

DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

Board Meeting

Wed., May 17, 2017 @ 7:30 pm

Hosted by: Yvette Weatherly

Location: St. John's

IN ATTENDANCE

Officers: A Wallace, L Van Gelderen, H Handley, Fran Putney, K Gibson

Past Pres./Ex-Officio: C Vandenberg, B MacGregor, D Shuey, J Richardson, R Graham, J Heerin

Div Chairs: J Critz, S Day, Y Weatherly, M St. Louis, R Nelson, S Mathias, R Foust, V Biesel, S Misner

2017: B Aitkenhead, R Benfield, K Eisterhold, C Liggett, P Mitchell, J Morawetz, C Tankersley

2018: B Evans, R Hughes, A Keenan, H Maitre, L Teunis, C Waterbury

2019: R Atkins, H Lane, P Moise, E Riley, A Silverman

Guests: Margaret Lisi and Conner Lisi (Boy Scout troop 18)

President Anne Wallace called the May Board meeting to order & displayed a Fernbank Elementary School thank-you poster from their students for our music donation from the DHCA. Photos of students with their instruments were included.

Announcements:

Featured Division of the Month – Division 4: Mike St. Louis, Division 4 Chair described the division boundaries between Briarcliff Road and the golf course, and noted that the division has featured many of the houses on the DH Home and Garden Tours. Division 4 hosts the 4th of July Parade and many of the newest homes in Druid Hills have been built on Dan Johnson Road. Almost 1/5 of all DHCA members live in Division 4.

Jennie Richardson announced that the Lullwater Garden (as well as the Deepdene segment of the Olmsted Linear Park) was officially inducted as a Dedicated Forest in the Old Growth Forest Network on April 25.

Committee Reports:

The 2017 Home and Garden Tour: Ryan Graham reported that the tour was well attended & ran smoothly with no negative incidents. It was our highest grossing tour and Becky Evans exceeded her ambitious goal of enlisting Friends and Patrons. Cynthia Waterbury received the "Leslie Award for Excellence in Community Service," named after former neighbor and Tour Committee member, Leslie Fight.

Next year is our 50th tour scheduled for the third weekend in April 2018, and we will be seeking new volunteers and co-chairs to work with our experienced volunteers.

Communications: The 2018 Tour is the 50th Anniversary of the Tour itself and the 80th Anniversary of the DHCA. Volunteers will be needed! Fran Putney is in charge of a Druid Hills History Documentary film to be recorded by David Winston. Stories and photos are needed to document our history.

There will also be an Exhibit of Druid Hills memorabilia and archived items in the Rose Library on the top floor of the Woodruff Library during the 2018 Tour.

Transportation: Van Biesel reported on the following events:

- 1) Last week the 10th successful Druid Hills Walk took place in the Frazer Forest on a perfect day. There will be at least 6 more walks to do and we hope to create a DH walking map for the community.

- 2) The By-Way is being re-striped to allow parking on the wide part of the road. There are concerns that the granite curbing is being replaced with concrete. The community did not know about this project until after it was done. The Historic Preservation commission should be involved and curbing should be a part of the guidelines. We need to be proactive before Ponce is re-curbed along the Deepdene section of the Olmsted Linear Park.
- 3) DeKalb County is proposing to replace the flashing light at North Decatur and Springdale with a traffic light. Changes such as this will affect traffic patterns. There were suggestions to look at alternatives such as 4-way stop signs, and members volunteered to help look into this. Steven Mathias reported that serious accidents on North Decatur and Oakdale are occurring more frequently. The junction at Clifton and South Ponce needs a traffic study as it is getting more difficult to get out of driveways. Neighbors have contacted the City of Atlanta.

Public Safety: Bill Aitkenhead noted that the committee is seeking members and reported on the status of the DH Patrol. DeKalb has only a fraction of the police that exist in comparable urban areas and populations. Existing data of crimes are only kept for six months which hinders the ability to detect crime patterns. There is also a need to obtain records from the DH Patrol as there has been no response to previous requests for data. Phil Moise will share a recent long email from the DH Patrol which appears to be losing steam. Margaret Lisi reported that packages have gone missing and their car was rifled through on Ridgewood Drive. She is setting up a monthly poll on crimes through the Nextdoor community network. Ryan Graham reminded us of the importance of calling 911 to report all crimes which affects police services in our community. Currently, the Crime Mapper shows crime is down.

DeKalb Land Use & HPC: Kit Eisterhold reported that the representative of the developer of 463 Burlington Rd. did not show up at Monday's HPC application hearing. He has not cooperated with the committee concerning tree replacements after scraping the lot bare. We will continue to insist on planting 4" canopy trees. Bruce MacGregor stated that we need to tighten up the guidelines with quantitative consequences.

Parker Blanchard is planning to tear down the old barber shop structure on a very narrow lot across from the University Bookstore on Oxford. The structure is not historic and has deteriorated significantly. A proposed "Slice and Pint" type façade has the potential to restore a pedestrian friendly site plan with appropriate cooperation with the Emory Village Alliance (EVA).

The Metro church property redevelopment on Briarcliff is still being considered by Minerva.

Landmark District Preservation Committee (LDPC): Alida Silverman reported that plans to restore the exterior of the Tamas property on South Ponce are continuing.

Also on South Ponce, current plans for the property adjacent to the Jackson Hill Baptist Church are for single family housing. A good sign is that the developer has contacted Justin Critz to share information.

The Annexation Study Committee : Chris Liggett and Renee Nelson reported that the committee met earlier this month to consider topics such as tax differences, senior exemptions, historic preservation, schools and services such as police, fire and infrastructure. There are nine members on the committee that are currently focusing on senior exemptions and historic preservation issues.

Emory University's annexation is delayed until intragovernmental issues concerning cell phone towers and fire stations are worked out.

An article of interest to all is "Atlanta's Controversial 'Cityhood' Movement" in the April 2017 issue of The Atlantic Monthly (<https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2017/04/the-border-battles-of-atlanta/523884/>)

The next monthly committee meeting takes place June 15 at 6:30.

Division Reports: Yvette Weatherly of Division 2 called on division chairs to plan neighborhood get-togethers. Division 2 is planning a party in the Deepdene meadow.

Visiting resident and Boy Scout Connor Lisi reminded us that the very active Glenn Troop 18 has many scouts needing to lead community projects for their Eagle Scout requirements.

The April 26, 2017 Minutes were approved before a motion was made and passed to go into Executive Session to hear the President's report on the Mediation held May 11, 2017.

The May Board Meeting adjourned at the end of the Executive Session at 9:36 pm.