

DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Board Meeting
Wed., Feb. 17, 2016; 7:30 p.m.
The Frazer Center
1815 S. Ponce De Leon Ave., Atlanta

IN ATTENDANCE

Officers: A Wallace, P Moise, F Finegan, C Keenan, K Taylor, K Gibson

K Vandenberg, B MacGregor, J Heerin, J Richardson, R Graham

J Critz, M St. Louis, S Thornton, R Foust, V Biesel, S Misner

2016: W Stiefel, A Howell, R Watstein, E Riley

2017: R Benfield, K Eisterhold, D Frymire, C Liggett, P Mitchell

2018: A Ballard, B Clark, B Evans, W Heaps, R Hughes, L Teunis, L Von Gelderen, C Waterbury

Guests: Ian Bogost, Eric Kilfeather, Kevin Pena, Trizzie Bui

President Anne Wallace opened the meeting and expressed appreciation to the nominating committee for their diligence in creating a full slate of new and returning board members. All members present introduced themselves.

The January 20, 2016 minutes were approved.

New Business

Nominating Committee

Amy Howell presented the following five board member nominees to the Executive Committee: Justin Critz, Bill Clark, Jon Markham, Dan Frymire and Tom McGuigan.

All five members were approved unanimously.

Elise Riley was nominated to the Class of 2016 to take the place of Thomas Winn.

Her nomination was approved unanimously.

Mike St. Louis expressed a need for Committee Chairs to meet together when significant issues arise to coordinate more efficient responses.

Committees and Division Chairs Appointments

There are vacancies for chairs of some committees and divisions which board members should consider filling. The following list of Standing and Special Committees was distributed:

6.2.1 Membership and Community: coordinated by Administrative VP.

6.2.2 Finance: Kelli Taylor, treasurer, and Tom McGuigan, Assistant Treasurer, Co-Chairs

6.2.3 Nominating: Amy Howell, Chair; Cathy Vandenberg, Mike St. Louis.

6.2.4 Communications: Claudia Keenan, Communications VP.

6.2.5 Land Use and Historic Preservation: K Eisterhold & B MacGregor, co-chairs

DeKalb County HPC: (open)

Atlanta Landmark District: Dan Frymire

Atlanta NPU: Jim Heerin

6.2.6 Tour of Homes and Gardens: Ryan Graham, Chair

6.2.7 Transportation: Van Biesel & Mike St. Louis, co-chairs

Special Committees and Task Forces (deactivated unless reinstated annually by the board)

Schools: Amy Howell & Angela Orkin

Parents Network: Elise Riley & (open), co-chairs

Public Safety: Jonathan Markham & Honora Handley

National Wildlife Community Certification: Pam Woodley

State, County, and Local Government: (open)

Division co-Chairs:

Division 1 (City of Atlanta): Honora Handley & Justin Critz
Division 2 (Ponce corridor in DeKalb): (open)
Division 3 (south Briarcliff): Robert Vicevich & (open)
Division 4 (west of Lullwater Creek): Mike St. Louis & (open)
Division 5 (north of Peavine Creek): (open)
Division 6 (north Briarcliff): Danielle Parrington & (open)
Division 7 (west of Emory): Sandra Thornton & (open)
Division 8 (N Decatur Rd): Ron Foust & Van Biesel
Division 9 (south of Peavine Creek): Steve Misner & (open)

It is currently the responsibility of the Board to approve division chairs and committee chairs. Phil Moise made a motion to (1) approve the committee chairs and co-chairs and division chairs and co-chairs presented, and (2) authorize the DHCA President to approve filling vacancies of Committee and Division co-chairs during the year to simplify the process. The Motion was approved without opposition.

Board Governance Initiatives

It was suggested to have New Board Member Training take place on a Saturday morning.

