

Claiborne Association, Inc.

Board Minutes – July 2020

The Board met virtually because of the COVID-19 situation. The President sent an email to Board members on July 15 and asked for their votes and responses.

Two people suggested additional items for the agenda:

Brian Boos asked to add the issue of the amount and collection of future dues

Abby West asked that we discuss a method of on-line donations

(Mary Gregorio asked if we would discuss a Zoom gathering of the community.)

The Minutes of the April meeting were provided in a separate email.

The Treasury has \$2956 in checking and \$18,883 in the Money Market account.

The President provided an update on these subjects:

Beach Situation - Getting better. Police presence, trash pick up, no alcohol or fires

Parking Survey Results - See separate email

Alarm System - Installed. 24 hour monitoring

Received Choptank Electric Trust Grant for \$500 toward electrical changes

Orchard Project - Clearing underway. Add topsoil? Infrastructure: path, bench, lights

Sidewalk - New and corrected bricks installed by Jim

Strategic Plan - Designing Process, Outline, Identity existing material, Circulate material

Under what conditions can we use the Hall? Small meetings?

Old Business:

1. The President asked for approval of several changes to the current year budget and plans:
\$250 more for Fire Alarm Communicator? (Brian's internet mesh didn't work for voice)
\$1500 more to have Keith clear Higgins side yard? Nancy gave permission.
Insure the Hall for full replacement value? Increased cost not yet known.
Move electrical changes and insulation to Fall when cooler?

Via email, Board members approved or did not object to these changes.

2. The President provided a status report via separate email on the effort approved earlier of raising funds for Operating expenses separately from donations for capital expenses:
"In our April meeting we voted to have a fundraiser to try and raise \$5000 toward our annual operating costs.

A few days ago, as an experiment, I sent emails to 7 families saying that Linda and I are now donating monthly to the Association to cover Operating funds and asking if they would join us. The responses flooded me!

4 families said they would donate monthly (2 at \$100 each; 2 at an unspecified

amount). 2 families said they would donate once a year rather than monthly (I think for tax reasons). So Steve should start seeing 5 regular monthly donations - 3 of \$100 and 2 more for smaller amounts. The goal now for this informal fundraiser is to cover our annual Operating costs with regular donations. This phase probably raised more than our \$5,000 goal.

A couple of thoughts and questions:

- 10% of the donations need to be put into the Endowment Fund. Steve: How and when you do that is up to you.
- I plan to send out a few more requests. Should I tell people we now don't need to cover all of the costs? Or should I just keep asking? Should we make this process more fair by sharing the burden across more families or just plow on asking a select group of people?
- What do you think we should do with funds we get in excess of our annual Operating costs if that happens?
 - Should we build up an emergency fund?
 - Should we go ahead and insure the building for full replacement cost?
 - Should we suggest that the families giving \$100 per month reduce the amount?"

Abby responded:

"To start some conversation around these questions:

I think that it can't hurt to ask more families. As for families who are giving \$100 a month, I'm not sure if telling them they can/could give less is a good idea? Maybe next year after they see the balance sheet, they will make a change if they want.

Emergency fund is a great idea. Should we plan on having six months or a year of operating expenses saved?

We should insure the building for full replacement, once we know/are comfortable with the cost."

3. With regard to the amount of dues and a better way to collect them, Kirke suggested that we name August as "Dues Collection Month" and have a campaign with emails and a sign in the Hall.
4. On the issue of on-line payments, Kirke pointed out that the costs might outweigh the benefits to the Association. We could ask people to donate by having their bank transfer funds to the Association.

Kirke Harper, President