

DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC
Board Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2015; 7:30-9:00 P.M.
St. John's Lutheran Church

IN ATTENDANCE

Officers: J Critz, C Hamilton, C Vandenberg, C Keenan, S Storbeck, K Taylor, K Gibson
B MacGregor, D Shuey, J Richardson, R Graham,
Chairs: B Vogel, A Wallace, R Vicevich, M St. Louis, D Parrington, S. Thornton, R Foust, V Biesel
2014: E Lindsay, T Whitman
2015: B Evans, S Montgomery, J Stroud, C Waterbury
2016: J Hart, K Oglesby, T Winn, D Winston

President Justin Critz opened the meeting and announced that the open Fernbank Forest presentation has been rescheduled for a later time.

The December 10, 2014 Minutes were approved.

An announcement was made that Commissioner Rader's mother had just passed away. **A motion** to send a \$100 memorial gift in honor of Ann Rader was approved without opposition.

Honor Cobbs, a strong supporter of the DHCA in the past, passed away on January 13.

Randy & Rebecca Moore reported on the latest news concerning the development at 1680 East Clifton between Dyson and Coventry. The property was sold in May to the current owner who submitted an engineer's report that the structure was unsound and needed to be demolished. They obtained a COA to add a two story, two bath "carriage house" in the middle of a woods that are shared by over 25 neighbors. The proposed structure is extremely out of character and upsetting to neighbors who have unanimously signed a letter protesting its approval. Although the exterior of the structure meets zoning setbacks, its use does not conform to historic precedents as an accessory building. All concerned members are encouraged to attend an appeal by the neighbors before the Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, January 27th at 10am.

A motion was made by Ron Foust for DHCA representation at the appeal to summarize all the violations and concerns of the neighborhood. President Justin Critz will attend the hearing to make a statement with input from Bruce MacGregor and Chris Hamilton. The motion Passed without opposition and a Petition will be shared by email for individuals to support.

Bylaws

Significant Revisions of our Bylaws by the Bylaws Committee were highlighted by Cathy Vandenberg. The revised Bylaws may be approved at the annual meeting. Changes include the following topics.

- 1) Members will pay dues to participate and membership may be terminated by failure to pay dues or by violating the bylaws.
- 2) The number of directors may be reduced from 24 to 18 (6 in each class year) and will be phased in with new classes starting in 2016 and by attrition.
- 3) Board members with a conflict of interest will state their conflict and may be asked to abstain from voting on the issue.
- 4) Consecutive term limits for officers will increase from 2 to 3 terms with no limit for division chairs.
- 5) The process of removal of officers and board members is clarified.
- 6) Duties of officers are clarified (example: secretary will notify members missing 30% of meetings)
- 7) Additions of an assistant treasurer and a Tour Chair to the EC are made.
- 8) Specific responsibilities of 10 committees are clarified.
- 9) Meeting procedures including Executive Sessions are clarified.
- 10) Voting methods are clarified.

A Motion was made to approve the amended Bylaws and was followed by much discussion.

Dick Shuey presented a list of suggestions for additional clarifications of items. Under Membership Privileges, the association is required to make all records available to the public and “official” will be added to “records and financial statements.”

The eastern border of the DH neighborhood will be defined after Decatur’s annexation area is decided.

An Amendment to the motion was made to add “official records” to 3.4, to indicate immediate past presidents to 4.1, to add publish minutes to secretarial duties in 5.4.5, to clarify a required quorum in 8.2, and to clarify one division chair vote per division in 8.6.

The Motion carried without opposition.

Grant Applications

A grant application was reviewed from OLPA asking for \$5000 for their Plein Air event, which is scheduled one week before the DHCA House and Garden Tour. The DHCA will be given a space to publicize our House Tour and will be a part of a national event in our neighborhood. However, some expressed a feeling that the amount was excessive for a first time start-up event and were uncertain if all funding would remain local going to OLPA.

A Motion was made to contribute \$1500 to OLPA’s Plein Air event, which Passed with 1 abstention, and 1 opposition.

