

DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Board Meeting
Wed., April 15, 2015; 7:30 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran Church, 1420 Ponce De Leon Ave., Atlanta

IN ATTENDANCE

Officers: C Vandenberg, F Finegan, C Keenan, K Taylor, K Gibson
B MacGregor, D Shuey, J Heerin, J Richardson, R Graham
Chairs: B Vogel, A Wallace, D Parrington, S Thornton, R Foust, V Biesel
2015: S Montgomery, C Waterbury
2016: J Hart, A Howell, P Moise, K Oglesby, T Winn, D Winston
2017: R Benfield, K Eisterhold, C Liggett, T McGuigan, P Mitchell, J Morawetz, S Silverman
Guests: -

President Cathy Vandenberg began the meeting having all members present introduce themselves as there were many new members in attendance.

A motion to approve the March minutes without changes passed without opposition.

New Business

Brad Schweers, Executive Director of Intown Collaborative Ministries talked about who they are and how we can become involved in local service to the hungry and homeless. Intown Collaborative Ministries helps 650 people in the 30306 & 30307 zip code areas and operates the food pantry from the Druid Hills Methodist Church and the clothing bank from the Druid Hills Presbyterian Church. What makes ICM unique is their focus on building relationships and getting to know those who need assistance on a personal level as first steps in finding sustainable solutions. They follow up with coaching at the William Booth Towers on Seminole and Ponce. ICM will have their major fundraiser at the Atlanta History Center on Sunday, May 3, and seek 20 volunteers every Saturday at the food pantry. Their Website is www.intowncm.org

Board Training will take place in May and June for new members and everyone else interested in learning about the history and responsibilities of the DHCA. Justin Critz will lead the two sessions at 6:30 before the Board Meetings start at 7:30.

The existing DHCA Directors and Officers Insurance (D&O insurance) expires this Friday, April 17. The EC is seeking a replacement policy.

Clifton Ridge Update: Rob Benfield summarized the latest turn of events in the Clifton Ridge development since the Federal action concluded in our favor. There are three pending actions: 1) the Superior Court sketch plat case which started in 2012, 2) the Land Development Permit case and 3) the final plat case (strangely submitted before a sketch plat was submitted). However, the latest turn of events occurred March 31 when interim CEO Lee May, who had recently declared the approval null and void, allowed the developer to submit a new final plat application which he approved. A motion was made to file a challenge to this most recent decision.

A Motion to go forward challenging this most recent approval passed unanimously without discussion.

Committee Reports

The DeKalb Historic Preservation Sub-Committee invites board members and division chairs to meet with Jim Morowitz at the Land Use Committee meeting later this month.

Home and Garden Tour: Ryan Graham made a final request for all board members to volunteer as docents. This year, each ticket includes a fold-out map. The last pre-tour meeting is next Wednesday at St. John's and all are invited. Finally, for the first time the DHCA obtained a temporary alcohol permit in Emory Village for Friday and Saturday evenings during the outdoor concerts with local musicians.

Ad Hoc Cityhood Committee: Anne Wallace reported that the legislature did not approve any annexation plans but did give the go-ahead to the Tucker and LaVista Hills proposals which could be voted on by the affected communities in November. The committee will update the feasibility study and continue the campaign over the summer. A new chair is still needed to continue the work of the committee.

Communications: The latest issue of the Druid Hills News was warmly received on Monday and Tuesday. The committee has a list of articles and people to interview for any interested writers! Readers living outside of the DH footprint will need to submit their addresses by hand to receive a copy of the News.

Land Use

The New zoning ordinance is on track to be adopted at the Planning Commission meeting on the 21st. Because the new code is more complex (over 500 pages plus the overlay districts) and increases staff discretion, it is difficult to see how the new codes will be properly implemented. We will continue to seek ways to improve the limited procedures allowed to appeal decisions. The allowance for garage and basement apartments will increase from 800 sf to 900 sf and there will be some relief for residential zones adjacent to high-rise O-I districts.

A 4-lot subdivision proposed from several lots on Ridgewood Dr. at N. Decatur Rd. will need to contend with significant drainage issues on the property.

The owner of 1680 East Clifton will resubmit a COA application before the Historic Preservation Commission on April 20 at the Maloof Auditorium. Members are requested to attend to show that this development is a neighborhood issue rather than just a disagreement between neighbors. Justin Critz has submitted a letter from the DHCA in support of neighbors.

An application to demolish the stone house bordering Emory Village and Burbank Park is opposed by the DHCA until its replacement is proposed as required. The Emory Village overlay limits the height to three stories from street grade, but the back of the site facing the park has a much lower elevation. This application will also be considered at the April 20 HPC meeting.

Transportation

Kathy Oglesby, chairperson, will meet with the new Transportation Chief at the CDC.

Membership & Community

Our roster of 1300 members is continually being updated.

Frances Finegan reports that Chris Liggett is leading the effort to initiate a NWF Community Wildlife Habitat designation for Druid Hills. Emails will be sent to Division Chairs seeking individuals interested in participating.

Jim Heerin reports that the Paideia School is putting in a professional outdoor art project that has broad approval in the community.

Ad Hoc Governance Committee – Revision of Bylaws

Dick Shuey reports that Phil Moise has experience with bylaws and will be helping to clean up our existing bylaws.

DIVISION REPORTS

Division 2: Anne Wallace is seeking two volunteers in Division 2 to initiate the NWF Community Wildlife Habitat designation process.

Anne suggested two other divisions continue the fall planting with Trees Atlanta, which was successfully implemented in Division 2 last year. Divisions 5 & 9 may be interested and Frances Finegan will look into the current costs before the DHCA advertises a subsidy.

Division 7: one member has responded to initiate the NWF Community Wildlife Habitat designation process.

Division 8: Ron Foust will look into neighborhood interest in planting trees with Trees Atlanta this fall.

OLD BUSINESS

Atlanta Code Enforcement has been informed of the problem of youth hanging out at the vacant Decker property on Lullwater, and will investigate within 5 days.

The April DHCA Board meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: 7:00 pm, Wednesday, May 20 at St. John's Lutheran Church.

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