

DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Board Meeting
Wed., Oct. 21, 2015; 7:30 P.M.
St. John's Lutheran Church, 1420 Ponce De Leon Ave., Atlanta

IN ATTENDANCE

Officers: C Vandenberg, J Critz, T McGuigan, K Gibson
B MacGregor, D Shuey, J Heerin, J Richardson, R Graham, D Frymire
V Vogel, A Wallace, M St. Louis, E Riley, S Thornton, R Foust, V Biesel, S Misner
2015: B Evans, S Montgomery, C Waterbury
2016: J Boone, J Hart, A Howell, J Markham, P Moise
2017: R Benfield, K Eisterhold, H Handley, C Liggett, P Mitchell, J Morawetz, S Silverman
Guests: T Ralston, Judge A Brown, Judge R Bridges

President Cathy Vandenberg opened the October Board meeting and welcomed our guests.

Municipal Judge Angela Brown, who lives in Dunwoody and is running for DeKalb Superior Court, expressed her concerns with ethics in DeKalb County as well as the serious backlog in the courts. She encourages all to participate in the November ethics referendum as well as the May 24 election. More information is available at Angelabrownlaw.com.

Roderick Bridges serves as a senior attorney in the Atlanta public defender's office and has been a part-time substitute judge with DeKalb's Recorders Court since 2002. More information is available at Yourjudgebridges.com.

The September 16, 2015 DHCA Board minutes were approved.

New Business

Rutledge Park Presentation: Tim Ralston gave a brief history of the Rutledge Park, which was nominated for a park in 2009. Development Phase I was completed this year with significant funds raised by local residents and a Park Pride grant that was matched by DeKalb County. Friends of Rutledge Park is seeking participants to plan phases II and III now that the park is officially opened. Those that have visited are very pleased with the transformation of what was once an impenetrable jungle on a dump-site from a time before DeKalb County collected trash. We are fortunate to have an over-story of 90 year old trees but the understory was reduced by invasive species that were removed. DeKalb County provides trash pick-up and has been very supportive. The park includes a playground with ADA access and hopefully plantings will soften the concrete walkway and railing required by county. More information is available at Rutledgepark.org.

Alida Silverman shared the newly published **Frederick Law Olmsted** book that the DHCA has supported with a contribution. The Atlanta premiere of the documentary, "Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing America," will take place at the Fernbank Museum on Tuesday, October 27, 2015.

James Heerin, DHCA representative on the **NPU-N Board**, presented the By-Laws that had been adopted by the NPU-N Board. The DHCA Board is asked to approve the By-Laws as they had been adopted. The By-laws have been in place for a number of years and have been effective. A motion was made to approve the NPU-N by-laws as presented. It was seconded and passed unanimously by the City of Atlanta residents on the board.

Wild Apricot Member Management Software proposal

The estimate to convert the DHCA website to Wild Apricot is \$3200 for the 1 month conversion plus \$130/month for the service. The Executive Committee recommends approval. All Data will always be ours and will not be utilized by Wild Apricot.

A Motion to approve the conversion passed without opposition.

Committee Reports

Public Safety. Jim Boone reported that the committee has been gathering data on crime in the neighborhood and has looked into plans for increasing patrols. The Board has authorized \$5k for increased surveillance. Because crime is down since two criminals that were a part of a crime ring were caught last September 29, the committee recommends waiting a bit while continuing to monitor crime. The criminals were caught using video surveillance and a suggestion was made for residents to consider installing video systems. As the risky Christmas season approaches, extra surveillance can be put into place very quickly if needed. Since September 29, there has been one car break-in. Honora Handley reported that Atlanta officers, fire officials and government officials met with residents for an Atlanta Safety Program. Residents were informed how crime can quickly move to neighboring areas and how they respond to shifting statistics.

Home and Garden Tour. Ryan Graham reported that the Tour Committee is still selecting homes for the 2016 tour as well as the 2017 50th Anniversary Tour. This year the Gala will not be at Callanwalde since other reservations during the April 22-24 weekend had already been booked. Suggested alternatives include the Houston Mill Alumni house, the Frazer Center, and the Carlos Museum. Another suggestion was to have the new Fernbank Elementary School be a part of the tour.

Communications. Jennifer Richardson reported that the next DH News, to be mailed in mid November, is one of the best issues and includes a history of the Fernbank Forest that the DHCA helped rescue in the 1930's!

Land Use, Zoning and Historic Preservation

Buckler obtained a COA for one house in **Clifton Ridge** with a 3-2 vote by the Historic Preservation Committee.

A motion was made and seconded to go into EXECUTIVE SESSION. After the Executive Session ended, the meeting resumed with Land Use issues.

Bruce MacGregor reported that the new **zoning code** allows garage apartments/accessory units on 10,000 ft² lots. However, the owner must live on the lot and the accessory unit has a size limit of 900 ft².

923 Springdale was originally two lots with the rear portions in the city of Atlanta and the front portions with a single historic house in unincorporated DeKalb County. The front portions of the two lots that have been under common ownership had been merged into one lot while the Atlanta portions are still designated as two lots. An application has been submitted to divide the property back into two lots. If granted, one lot would be reduced in width from 100' to a width that conforms to the current R-85 zoning requirement of 85' frontage and would be consistent with lot width and size for this portion of Springdale Rd.

Dan Frymire reported that the **Druid Hills Text Amendment** is being considered by the Atlanta Zoning Review Board. Residents need to attend their next meeting.

The house at **817 Lullwater** burned down and is being investigated. A Demolition permit was already granted and a new development is planned.

Transportation Committee.

Van Biesel reported that the Transportation Committee will meet at the Olmsted House on Ponce next week. They are looking for leaders to start a monthly walking club.

Executive Committee.

The EC considered a grant application from **Parkwood Park** and recommends a \$1K donation. Although the grant application requested a \$2800 donation, the recommended amount is limited due to the number of parks that we want to treat equitably. This project contributes points to our National Wildlife Community Certification goals.

A Motion to grant \$1000 to Parkwood Park for the Parkwood Meadow Phase II planting of native perennials passed without opposition.

Membership & Community.

The 2016 **Membership drive** starts in November to promote renewals and new memberships.

The **Trees Atlanta** Neighborhood Tree Planting Program is focused on District 5 and 8 this year and plantings will take place in November.

Anne Wallace gave an update on progress with the **National Wildlife Community Certification** program.

State, County & Local Governments Ad Hoc Committee

All are reminded to vote for **ethics reform** on November 3.

Efforts are being taken in the legislature to replace the DeKalb County CEO position with a professional manager.

Sally Montgomery reported that the Atlanta City Council voted to annex the **Edmund Park** neighborhood last Monday.

Division Reports

Division 5: Elise Riley reported that attempts are being made to revive the **parents network**. There will be a meeting in Emory Village at the Slice and Pint for parents this Sunday at 5:30. All interested in supporting this effort are encouraged to attend.

Division 9: Steve Misner reported that HPC appears to be following the **Historic Preservation guidelines** in Division 9.

The meeting adjourned at 9:19.