

DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC. Board Meeting
Wed., September 20, 2017 @ 7:30 pm
Hosted by: Andrew Keenan
Location: St. John's

IN ATTENDANCE

Officers: A Wallace, H Handley, T McGuigan, K Gibson

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

Div Chairs: S Day, Y Weatherly, R Nelson, S Thornton, S Mathias, R Foust, S Misner

2017: R Benfield, C Liggett

2018: B Evans, A Keenan,

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

Guests: Jay Sandhaus, Steve Cushing

Anne Wallace called the September Board meeting to order and the July & August Minutes were approved unanimously.

Guest Speakers:

Steve Cushing of the Freedom Park Conservancy gave an update on progress made in the two years since the 25th anniversary celebration of Caution. A newly active board is energized with a new vision for the Freedom Park that will accommodate the growth in Atlanta. Freedom Park is a passive park that cannot host fund raising events, so the board is looking to hire an executive director and fund a master plan after having completed a two-year strategic plan outlining a path to become a world class art park. Perkins+Will is contributing design services and an arts council is forming with the High Museum. The board will be raising \$250K per year needed to develop the park.

Jay Sandhaus of the Friends of Freedom Bridge organization is raising \$5M for an architectural pedestrian bridge over Moreland Avenue which will fill a gap in the trail system near Little Five Points. One hundred residents attended a recent community event to express concerns and contribute ideas to increase mobility between the communities and two schools adjacent to the park.

Alex Beasley who manages the NeighborWoods Program for Trees Atlanta talked about our November tree plantings event in Divisions 3 and 6 this year. Shade trees such as Lindens, Oaks, Tulip Poplars and Maples will be planted and tended for two years by volunteers to renew our rich tree canopy. The \$200 trees will be available for \$50 to DHCA members.

Announcements:

Steven Misner reported on the Eagle Scout Project at the Heaton Park in Division 9. The park, which used to be tended by a garden club, had its first clean out with Arbor Guard, Emory students, and over 30 neighbors. The Eagle Scout project will add two benches on October 14 and neighbors will continue cleaning again the following week. Steven will send pictures to Jenny Richardson for the November issue of the DH News.

Becky Evans reported that the Emory Village Open Streets Festival will be on October 29 from 2:00 to 6pm. There will be a Halloween Parade with treats on South Oxford Rd. a dog costume contest,

the Bubbleman, games, continuous music, a climbing wall and the Puppet Theatre. The DHCA will have a membership table.

Jenny Richardson reported that submissions to the November DH NEWS must be made by October 1. "It Happened in DH" will feature embezzlement, the Baptist Convention, and a nationwide manhunt!

This Sunday, September 24 is the DHCA and OLPA Picnic in the Park at the Dellwood Park on Ponce across from the Fernbank Museum. Over two hundred have already registered online. There will be Food trucks with tacos and sliders, an ice cream truck and a Beer and Wine table as well as entertainment from the DeKalb School of the Arts. Volunteers are needed for set-up & clean-up.

Division Reports

Division 2: Yvette Weatherly reported that several neighbors will be attending an October meeting concerning the redevelopment of the East Lake Road MARTA Station.

Division 8: Ron Foust reported on a proposal for High School students to paint a mural on the back wall of Emory Presbyterian's 1958 education building. The mural faces their parking lot and will not be visible from the street. A coating on the brick that allows removal in the future is being considered as painted brick is an issue. The proposal will be heard by the Historic Preservation Commission and the church is asking for community support for this first public art presentation in our community. Steve Misner will be at the HPC meeting and state that the DHCA has no objection to the project.

Committee Reports

Home and Garden Tour: Two volunteers are needed to head Publicity ASAP which starts in November. Fran will write up information for the DH News by Oct 1, and written notes for the committee as well as all contacts are available. Other staffing needed by January include a Data Manager and a Recruitment Chair to identify groups like churches that support the tour with docents.

Membership: Steven Mathias reports that our membership campaign starts Nov 1 with a mailer insert in the November edition of the Druid Hills News and online membership reminders. This year the theme is "Love your Neighborhood" with an ambitious goal of 1000 members. Progress towards our goal will be made visible with a membership "thermometer" image.

Membership bags to be delivered by Division Chairs are for new residents in July. August move-ins will be available next month. We are getting a 13% return in memberships on bags delivered so it is important to follow up by contacting new neighbors. Please return uncollected bags to Steven and ask Jennifer for past issues of the DH News to add to the bags. Steve Misner and Honora Handley have been helping Division Chairs make deliveries.

LDPC and Transportation: Alida Silverman reported on the recommendations of the joint meeting with the Transportation, LDPC, DeKalb Land Use and Historic Preservation committees concerning safety issues on Ponce de Leon raised by the recent GADOT road safety audit. A consensus emerged that speed on Ponce is the major safety issue and multiple measures need to be pursued to address the problem. Seven measures to mitigate the problem were identified:

- 1) Enforcement of speed limits is needed and is the responsibility of the city and county.

- 2) Rumble Strips – is this possible? Limited by emergency vehicle routes.
- 3) Additional Signage
- 4) Speed Monitor Signs (currently on the By-Way)
- 5) Neighborhood Identification Signage – we are more than just a thoroughfare.
- 6) Pedestrian Scramble – especially near the Paideia and SPARK schools
- 7) Road Diet such as two lanes with middle turn lane. Concerns were raised about limits on traffic volume.

LDPC: Jenny Richardson gave an update on the Pringle & Smith house at 1609 South Ponce which is being redeveloped with approved alterations to the back of the house, garage and porte-cochere. The interior of the house will be altered significantly.

Annexation Study Committee: Renee Nelson reported that DH and Emory representatives met with City of Atlanta officials to discuss how the City would “translate” historic preservation protections to the DH neighborhood. A first draft of Historic Preservation accommodations was produced. The Annexation Arbitration Panel Formal Hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept 27th at the Georgia State Bar at 10 AM; and we will be sending a group. The Panel will issue a final report in mid-October.

The September Board meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.