

DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Board Meeting
Wed., November 16, 2016 @ 7:30 p.m.
Hosted by: David Winston
Location: St. John's Lutheran Church

IN ATTENDANCE

Officers: A Wallace, P Moise, T McGuigan, K Gibson

Past Presidents: C Vandenberg, B MacGregor, D Shuey

Board Members: J Heerin, R Graham, L Van Gelderen, Y Weatherly, R Vicevich

S Thornton, V Biesel, S Misner

2016: A Howell, Elise Riley, A Silverman, D Winston.

2017: K Eisterhold, C Liggett, P Mitchell,

2018: A Ballard, B Evans, R Hughes, C Waterbury.

Guests: Steven Mathias (Membership co-chair), Julie Ralston (OLPA President), Sandra Kruger (OLPA Executive Director), Scott Storbeck (OLPA DH representative), Bobby Potter (DH Golf Club director), Old Briarcliff Safety Alliance members: Russ Haynie, Jack Guilbert, Carol Long, Brenda Dawson.

Welcome:

Julie Ralston (President), Sandra Kruger (Executive Director) & Scott Storbeck (Director & DHCA liaison) were welcomed to give us an update on the **Olmsted Linear Park Alliance (OLPA)**, the conservancy that cares for the 45 acre string of six park segments in the City of Atlanta and DeKalb County. The park, which was developed between 1890 and 1905, was saved from the Presidential Parkway 25 years ago. OLPA developed a master plan for the park in 1997, completed a \$10 million rehabilitation, and is now encouraging a partnership with the community to support and maintain the park with fundraising and volunteering. Funds are raised with their annual campaign, the annual gala at Fernbank, and named features like park benches. Last year OLPA worked with Arbor Guard to complete a tree survey that assessed and tagged 619 trees to be treated and tended. They are currently keeping in touch with GA DOT to ensure new safety measures at the park boundaries are appropriate.

Russ Haynie, president of the **Old Briarcliff Safety Alliance**, represents 60 residents opposed to the proposed Minerva development on the Fox 5 property. A rezoning to MR-1 application has been filed and will be considered in January. The alliance is asking DHCA to support their opposition to the rezoning and considers development of the east side of Old Briarcliff problematic due to steep grades and unbuildable topography, hazardous traffic on a cut-through route used by emergency vehicles, developments in areas less than 570' from the 1140' tall tower, and environmental degradation due to loss of mature trees.

Approval of October Minutes:

The October 19, 2016 minutes were approved.

There will be no Board Meeting in December before the holiday party on Thursday, December 15.

Announcements:

Amy Howell announced that the Nominating Committee is soliciting nominations from the board for 18 openings. Currently, ten nominees have been submitted. Notice of nominations will be posted on January 18, ten days before the annual meeting.

A “**Featured Division of the Month**” at each board meeting will start in January with Division 1. Each division will have the opportunity to relate something special about their division so that all board members will become more familiar with our entire Druid Hills community.

2017 Tour Committee: Ryan Graham reported that we still need a tour Secretary to record & communicate events to the community for the April 22-24 Tour.

A Band Chair and a Scrapbook Chair are also needed. Chairs meet at St. John’s on Wednesdays at noon.

Committee Reports:

Steven Mathias reported that the **Membership Committee** sent out 3905 membership reminders, posted 30 signs, and posted Facebook announcements in July. Since then, membership has increased from 429 members to 522 members resulting in \$32000 in dues and contributions. Welcome bags have been distributed to division chairs for new residents, which has also led to new memberships.

DeKalb Land Use and HPC:

Bruce MacGregor reported that a proposed re-development of the **Lullwater Apartments** would have a very significant impact on Emory Village, the Peavine Creek watershed, and the DH Golf Club. Between 80 and 90 percent of the four-acre parcel on N Decatur between Emory Village and Lullwater is in the floodplain and stream buffers. There are currently 44 two-story units and the proposed redevelopment has 85 rental units that are 3 ½ stories built over car parks. Alida Silverman read from the November 2006 task force guideline that addressed the Lullwater Apartments by recommending no redevelopment.

A **motion** to adopt the following four concepts concerning redevelopment of the Lullwater Apartments was approved unanimously:

The Druid Hills Civic Association supports the following actions on the existing Lullwater Apartments site:

- 1) The removal of all floodwalls to restore natural flood control with restoration of the natural topography.
- 2) No construction of buildings in the stream buffer.
- 3) No construction of buildings in the existing historic setback along Lullwater Road.
- 4) No building in the Floodplain or transition buffer that would increase flood levels upstream or downstream.

Treasurer’s Report:

Tom McGuigan distributed a detailed Quick Books report of the DHCA accounts from September 2015 through August 31, 2016.

Donation Requests:

Paideia and Druid Hills High School each requested donations of \$500, which the DHCA has traditionally granted in past years to supporting our local schools.

A **Motion** to approve both requests passed unanimously.

By-Laws Revision:

Phil Moise emailed to all members on November 10 a proposed revision of the bylaws to clarify and streamline governance procedures. If approved by the Board, the revisions would be submitted to all members for approval at the January 29, 2017 annual meeting.

A **Motion** to approve the proposed revisions passed unanimously.

Annexation Study Commission:

TSPLOST passed in last week's election and Emory's Mike Mandl reported that Emory would most likely go ahead with being annexed into the City of Atlanta. A new concern that newly adjacent commercial properties in DeKalb's historic district may decide to be annexed putting existing historic restrictions into question. Our Commissioner Jeff Rader has requested a meeting with Emory and seeks input from the DHCA. A Motion to adopt the following resolution to put in place a DHCA annexation study committee passed:

"RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby forms a special committee to be called the "Annexation Study Committee" to study and report to the Board on issues raised by the possible annexation by the City of Atlanta or the City of Decatur of portions of Druid Hills currently located within unincorporated DeKalb County, including but not limited to issues raised by the proposed annexation of Emory University, with the chairperson(s) and members of the Annexation Committee to be appointed by the President."

Division Reports:

Division 9/Chelsea Heights: Twenty neighbors worked to clean up Heaton Park last weekend and made great progress. Volunteers plan to get together two times every year.

Ken Gibson reported that the Fernbank Science Center Open House on November 9 was well attended and that many substantial improvements were on exhibit including the planetarium, the library, a new electron microscope and a new greenhouse under construction.

Division 1: Volunteers are needed to complete this fall's successful tree planting on January 14.

Division 2: volunteers are needed for maintaining the Fraser Center forest one Saturday each month.

Azalea Park:

Yvette Weatherly reported that trees and plantings affected by traffic, heat and drought were assessed. It was decided to leave the Azaleas but to remove the Ginko tree and trim the other trees. Mulching and a watering plan will be established in the spring.

A motion to go into **executive session** for an update on litigation was approved. After the Executive session ended, the November 2016 Board Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.