

DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Board Meeting
Wed., February 20, 2019 @ 7:30 pm
Hosted by: Yvette Weatherly
Location: St. John's Lutheran Church

IN ATTENDANCE

Officers: K Eisterhold, C Liggett, A Wallace, F Putney, J Giegerich, K Gibson
Past Pres./Ex-Officio: B MacGregor, C Vandenberg, C Sleeth
Div Chairs: J Critz, Y Weatherly, A Ballard, M St Louis, R Nelson, R Foust, V Biesel, S Misner.
2019: H Lane, P Moise, T Roeser, A Silverman.
2020: J Jones, S Sullivan.
2021: T Blalock, M Herold, D Shuey, T Stephens, W Tomlin.
Guests: Debbie Skopczynski (NPU-F Chair), Helen Rice.

President Kit Eisterhold called his first Board meeting as president to order and the January minutes were approved. All board members introduced themselves including the new board members Travis Blalock, William Tomlin, Mark Herold, Tim Stephens and past president Dick Shuey.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Harriett Lane, president of the Freedom Park Conservancy, announced that Dwelling, a temporary art installation in Freedom Park at N. Highland Avenue and Carmel Avenue, will be open to the public for the month of March during park hours. The installation reveals layers of history by delineating a few of the 600 structures demolished for freeway construction. Visitors can engage in personal stories and historical contexts during their tours using smartphones. The grand opening takes place at the Carter Center.

Alida Silverman announced that the Atlanta Preservation Center's Phoenix Flies: a Celebration of Atlanta's Historic Sites returns for the 16th year on March 2-24. The many events include lectures and tours listed at http://www.atlantapreservationcenter.com/2019_phoenix_flies

Anne Wallace announced that our representative Becky Evans reported that, if passed, Senate Bill 53 will change how annexations affect school districts. When Emory was annexed, few students were affected but there was a large financial impact on DeKalb County Schools. School system boundaries will not be extended by annexation unless approved in a separate referendum.

SPECIAL REQUEST

The Executive Committee recommends increasing our annual SPARK Donation from \$500 to \$1000 since we have increased donations to other schools. A motion to donate \$1000 to SPARK was approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications: Fran Putney announced that the March newsletter/magazine is at the printer and we can expect to receive this Tour Issue of The Druid Hills News in early March. The deadline for the June issue is May 15.

Monthly E-news reports are published roughly on the 15th of each month. All are welcome to submit articles. Contributions should be brief and submitted by the 10th. A request was made to have a notice or link posted on the Next Door website, although their maps do not align exactly with the DH neighborhood.

Finance: John Giegerich announced that starting in March there will be a monthly dashboard accounting of the DHCA budget.

Cash is currently split between a money market account at BB&T and a checking account. The Home Tour provides over 50% of our annual income and we have the capacity to donate to worthy causes in the neighborhood.

Transportation: Van Biesel reported that GDOT is holding a stakeholders meeting on February 21 at 3:00 pm concerning the Briarcliff Road Safety Audit from 2 years ago.

The first Transportation Committee meeting of 2019 will take place on Tuesday Feb 26. The important issues include Marta light rail plans, the Ponce Road Safety Audit, a bike study, intersections on North Decatur, Walk Druid Hills tours, and Walk to Schools.

Home and Garden Tour: The 2019 tour is being held April 12-14. Docents are needed and Board members are expected to be Docents and supporters. The Gala is April 5, and will be in the Cator Woolford Garden with a French Quarter theme.

Volunteers are still needed to help with Friends and Patrons as well as recruitment, and Becky Evans' lists from past years is available as a resource. Board members should consider supporting the tour by becoming a Friend or Patron.

Land Use Committees

Landmark District LDPC: Jan Jones reported on the following:

- SPARK is installing a play area in the back and side yard of the adjacent Historic house on Ponce & Springdale.
- Working with a homeowner who wants to place a swimming pool where it does not meet setback requirements.
- The owner of a 10,000 Sq Ft building on South Ponce is putting it on the open market for just under \$3M now that ReMax is leaving since realtors are not using offices these days.
- The Boys Choir building is being renovated as a Montessori school with a fall move in.
- Realtors should be aware of misconceptions about restrictions in the historic district which is all of Druid Hills. There is a need for a short message about restrictions as well as sources of help on the website.

