

DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Board Meeting
Wed., March 21, 2018 @ 7:30 pm
Location: The Frazer Center

IN ATTENDANCE

Officers: A Wallace, A. Keenan, F Putney, T. McGuigan, K Gibson
Past Pres./Ex-Officio: B MacGregor, J Richardson, C Sleeth
Div Chairs: Y Weatherly, M St. Louis, R Nelson, D. Engle, S Mathias, R Foust, V Biesel,
2018: J Moore, T Roeser
2019: P Moise, A Silverman
2020: R Benfield, J Jones, S Sullivan
Guests: Lee Davis

President Anne Wallace introduced two guest speakers:

Kent Strickland, Director of Constituent Services for Atlanta's District 6 Councilmember Jennifer Ide announced a community meeting on a proposed mixed use, mid-rise development at the corner of 10th and Monroe. The meeting at Grady HS on April 10 at 6:00 pm will address concerns about the Community Engagement Agreement and to communicate current plans.

Philip Cuthbertson announced this year's Olmsted Plein Air Invitational which has become one of the top plein air events in the nation in only its fourth year. The non-profit organization works with the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance and there will be an Artists Village in Dellwood Park on April 27-29. The community is invited to participate and enjoy having 30 top national artists from April 21 through the 29th. Events for everyone from children to seniors are listed on their website at OlmstedPleinAir.com.

The March Board meeting was called to order and introductions and announcements were made:

Debbie Skopczynski, a Chair of the City of Atlanta's Neighborhood Planning Unit (NPU) was introduced.

Lee Davis, who lives on Springdale, introduced himself and is interested in traffic issues and the Flock Safety presentation that will be held next month during the April board Meeting.

Ron Foust introduced himself as part of the new "2018 Getting to Know You" feature. His interesting history started on an Iowa farm and led to work at an early nuclear accelerator, at St. Mary's college, and at the Koinonia communal farm where Habitat for Humanity started. He moved to the Emory Grove neighborhood in 1991 to work in IT at Emory and currently represents the 100 residences in Division 8 north of N Decatur Rd.

Anne announced that Elise Riley is undergoing tests and surgery and will keep us up to date.

The February 21, 2018 Minutes were approved.

The Clifton Ridge action against our commissioners Jeff Rader and Kathy Gannon and DeKalb County was settled for \$639000 and removal of Clifton Ridge from the DH Historic District. Alida Silverman questioned whether there was a proper process that was followed to remove the Clifton Ridge lots from the Historic District. Phil Moise reminded us that as part of our settlement last summer DHCA has no role concerning Clifton Ridge and cannot take any

action on Clifton Ridge. Therefore, while DHCA members may, as individuals, question the removal of Clifton Ridge from the historic district, a discussion by the Board is not appropriate. Another director remarked that zoning still applies but a COA is no longer required.

The DHCA moved to develop a separate 501(c)3 entity five years ago after studying its advantages. Ryan Graham, Scott Storbeck and Justin Critz will work to establish the entity.

Committee Reports

NPU-N: Carol Sleeth moved to endorse and support the Plein Air Invitational on Ponce. The motion was approved 5-0 by City of Atlanta residents.

Also up for a vote was to endorse and support the Spring Festival on Ponce held by Atlanta Foundation for Public Spaces. Andrew Keenan, as head of Callanwolde, has had problems with AFPS when they ran the Callanwolde Art Festival and Callanwolde will not be using AFPS in the future. Alida Silverman reported that there had been concerns about the accuracy of the status of the sponsoring group and that other neighborhoods have had problems.

A motion to endorse and support the Spring Festival on Ponce was not approved by a vote of 0-6 by City of Atlanta residents.

Transportation Committee:

Van Biesel made the first of two presentations to the Board on the Existing Transportation Infrastructure in Druid Hills. The presentation featured a series of maps of the nine divisions in DH where 12000 people live and work for major employers. The area's access is limited by only having 16 entry points and three bus routes. A conventional ¾ to 1 mile radius to destinations as well as circuitous streets limits the walkable areas in DH. The biking limit is three miles and this area includes most of DH if centered on Emory Village. The walkability maps show that many routes are non-existent or in poor and unsafe condition including the area around Fernbank Elementary School. The Bicycle infrastructure map is very sparse in DH even though surrounding areas have significant recent development. Modern urban design studies show that "street design," which includes everything from sidewalk to sidewalk, is critical for public spaces whereas "road design," which only includes pavement for automobiles, has limited value. The Transportation Committee asks for comments and questions to be sent by email to them since the DHCA is a stakeholder for the Clifton Corridor Bicycle and Pedestrian Sub Area Connectivity Study and our feedback will be important.

Joint Neighborhoods' Petition:

Due to neighbors' concerns about homeless encampments which include tents and debris in the Paideia area of DH, we have been asked to sign a petition. Justin Critz has reviewed the petition and believes it is appropriate. A suggestion was made to send the petition to all board members online before voting to support it. This has been a problem over the years.

LDPC landmark District Preservation Committee:

Jan Jones reported that SPARK has growing concerns about the homeless using nooks and crannies on the school campus. Teachers that come in early find themselves blocked in some areas. A safety study recommends an 8' fence around the school campus with a single entry on Briarcliff. Currently there is no fencing along Springdale and Ponce. An 8' standard wrought iron rail fence with gates about 4' from the sidewalk does not meet landmark district restrictions, but some reports state that APS are exempt from Landmark District restrictions. Justin Critz is looking into this.

2018 House and Garden Tour:

Steven Mathias reported that we are 130 docents short 30 days from the tour and that we need to sign up and reach out to neighbors. This is important for our reputation since this is such a high profile 50th anniversary tour.

Sue Sullivan is helping with membership and has new resident welcome bags for Division that have not already distributed welcome bags.

Finance Committee:

A Motion to approve a \$500 donation for the SPARK Annual Auction passed without opposition.

The Finance committee will transfer funds from the discontinued Goldman Sachs account into a BB&T Money Market account. However, funds in our operating account will not be transferred until the summer and after the tour for continuity.

Governance Committee:

The following two Motions for board approval both passed without opposition.

- 1) The Board hereby approves Renee Nelson as a member of the Executive Committee of the Board, such person having been nominated by the President in accordance with the Bylaws which authorize the President to nominate up to five members. The Board has already approved four of her nominees.
- 2) The Board hereby appoints John Giegerich as Assistant Treasurer to assist the Treasurer, act for the Treasurer when the Treasurer is unavailable, and perform such related duties as the Board of Directors may determine.

Public Safety Committee:

Thea Roeser reported on curb conditions on North Decatur Road between Haygood and Clairmont, an area used by students. The granite curb exposure is 0-4", well under the minimum 6" in the code. A county engineer will investigate but it is a major project. Anne contacted Emory for their support for continuing to use granite curbs.

Thea also reported on DeKalb county responding to an unsafe sidewalk and a sink hole on Emory Road, and that our Neighborhood Watch program continues to be active.

Division Chairs: Division 4 chair Mike St. Louis reported that brazen incidents of thefts are causing concern. Yard equipment theft is increasing and chain saws were stolen while workers were present. Anne Wallace reminded all board members to come to next meeting for a FLOCK security presentation.

The March DHCA Board meeting adjourned at 9:20.