

**Dupont Circle Citizens Association
Board of Directors Meeting
December 28, 2023**

Present: (via videoconference/phone) Susan Volman, Joe Caruso, Susan Valaskovic, Rebecca Martin, Marcy Logan, Ed Hanlon, John Hassell, Diane Quinn

Not present: Justin Thornton, Lance Salonia, Patty Zweibel

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: John moved to approve the November Board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Diane, all in favor.

President's Report

Susan reported that she and Marcy sent the holiday cards to members, other than waiting on a couple of address corrections.

Susan said she received an email from the 2024 Pride Parade organizers. She reported that if DCCA wants to participate, the entrance fee is \$400. There is a 20 percent discount if we register by January 8, and a 15 percent discount if we register by the end of January. She asked the Board whether (1) they think it is important to participate, and (2) if yes, for someone on the board to take over the organizing for DCCA. The Board discussed.

Action item: Beginning in January, Rebecca will chair a committee to organize DCCA's participation in the 2024 Pride Parade.

MOTION: Susan moved to participate in the 2024 Pride Parade; Ed seconded; motion carried 7-1.

Treasurer's Report

Because Lance is away, Susan Volman circulated the financial report before the meeting. She asked if there were questions. There was a discussion of some outstanding checks that have not yet been cashed, and the large number of membership renewals that came in at the end of the year. Susan reported that some members not only renewed their memberships, but sent additional donations in response to a solicitation for funds to help cover the costs to repair the park fence that DCCA's garden committee worked on. Susan also reminded board members who have not yet renewed their memberships to please do so.

ABCA

Susan Volman said the Tokyo Pearl lawyer has requested to revise the settlement agreement (SA) to include a clause that is in many SAs, to allow the establishment to be open late on special days (e.g., NYE and Inauguration). Susan noted that the Palladium residents (the apartment building bordering Tokyo Pearl) were amendable to the change as long as the patio still closes at 10:30. Susan confirmed that the extended hours will only apply to the interior, not the patio. She noted she notified Joe about this and that the ANC has also approved the change to the SA.

Susan also reported that she received a list of all the 2024 pub crawls from ABCA. Susan suggested that Joe look into the pub crawls at his discretion, and said she would forward the list to the board.

Susan also reported that there were no notable events or discussions at the ANC 2B meeting.

Holiday Party

Susan Volman reported that she and Sue Valaskovic met with H to organize the 2024 Resolutions Party at the O St Mansion. The board discussed logistics, menu, costs, and budgeting, as well as the purpose of the party (to bring members together and build community; also, Susan noted the party generally enhances membership renewals, some of which are in person at the party). Susan noted the estimated party budget in the 2023 budge was irrelevant, because the party will occur in 2024. Diane suggested that given the upswing in illnesses, the party planners be cognizant and take what steps are possible to minimize the spread of germs, re things like shared food and amount of space used for the party. Susan Volman and Susan Valaskovic offered to pay the tip for the catering staff, if the Board does not want to.

MOTION: Rebecca moved to spend \$4,000 on the 2024 Resolutions Party; Joe seconded; motion carried 7-1.

Action items: (1) Diane will join the Party Committee (which consists of Susan Valaskovic and Rebecca).

(2) Susan Valaskovic and Diane will help collect money at the party for any membership renewals.

(3) Susan Valaskovic asked Joe if he would emcee the portion of the party that explains the Resolutions.

(4) Susan Volman said she would work on the 100th anniversary brochure mailing after the party. She will wait to see how many members pick up their brochures in person at the party, before organizing a mailing.

Grant Requests

Susan Volman said she received a request from Keegan Theatre for \$3,500, the usual amount that they request. Spooky Action Theatre is asking for \$2,000 to try to make their performances more accessible to hearing and visually impaired people.

The board discussed the grants and the recipients. Regarding the Keegan grant request, Susan Volman explained that the Keegan grant has always been for outreach programs, and the grant

always requires that Keegan must give some benefits back to the local Dupont community, which Keegan has always done (e.g., DCCA can use the Keegan Theatre for a member meeting at least once each year; Keegan provides free performances to the local community; Keegan still gives DCCA members a discount to performances).

MOTION: John moved to approve the \$3,500 grant to Keegan Theatre; Susan Valaskovic seconded; all in favor.

Regarding the Spooky Action Theatre grant request, Susan noted that this request is different from their grant request last year, for \$750, to support new play readings, and that they have not yet sent their report for last year's grant. The board discussed the request and what specifically Spooky Action will do with the funds, because although the application listed costs for ASL interpreters and other possible assistive technologies, it did not provide an overall budget for what they planned to do in 2024 or other potential sources of funding. Susan believes they are still investigating the best use of the funds, but the overall purpose is to make some performances accessible to hearing and visually impaired. The board thought additional information should be requested.

Joe suggested finding out how many people Spooky expects to serve who would benefit from the funds.

MOTION: Susan Valaskovic moved to get more information from Spooky Action before deciding on the request; Diane seconded; all in favor.

1617 U St

Susan asked for a report and whether/when she has to be a witness at any Zoning Commission hearing. She asked for a description of DCCA's plan and strategy on the matter.

Ed reported that the hearing is scheduled for January 8, 2024, at 4 pm via Zoom. DCCA and other parties will file a motion for postponement, on multiple grounds, and that postponement might lead to further concessions from the Office of Planning on their proposed use of the site. For the hearing, Susan Volman will introduce the resolution the DCCA membership passed in November.

Program Committee

The committee had nothing to report regarding upcoming membership meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Next Board Meeting will be – Thursday January 25th at 7:00 p.m.