Fernbank Elementary School Update

Eric Kilfeather gave a presentation on a new “eleventh hour” option just presented by the DeKalb County School System to alleviate the overcrowded conditions at Cross Keys. The locally proposed “option 4” was ignored, and the new recommendation would bus 346 students from Montclair ES and Woodward ES to the new Fernbank ES which now has extra capacity. Concerns were addressed for the number of new accommodations Fernbank would need to make as well as the impact on local traffic. Because 95% of Montclair students qualify for reduced lunches, these new students will need to be bussed 7 and more miles from north of I-85 to Fernbank at 6:00 am to arrive early for breakfast. 90-95% are ESOL students requiring classroom support that does not currently exist. There were also concerns about difficulties making the student body feel as one and that some of the schools most affected were the least able to advocate for their best interests. The position of the PTA is to do what is best for the students and would like the DCSS to provide the resources and certified teachers needed to maintain Fernbank’s existing high standards. Some directors expressed an opinion that this option affects the community as a whole and the DHCA should communicate its concerns to school officials as well as to our representative, Marshall Olson. A need to support the DeKalb County School Board was also expressed as well as some frustration in their lack of response to previous community feedback. There was general agreement that concerns should be expressed through the DCSS website which is accepting input only through this Friday:

<http://www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/www/redistricting/>

There was general consensus that a better long-term solution to the overcrowding in Cross Keys could be made but there is not enough time to evaluate this newest option before existing deadlines.

The following motion was drafted and passed without formal opposition:

RESOLVED, that the Druid Hills Civic Association requests that the DeKalb County School Board table its redistricting proposals concerning Cross Keys Cluster over-crowding so that the communities involved may develop alternate options that will lead to the best long-term solution for all of the involved communities, schools and children.

Committee Reports

Membership and Community

Frances Finegan presented a request for \$500 to accurately transfer existing data into the new Wild Apricot web-presence in order to update our membership database.

A Motion was made to approve the \$500 funding for the membership update and passed without opposition.

Finance

Kelli Taylor reported that the membership budget was met in January and that finances continue to be in good shape.

Communications

Claudia Keenan reported that the DH News will be ready for press in Early April after the March 1 deadline for news. The DH News is looking for a managing editor. The DHCA Website is in transition but continues to be accessible. The committee has been focused on updating membership data and forwarding membership notices.

Transportation

Mike St. Louis and Van Biesel announced that the DHCA is sponsoring an informational and educational Town Hall meeting regarding a PATH Foundation Proposal for a multi-use path on Lullwater Road connecting Emory Village to the Freedom Parkway PATH trail. Please mark your calendars for March 28, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Paideia Auditorium.

The Transportation Committee is dealing with safety and traffic calming measures on local streets. Neighbors on Oakdale north of N Decatur St have requested a traffic study.

Ron Foust expressed community concerns about the study for light rail through the Emory Corridor where a proposed route on the north side of N. Decatur Road would significantly reduce many front yards in Emory Grove. Residents are proposing a meeting for MARTA to communicate their plans at the Emory Presbyterian Church. Neighbors are willing to compromise since some widening is inevitable, but they plan to present a motion for the DHCA to oppose unnecessary property disruption and limited driveway access in a future meeting.

The Transportation committee will meet and study maps of the light rail proposal.

Land Use and Historic Preservation

Kit Eisterhold reported on a renovation lacking a COA on Springdale Road, which Chris Leeth and DeKalb code enforcement are handling.

The 2 ½ acre Fox 5 developers on Briarcliff and Emory Dr. have withdrawn their application for a rezoning and have reduced the number of proposed units. Also, the Georgia DOT has proposed adding a deceleration lane on Briarcliff, which appears to be problematic.

A motion to ask G-DOT to withdraw their proposed deceleration lane on Briarcliff passed without opposition.

Bruce MacGregor reported that Ian Bogost is our new Community District 2 Council Member and he is the first council member from the Druid Hills neighborhood. Ian Bogost has dealt with off-campus fraternity houses and is familiar with the rented fraternity house at 1680 East Clifton.

A volunteer to take Chris Leeth's position as Liaison to the DeKalb HPC is still being sought.

Tour of Homes and Gardens

Ryan Graham reported that the 2016 Tour is currently 32% staffed and all board members need to sign up as docents. Members are encouraged to bring neighbors and friends from 12-5:30 Friday and all day Saturday and Sunday, April 22-24.

Becky Evans asked if anyone wants to attend the Park Pride Conference at the Botanical Gardens on March 21.

The Frazer Center is hosting their elegant "Goodness in the Gardens" event in the Cator Woolford Gardens on Friday, March 25 from 6-10. The DHCA has 4 tickets available for members.

The February DHCA Board Meeting adjourned at 9:36.

The March DHCA Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 7:30 PM at the Frazer Center.