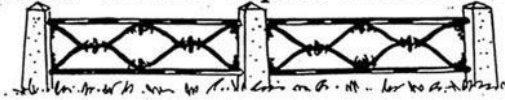


Historic Wooster Square Association, Inc.



**Annual Meeting**  
**Wednesday, June 22, 2022**  
**6:00-7:00 pm**  
**Via Zoom**

**Minutes**

**Call to order & Introductions**

Cordalie Benoit, President, called the meeting to order on zoom at 6pm and welcomed those present - Charlotte Eliscu, Sarah Greenblatt, Doug Hausladen, Ellen Keane, Keith Lorch, Robert Mignosa, Laura Morrison, Charlie Murphy, Charlotte Murphy, Charlotte Perkins, Tamara Munoz, Bonnie Rosenberg, Cheryl Szczarba.

Cordalie asked for a motion to pass the minutes of the last Annual Meeting on March 24, 2021. Laura moved and Charlotte Murphy seconded. After no further discussion, the minutes were passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report**

Keith Lorch presented the following Annual Financial Report for FY 2021 (calendar year). He indicated that during FY 2021 we didn't hold a Cherry Blossom Festival due to COVID.

**Annual Meeting Financial Report**  
**Fiscal Year 2021**  
**Dec 31st, 2021**

<b>Balance on hand 1/1/2021</b>	<b>19,719.54</b>
Committed	<b>11,000.00</b>
Legal Fund	1,000
Cherry Blossom Festival	10,000
Uncommitted Balance	<b>8,719.54</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
Dues	4202.64
Cherry Blossom Festival	0.00
Contributions	0.00
HWSA Scholarship	0.00

**TOTAL INCOME** **4,202.64**

**EXPENSES**

Cherry Blossom Festival	904.44
Pumpkin Event	0.00
Christmas Concert	0
HWSA Scholarship	0.00
PO Box	188.00
Memorial Donations	0.00
Memberships (Preservation Trust)	0.00
Flags	0.00
Mailings	1820.94
Meetings	0.00
Website	414.08
State Registration	50.00
Ads	0.00

**TOTAL EXPENSES** **3,377.46**

**Profit** **825.18**

**Balance on Hand - 12/31/2018** **20,544.72**

**Committed** **11,000.00**

Legal Fund 1,000.00

Cherry Blossom Festival 10,000.00

**Uncommitted Balance** **9,544.72**

**President's Remarks**

Cordalie shared the following report.

- With COVID issues still upon us we managed to meet both in person and by Zoom. Although our financial year is the calendar, HWSA has historically utilized the school year for our meeting schedule but because we are so busy, we anticipate board meetings in July and likely August.
- Under the able hand of Cheryl Szczarba we sent out a neighborhood wide membership mailing to all residents of our newly expanded scope of interest, the entire Wooster Square neighborhood.

- Last July we were all invited to celebrate Wooster Street resident Edie Fishman's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in the Park.
- When we learned that we might be eligible for a federal COVID recovery act grant of \$500,000 from the State, thanks to the work of Edward Dunar, we surveyed the neighborhood about their priorities and learned that traffic calming, and pedestrian safety is a main concern. Last summer we met in person on Sarah Greenblatt's deck to hear from our State Rep Roland Lemar about the potential grant; and in late 2021, we filled the grant application and await word from the State.
- Our neighborhood saw greatly increased traffic from people enjoying our open space and outdoor dining. We were able to light our resident Christmas Tree and a Chanukah Menorah. Both were visible to the traffic on Chapel Street.
- Thanks to work by Charlie and Bonnie we moved our records to the New Haven Museum where they will be indexed and available to all.
- We have collaborated with the Wooster Square Monument Committee. You can follow their progress on our newly revised website. The website's new look is thanks to Charlottes Murphy and Eliscu.
- We have created an area of interest document with contact information for volunteers eager to be involved in the activities which make our neighborhood special. (See attached to meeting materials.)
- Last summer with the help of Catherine Jacobs, the City of New Haven's Landscape Architect we planted the Wooster Street Memorial children's playground.
- After a two-year hiatus the Cherry Blossom Festival returned in the current fiscal year and thousands of visitors enjoyed our music and food trucks.
- We are saying goodbye to long serving board members Allison Drda, Charles Minotti, Oyi Onuma, and Alan Teitleman. We are welcoming Tamara Munoz who lives on Warren Street and has been a volunteer for the Cherry Blossom Festival.

### **Nomination Board of Directors Slate**

Sarah Greenblatt nominated Tamara Munoz for the Board of Directors. Tammy has lived in Wooster Square going on three years. She is fortunate enough to have a job in the East Rock area in the last year so has been able to settle into the local New Haven Area for the past year more than ever. Tammy grew up working in restaurants in Downtown New Haven since the age of 18, attended Southern State University and has since worked in New York for a few years. During her years of work in New York, New Haven was still her home. She commuted from Westville, New Haven every day for a year and a half, then commuted from her home on Warren Street for an additional year and a half. She is happy to finally look into the Historic Wooster Square Association since settling in from commuting every day. She has a huge passion for New

Haven and finds it astonishing to find how things have grown and developed over the years. She sees a large opportunity to lead the community in these large changes, and believes it is an opportunity to influence changes in a manner that is beneficial to the individuals in our communities. She loves the support we have shown each other in this city, as well as educational programs, and co-op programs. She loves our neighborhood and would like to remain informed and involved and would love to be considered to serve in the HWSA Board.

Sarah also proposed the full slate for the 2022-23 Board of Directors, including:

Cordalie Benoit, Edward Dunar, Charlotte Eliscu, Sarah Greenblatt, Ellen Keane, Barbara Lamb, Keith Lorch, Laura Morrison, Charlie Murphy, Charlotte Murphy, Bonnie Rosenberg, Rahul Shah, Cheryl Szczarba; and Ex-Officio – Alders in Ward 6, 7 & 8.

Ellen Kean seconded these nominations, and the new member and new slate was unanimously elected. When the Board meets over the summer months, it will vote on its new slate of officers.

### **Other Business**

- Cherry Trees – need trimming at a significant cost; fall is best time to take inventory and begin trimming process; will work with URI re: inventory and city on cost-sharing the trimming of the trees; also recognized that cherry trees have a short life span, with the need to replace with an estimated 3 cherry trees/year.
- Membership campaign – suggested that we make efforts to welcome new residents on Olive Street apartments to know more about HWSA and become members. Cheryl agreed to provide updates on membership increases at our next meeting. Could we share minutes of our meetings on our website?
- Movie Night - Could we be sponsoring a “movie night” in Wooster Square Park, as City doesn’t always use the same parks each year?
- ARPA Grant Funds – Sarah, Cordalie and Keith will be meeting with the State grantmaking agent in the coming weeks to get an update on the status of our grant proposal for traffic calming to promote pedestrian safety and neighborhood outdoor space enhancements.
- Tree Tour will be rescheduled during the warmer months.

### **Closing Remarks**

Cordalie Benoit thanked everyone for their commitment to supporting the quality of life in our Wooster Square neighborhood. She encouraged people to share information about our Association to engage new residents in our vital work.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7pm.