairing the roof, painting and pointing of the church are more pressing needs.
  - Jim Ufheil (Rector's Warden) is in process of obtaining quotes from painters to paint all five buildings on the property; all vendors mentioned rotting and/or damaged wood, which needs to be repaired before the painting can be done; quotes will include these repairs.
  - The roof is worse than was known — may not last 5 years — all experts seem to think that we can extend its life with some serious repair work — but, ultimately, it needs to be replaced.
- The deadline for the Keystone Grant is February 1<sup>st</sup>; Candace is hoping to get direction from the Vestry about what we should apply for.
- Marco Federico is requesting quotes for the walkway project to present to the Vestry
- The Vestry expressed interest in providing email addresses to help us grow our mailing list

### Report from the Chair

#### Mini-Museum

- The first exhibit will be about Lucia fest. Amy Grant licensed approximately 20 images from the Temple Urban Archives for use in the exhibit.



# HGDPC

Historic Gloria Dei (Old Swedes')  
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- Jeanette Woehr pointed out that the sacristy is used as a changing room for the children participating in Lucia Fest; it cannot be opened for exhibition purposes before or during the performances.
- Since the sacristy is in use during the Lucia presentations, Alan Segal suggested housing the exhibit inside Riverside Hall.
  - Peggy Beuscher noted that the Hall will be full of vendors and that there probably will not be any open floor space.
  - Richard Woehr suggested using a portion of the bulletin board for additional display items.

## Fundraising

- Candace Roberts reminded everyone to try to get email addresses to help grow our list. The names should be “pre-qualified” — in other words, the recipients should agree to get our emails, which are sent out once a month.
  - Amy Grant has added three new email addresses to the list so far.
  - Alan Segal is planning to recruit through his Jazz Sanctuary email list.
  - The guest book inside the church does not have a field for email address. Can we add that field to the form?
    - Amy Grant asked if we could send copies of the magazine to those who signed the guest book and left mailing addresses.
- Unfortunately, DipJar does not offer a discount for volume purchases.
  - The board authorized the purchase of one DipJar, with a starting donation amount of \$10 per dip.
  - We should aim to have the DipJar in place for Lucia Fest.

## Exercise: What if we disappeared tonight?

- We need to be able to speak from the heart about why we love this property.
- Open space, dog walking, peaceful, a retreat when life is too busy; it is a place where you can retreat find peace and balance.
- First-time visitors often report “I had no idea this place existed.”
- Jeanette Woehr — this is my life!
- Enormous historical value of the church and grounds.
  - This was here before the city of Philadelphia.
  - It is the oldest congregation (started in 1646) in continuous use.
  - The last standing building that William Penn set foot in.
  - Something that has lasted this long, gives you hope for the future.
- Robeson men (who are buried here) started South Jersey, Gloucester County.
- So much has happened because of this place.
- A neighborhood congregation throughout the years; the entire neighborhood around the church has been destroyed. A lot of people were affiliated with the church because they lived here. They became members even though they were not Lutherans. The memory of a whole community — It is unfathomable to think that this could disappear.
- The only place in center city that has 5 acres of open land?
- Jeanette Woehr’s family has been with this church since 1820.
- The National Parks Service must support our future; preservation of the grounds is paramount.
- The whole community is safer and happier by having green space.
- There are 10 historic churches in the vicinity; Candace Roberts will find out who has a 501(c)(3) and invite for a summit.
- Colonial Day was a bust as a fundraiser. In the past, this event used to be in conjunction with Elfreth’s Alley — had a bus that ran back and forth. First weekend in June. Should we try to partner with them
- Amy Grant suggested that we should develop trivia points about the property, e.g., William Penn, Benjamin Franklin connections; age of timbers; baptismal font, etc.



## Project Updates

### Churchyard

- **History Report:** Michael Schreiber has written a history report about Catharine and Peter Cruse. Catharine and two of their daughters are buried near Riverside Hall.
  - A descendant of Peter Cruse tells a story about Peter being “the first conveyer of rubber shoes in America.” Unfortunately, Michael was not able to verify that story as there is no mention of this account in any of the local newspapers of the time.
  - Of more compelling interest is that Cruse often traveled to Honduras and reported on their civil unrest to newspapers in the US. He evaded death in Honduras in 1832 when a cannonball struck the US Consul’s residence where he happened to be visiting. He died in a few months later. It does not appear that his body was brought back to Philadelphia.
  - Candace Roberts will feature this story in our January email newsletter.
  - Jeanette Woehr asked Michael Schreiber and Amy Grant to look into Lodge Colton. Apparently, he was a confederate. How did he get to Philadelphia? Why is he buried here? Amy mentioned that Lodge Colton’s only child is also buried here though her gravestone appears to be missing.
- **Conservation Inventory:** Amy Grant has added inventory assessments for all but 25 of the 530 visible markers to the HGDP website. So far, three descendants have discovered our website through web searches; two of these descendants have given us donations to help preserve their ancestor’s graves (Mary Robeson, Webb family).
- **GPS Mapping:** Amy Grant is also in the early stages of a project to help visitors navigate our property.
  - She has collected GPS coordinates for many of the graves and has added mapping capabilities through our website.
  - She is also adding similar data to BillionGraves, a free app for the iPhone and Android platforms.
  - Amy was able to test these capabilities a few weeks ago when descendants of the Rambo family visited the property.
- **Signage:** Mark has received an alternate quote which is much more cost effective than the Old Pine quote; he suggested that we order a sample and see how it weathers. Dr. Simes may be good candidate; or Amandus Johnson. We will buy one but will consult with the Vestry on who we should feature.

## Other Business

- Reviewed and approved October 2018 minutes
- Reviewed the Financial Report
  - Expenses: we renewed our annual D&O insurance.
  - Income: we received a couple of donations from ancestors of the Robeson and Webb families.
  - We have \$45,000 which we can apply toward a Keystone grant to help repair the church
- Amy Grant added an option for donors to be able to be billed monthly or quarterly through the website
- Joe Brin, architect and Queen Village resident, who writes for Hidden City Philadelphia. He is interested in interviewing some members of our board about our preservation projects. Hidden City also gives tours and perhaps we can get on their tour list.
- Quantum Think is happy to buy tickets for guests to attend Lucia Fest to help draw visitors to the property. Tickets are \$13 for adults; \$7 for children.