A Motion to contribute \$500 to the Fernbank PTA for their Auction passed with two abstentions. The Fernbank PTA is staffing a shift of the DHCA House Tour.

A Motion to contribute \$500 to Paideia (which supports financial aid) passed without opposition. Paideia is staffing a shift of the DHCA House Tour.

Commissioner Kathie Gannon is asking for a volunteer to become a member of the DeKalb County Historic Preservation Commission. Members of the HPC meet monthly from 7-11pm, visit the properties being considered, and serve for three years. Currently, there are no DH residents on this board.

Decatur Annexation

Anne Wallace and Bruce MacGregor brought to light Decatur's plans to annex the commercial intersection of North Decatur Road and Clairmont, which would separate Clairmont Heights from Druid Hills. Bruce made a statement to support our Clairmont Heights and Medlock neighbors who oppose the Decatur Annexation Plan which minimizes support of residents while absorbing our neighborhoods' commercial areas to support Decatur's own school system. His general resolution states that "The DHCA is opposed to any city annexation proposal that includes a significant amount of commercial property while excluding the surrounding residential area, thereby reducing the tax base needed to support that residential area."

A Motion to adopt Bruce's general resolution with the addition of specifying the commercial area B passed without opposition.

Committee Reports

Historic Preservation

Alida Silverman is meeting next week with Atlanta's Urban Design Commission to clarify preservation regulations in Atlanta's historic district.

DH House & Garden Tour

A final report on the 2014 tour will be given at the annual meeting. Chris Langley is in charge of the Artists' Market which will be located adjacent to Emory Village this year.

Volunteers are needed to fill the many docent positions for this year's tour.

Cityhood Updates

Everyone is in a "holding pattern" while we wait for news from the legislature. Anne Wallace reported that schools feeding into DHHS will want to know what happens if DH is annexed.

Communications

The new DH News is soliciting articles for March edition, which is published before the tour.

Land Use

Bruce MacGregor reports that DeKalb County does not appear ready to adopt their Zoning Code Update. **A Motion** to request a deferral of adopting the Update to be sent to commissioners Passed without opposition.

Transportation

Feedback from the DHCA is needed on the Clifton Corridor Transit initiative. MARTA and Atlanta Regional Commission give this proposed project a top priority. Currently, there are two alternative proposals to connect the Lindburgh Station to Avondale using light rail. Alternative One has 3 tunnels and stops at Sage Hill, CDC-Emory Point, Emory-Rollins, then parallel to CSX to Emory-Clairmont and North Decatur-Clairmont. The second alternative parallels CSX to Sage Hill, CDC-Emory Point, Emory-Rollins, then with a single optional tunnel to Emory Hospital and North Decatur to Clairmont.

(see:http://www.itSMARTA.com/uploadedFiles/About_MARTA/Planning/Clifton_Corridor/Clifton_Corridor%20Factsheet.pdf)

The Proposed recommendation from the DHCA supports the second alternative with one tunnel from Emory Hospital to Clairmont on North Decatur. The proposed DHCA recommendation also includes the objective of reducing car traffic by enforcing measures to separate automobiles, bikes and pedestrians as well as traffic calming measures on residential streets, reduction of empty school busses, a moratorium on new Emory University parking and a reduction of required parking spaces in current zoning regulations.

A Motion to endorse the resolution to be submitted to the Clifton Corridor Transit Initiative on January 23 passed without opposition.

Membership & Lifestyle

A mailing went out last week to 3700 plus residents with a reminder to renew memberships and pay dues before the annual meeting.

Nominations

The 2015 nominations will be published next week but several positions still need to be filled.

Executive Session called:

Rob Benefield presented updates and options to members concerning legal matters.

Resumption of the general meeting:

Cathy Vandenberg asked for volunteers to man the membership tables at the February 8th annual meeting by meeting at 1:00 at the Fernbank Museum.

The January 2015 DHCA Board meeting adjourned at 10:09 pm.