DeKalb HPC: Steve Misner reported that there have been difficulties getting DeKalb County to address problems with the boarding house at 1103 Clifton Rd. Helen Rice reported that the house used to be a well-run, legal boarding house but it has continuously been running down since a new owner purchased it in 2003. Next Tuesday the owner will appear before a judge with seven citations. Support for neighbors with concerns is needed from the DHCA. Steve Misner will be present as Division Chair and asked for a Motion to let him represent the DHCA to show this is a legitimate concern and to support the neighbors at the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Emory University new Zoning after annexation

Steven Misner reported that it has been one year since Emory University annexed itself to the City of Atlanta, and that the university's zoning will no longer be under DeKalb County but will now be under Atlanta which allows taller and denser development in its O&I zones. It is in the interest of neighboring residential areas for Emory to continue having limited height and density at its residential borders and the DHCA has asked Atlanta's NPU for assistance in determining how this can happen.

Debbie Skopczynski, Atlanta NPU-F Chair, attended our board meeting and reported that neighbors had been notified that land use and zoning conversions were coming and that consideration of these conversions are being deferred for another month. Transitional height limits can exist when commercial zones are adjacent to residential neighborhoods although it is not clear if the limiting neighboring property needs to be directly adjacent or across a street from the developing

site. The NPU works hard to get ahead of issues and to receive input from neighbors, and the NPU should be trusted to make appropriate decisions. Although it is the Atlanta City Council that makes the final decisions, the NPU, which is 100% advisory, actively negotiates with the council. Because only residents of Atlanta have a vote, any Druid Hills representative should be a City of Atlanta resident. Debbie Skopczynski stated that the NPU-F can add conditions that may influence zoning decisions and it could be valuable for DHCA to submit a list of desired conditions.

Justin Critz showed a large map of Emory and the adjacent neighborhoods including Victoria Estates and Mason Mill. There are no equivalent zoning conditions between Atlanta's NPU-F and DeKalb County's zoning, so conditions will either get more or less stringent than existing conditions.

A Motion was made to accept that Emory will adopt new Atlanta zoning, but that the DHCA will promote a list of conditions we support at the transitional borders. Written details are delegated to the Executive Committee. The motion passed with a solid majority and three opposed.

A Second Motion that appoints Darren Engle as our DHCA representative to Atlanta's NPU-F was unanimously approved.

STREETSCAPE RESOLUTION

Kit Eisterhold reported that there is NO reason to believe that bicycle routes that will be proposed by the Kimley Horn consultants will be similar to the three year old Path proposal. Kit met with residents of Lullwater Road and received a resolution from Honora Handley. The resolution has been edited to show that the DHCA is supportive of historical preservation and is listening to concerns of those residents on Lullwater, but also recognizes our responsibility to represent all the people of Druid Hills. There were some concerns expressed that the resolution is not welcoming.

A Motion to adopt the resolution passed and the resolution is stated in the addendum to the minutes.

The February DHCA Board meeting adjourned at 9:29.

Addendum:

DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION
Resolutions of the Board of Directors
February 20, 2019

RESOLVED: In recognition of the Atlanta Landmark District and DeKalb Historic District status of Lullwater Road and other streets throughout Druid Hills, and consistent with Druid Hills Civic Association's history of preserving and protecting the unique heritage and environment of the neighborhood, the DHCA Board of Directors declares that:

- In order to preserve the historic heritage and nature of the neighborhood, the natural environment in the Lullwater Conservation Garden, and the unique character of the Atlanta Landmark District and DeKalb Historic District, DHCA actively seeks to prevent adverse effects on the local residents, the historic districts and the environment; and
- DHCA supports the need to have direct, residential input for any and all streetscape changes in Druid Hills proposed either by the City of Atlanta or DeKalb County, and requests that such input be given priority.