

**DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, July 20 2016 @7:30p.m.**  
**Location: St. John's Lutheran Church**

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**IN ATTENDANCE**

Officers: A Wallace, P Moise, H Handley, T McGuigan

Past Presidents: J Critz, C Vandenberg, D Shuey, B MacGregor

Board Members: J Richardson, J Heerin, S Kruse, Y Weatherly, V Biesel, S Misner, I Bogost, Renee Nelson, S Thornton

2016: E Riley, A Silverman.

2017: K Eisterhold, D Frymire, C Liggett, P Mitchell, L Van Gelderen, Jim Morawetz, Rob Benfield,

2018: B Clark, W Heaps, R Hughes, C Tankersley, L Van Gelderen, A Ballard, B Evans

Guests: Joanna Stroud, Debbie Schneider, Rudolf Makkreel, S. Mathias

The July meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm and the June 15, 2016 Board Minutes were approved.

Announcements:

Stephanie Ramage, Ombudsman for the City of Atlanta, will listen to concerns about city services such as Watershed Management, Public Works and Police at 7:00 pm on August 17, 30 minutes prior to the Board meeting. Please invite others to attend.

Wild Apricot is now on line. You should have received an invitation to attend a reception for Emory's new President.

The Road Reunion, celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of stopping the Presidential Parkway, will be held at Dellwood Park on Aug 7 from 4-7 pm. Honorary Chairman John Lewis is expected and Road memorabilia will be on display. There will be BBQ, tree climbing, music and other activities. A formal announcement will be made that Druid Hills is now the 89<sup>th</sup> NWF Community Wildlife Habitat.

Brian Davison from Minerva Developers, who is managing the "Fox 5" project approved by the DHCA, presented plans for the development at 999 Briarcliff Road. The four acre church site is too small to develop as a park community for high end senior living as originally planned. Their plans continue to evolve with three, 3-story multiple unit buildings each with up to 10 condominiums plus 9 to 14 individual 2-3 bedroom homes totaling 39 units. The DHCA Land Use Committee stated that under current zoning laws, the church property will revert to single family R-85 zoning and the DHCA prefers a lower density, non-infill residential development. Approval is ultimately determined by DeKalb County but the Land Use Committee will consider their plans.

Transportation:

Emory University published a street-scape redesign on Clifton Road, including pedestrian access and a sharrow cycling lane. The redesign is perceived as inadequate for pedestrian and bicycle safety. Emory agreed to make some changes on the East side after meeting with several concerned groups but there still appears to be problems on the West side. After meeting with Commissioner Jeff Rader, a request for Emory to agree to a plan developed by a local Urban planner was made. The Transportation Committee attended the meeting but the DHCA has not taken a position on this. Debbie Schneider, Policy Advisor for Commissioner Rader, read the following statement from our Commissioners:

"We are committed to supporting the community's priorities, and are in touch with Emory.

Notwithstanding their exclusionary approach, there is a limit to the unilateral influence we can exert, provided

they conform to regulatory requirements. Among the constraining mechanisms we face are the mandates of the DRI study which requires additional capacity on Clifton. I've seen a revised design from their engineers through Patrice Keeter that removes the island from the North Decatur intersection but at this point we're still challenged by the lack of dedicated bike lanes."

The DRI (Development of Regional Impact) is required for developments in excess of 500,000 Sq Ft. The TC is concerned that the current design does not address important safety issues even though the plans have already been permitted and are underway. Because Jeff Rader will be meeting with Emory tomorrow and multiple groups are coordinating their concerns through Jeff, Bill Clark, Wendy Heaps, Van Biesel and Debbie Schneider drafted the following resolution:

*"The Druid Hills Civic Association recognizes Emory University and Emory Health Care as leaders with respect to public health. However, the Civic Association has grave concerns as to whether the current proposed streetscape re-design of the Clifton Corridor positively impacts the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists. As such, we strongly urge Emory to reconsider and improve its proposed streetscape re-design in a way that reflects the input of our DeKalb County Commissioners Jeff Rader and Kathie Gannon."*

A Motion was made to approve the resolution, motion passed.

### **New Business:**

Budget Requests are due to the Treasurer.

A Reception for Claire Sterk, Emory's new president, is scheduled for August 11, from 6-8 pm at the home of Phil Moise. A \$2K budget request for the reception was approved. Please note that only Board members are invited, no guests.

The DH Yard Sale is planned for Saturday, September 17.

DHCA needed to appoint our representative to the City of Atlanta NPU N and we approved a motion that Jim Heerin remain as our Representative.

### **Other Business:**

Lullwater PATH update- Anne provided an update as of July 2016, and read a prepared statement and timeline. See Appendix A.

Discussions about the process and history of the proposed PATH Multi-use trail plans ensued and it was clear that communication between affected groups was inadequate and resulted in ill feelings. Clearly, when plans are proposed in the DH community, all relevant committees should be involved at the outset, in this case the Transportation, Land Use, Landmark District, Historic Preservation and Executive Committees as well residents represented by the Lullwater Preservation Coalition and the Emory Village Alliance.

A motion was made to communicate with the residents of Lullwater Road via a letter from DHCA. A suggestion was made to amend the motion to include this communication on the website. The Motion passed.

Concerns about Speed Bumps on Oakdale were expressed. It was stated that the county has an established street-by-street process to follow.

It was suggested to have a Master Plan, involving multiple committees. That was tabled for future discussion, but acknowledged as needed for Druid Hills.

There was a review of DHCA committee procedures on how to submit reports.

### **Committee reports**

- Membership – meets next week with Ryan & Becky to discuss incentives from the Tour Committee for membership levels. Membership is working on welcome bags for new residents to Druid Hills.
- Divisions overall - Phil will work with Division chairs on new resident addresses from Ryan Graham. Division chairs will distribute bags to new neighbors. A request was made for local businesses to provide incentives to the new residents.
- Landmark District Preservation Committee:

Tamas property – A side variance from 50 to 17 feet was opposed and withdrawn along with a proposed addition and demolition of the existing garage. A proposal was made to only restore and renovate the house. Plans for the garage may be revisited by the applicant in the future. August 10 is the UDC.

999 Briarcliff -A discussion ensued on what precedent it may set. There are 3 lots north of the existing church, owned by Elegant Homes LLC. A discussion of zoning and potential outcomes ensued. There is a full cycle deferral which is expected to be reviewed in September. Kit indicated he is reaching out to residents along Briarcliff and Springdale Road.

- Fall Newsletter - Contact Jennie Richardson with contributions to the Fall edition of the Newsletter.
- The Transportation Committee is initiating a walking club called “Walk Druid Hills.” The first scheduled walk is set for August 13, at 9 am at Emory Presbyterian Church. This is intended to be a monthly walk.

The Board went into Executive Session. Two motions were made and passed.  
The meeting adjourned at 9:57 pm

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