

DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Board Meeting
Wed., March 16, 2016; 7:30 p.m.
The Frazer Center
1815 S. Ponce De Leon Ave., Atlanta

IN ATTENDANCE

Officers: A Wallace, P Moise, K Taylor, K Gibson
K Vandenberg, B MacGregor, D Shuey, J Heerin
S Thornton, V Biesel, S Misner

2016: A Howell, J Markham, D Winston, A Orkin, E Riley

2017: K Eisterhold, D Frymire, H Handley, C Liggett, P Mitchell, C Tankersley

2018: B Evans, L Teunis, L Van Gelderen, C Waterbury

Guests: Yvette Weatherly, Sherri Ozcomert

Welcome and Announcements

President Anne Wallace opened the meeting and all present introduced themselves.

The February 20, 2016 minutes were approved.

New Board Meeting Mechanics:

Phil Moise proposed new procedures to ensure more efficient board meetings. In order to spend our limited time discussing critical items rather than routine reports, all Committee and Division chairs will email the President any reports they have by the Friday before the Executive Committee meeting on the second Wednesday of each month. All Board directors may also propose agenda items for the Executive Committee to review at this time. The agenda and the reports will be emailed to all directors on the Monday before the Board meeting.

Speaking with One Voice and Conflicts of Interest

Phil Moise pointed out that resolutions passed are corporate actions that may be different from individual feelings. In order to minimize public confusion, directors need to ensure that outsiders can distinguish between personal views and DHCA views even when the DHCA has not taken a position.

When a director is associated with another organization and a conflict of interest exists, the director may want to step back from their involvement with the DHCA.

Board Orientation and Training

Anne Wallace and Phi Moise are putting together a short program to document the history of the DHCA and to outline established Board procedures for the April training meeting for new members of the Board.

Sign-ups to Host DHCA Meetings

A clipboard circulated for volunteers to host Board Meetings and Executive Committee meetings. Receipts up to \$50 may be submitted for reimbursements for refreshments provided.

New Business

Appointments

The following changes in personnel were proposed:

Honora Handley has volunteered to replace Francis Finegan as Administrative VP.

Larissa Teunis has volunteered to be co-host of the Membership and Community Committee

Leon Van Gelderen has volunteered to be the liaison to the DeKalb County HPC to replace

Chris Leeth. Leon is responsible for representing the interests of the DHCA Historic Preservation Committee at the monthly DeKalb Historic Preservation Commissioners meetings. Opinions concerning new applications of Certificates of Appropriateness may be made without board discussions and oversight.

Eric Kilfeather and Yvette Weatherly have volunteered to be co-chairs of Division 2. A Motion to approve the new appointments passed without opposition.

Donation Requests

Our tax advisor has advised us that contributions should be designated as “donations” rather than “grants.” Two donation requests have been submitted.

1) St John’s Lutheran Church needs significant restoration and they have initiated a two million dollar capital campaign. Their needs are huge and throughout the years, St. John’s has always welcomed the DHCA to use their facilities for meetings, tour committees, and past artists markets. They have requested \$2500 and we typically allocate \$1000 for them in our annual budget. The EC recommends a total of \$5000 since St. John’s has been such a long time supporter and their needs are significant for historic restoration.

A Motion to donate \$4000 to St. John’s capital campaign in addition to the budgeted \$1000 donation passed without opposition.

2) A Donation request of \$5000 was submitted from OLPA for their second Plein Air Invitational. Last year the DHCA supported the debut of this successful and nationally recognized event with a \$1500 donation. The EC recommends a \$1500-2500 donation and suggests that we do not need the free tickets OLPA offered with our sponsorship level. It was agreed that the DHCA should support this event since OLPA and now the Plein Air Invitational are important parts of Druid Hills and benefit the community.

A Motion to Donate \$1500 to support the OLPA Plein Air Invitational passed without opposition.

Committee Reports

DH Home and Garden Tour

Cynthia Waterbury reminded all board directors to sign up as docents and she encouraged members to become Friends. All house managers but one are in place, but staffing is behind normal at 50%.

Public Safety

Jon Markham and Honora Handley are co-chairs of the Public Safety Task Force and they encouraged all interested in crime statistics, safety issues, and the DH Patrol to volunteer. The committee is considering installations of surveillance cameras, which would need to be coordinated with the Atlanta police department. The DHCA would be required to fund 50% of surveillance costs, which could total about \$20,000 for several cameras.

Transportation

Mike St. Louis sent an email summarizing the activity of the Transportation Committee.

The TC met to develop objectives for 2016 and is focused on the GDOT draft report on the Ponce Corridor as well as neighborhood traffic calming measures.

Wendy Heaps is the Chair of a Working Group for the Ponce de Leon Corridor between Clairmont and Briarcliff, and will compile comments from the community on traffic concerns to be presented to the GDOT on March 25.

Becky Evans is promoting Save Routes to Schools along Ponce, which affects students attending SPARK, Paideia, and Fernbank.

Residents on Oakdale south of N. Decatur Rd. met independently of the DHCA to discuss traffic calming options. They are committed to getting the required 20% of signatures needed

for DeKalb County to initiate a traffic study on Oakdale.

Land Use

Bruce MacGregor reported that he met with a developer interested in replacing the four-unit apartment at 1793 N. Decatur on the corner with Burlington with a much larger apartment complex.

The new proposal for the Fox 5 development on Briarcliff, which requires rezoning, includes a 24-unit mix of townhouses and flats as well as more green space that the neighbors support.

A motion to revoke the existing DHCA opposition to rezoning of the site was approved without opposition.

The Land Use Committee requests the DHCA to ask the County to include additional requirements for obtaining a COA:

The site location, size and height of existing structures and all proposed structures

The topography of the site including all stream locations

The location and types of mature trees with their critical root zones.

A motion to ask DeKalb County to require the above information in COA applications before the HPC passed without opposition.

Other Business

Local Legislative Bills: Becky Evans reviewed the following bills being considered in the senate:

Senate Bill 375 is being debated. It would create a stricter process for forming new cities.

SB 421 would create the DeKalb County Charter Review Commission and has not yet passed.

SB 378 would eliminate the DeKalb County CEO position

SB 208 passed creating the city of Stonecrest in south DeKalb should residents pass a referendum.

Emory Grove – MARTA meeting

Van Biesel reported on a meeting in Emory Grove on the impact of light rail proposals. Residents voted for their preferred routes: first along the CSX rail and Starvine Drive, second underground, and third along North Decatur down the center with one lane on either side.

A Meeting with MARTA consultants was then held but was not productive. There is a need to meet with Emory University and a need to put concerns and proposals in writing.

PATH proposal informational Town Hall Meeting

The DHCA is hosting an informational meeting on Monday, March 28 at 7 pm at the Paideia Theater on South Ponce.

Elections

Georgia State Representative Mary Margaret Oliver and Commissioner Kathie Gannon will both be running with opposition in the May 24 General Primary Election.

DHCA 501-C

Justin Critz will be filing for a 501c3 organization separate from the existing DHCA which would allow us to raise tax deductible funds for neighborhood improvements such as lighting, cameras, twitten restoration, etc.

The March DHCA Board Meeting adjourned at 9:20.