

DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 17, 2016 @7:30p.m.
Location: St. John's Lutheran Church
Host: Alida Silverman

IN ATTENDANCE

Officers: A Wallace, P Moise, H Handley, K Taylor, K Gibson

Past Presidents: C Vandenberg, D Shuey, B MacGregor

Board Members: R Graham, L Van Gelderen, J Critz, S Kruse, Y Weatherly, V Biesel, S Misner
2016: J Markham, A Orkin, A Silverman.

2017: R Benfield, K Eisterhold, D Frymire, C Liggett, P Mitchell, C Tankersley

2018: A Ballard, B Clark, B Evans, W Heaps, R Hughes

Guests: Joanna Stroud

City of Atlanta Ombudsman Stephanie Ramage spoke with District 1 residents about city services for 30 minutes before the Board Meeting was called to order at 7:35.

The July 20, 2016 Board Minutes_were approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Phil Moise reported that the August 11 **Reception for Claire Sterk**, Emory's new President was a congenial affair and all appreciated the opportunity to highlight the many connections between the University and the neighborhood.

Jenny McGuigan reported that our new **Wild Apricot** website performed very well during its first trial use in July. An Events Coordinator is needed to write up announcements and Elise Riley volunteered to do this and will be trained.

Anne Wallace announced that **Emory** is petitioning Atlanta to become **annexed to the City of Atlanta**. It is evident that that the Marta light rail plans contributed to the decision. The Emory property will be connected to the city through a 50' wide "land bridge" piece of property in the Sage Hill area and the annexation process will be for a single owner. Bruce MacGregor suggested that this might affect the DHCA's relation with Emory since we potentially have more influence within DeKalb County for Land Use issues that impact our neighborhood. Jeff Rader will be meeting with representatives from all Civic Associations adjacent to the University next Monday to explain the process that will take place.

Becky Evans gave an update on the fourth annual **Open Streets Emory Village** event organized by the Emory Village Alliance (EVA) and supported by the DHCA. The community event will be held on Saturday, October 23 and there will be a Halloween Contest, Bands, and Puppetry. The DHCA will again have a tent with membership supplies but is looking for the DHCA Banner from last year.

Scott Storbeck is a new Board Member of the **Olmsted Linear Parks Alliance** (OLPA) and asked to be liaison to the DHCA. He would like to see OLPA and DHCA doing more together, perhaps co-sponsoring evening in the parks events.

Alida Silverman reported that the 25th **Stop the Road Reunion**, which we sponsored, had a great turnout on August 7. The National Wildlife Federation presented the 89th **Certified Community Wildlife Habitat** designation to Druid Hills and individual leaders of the effort were awarded wildflower handbooks.

PATH Freedom Parkway/Emory Village Update: Anne Wallace mailed 217 letters to homeowners that detail the history of the controversy and states that the Lullwater Preservation Coalition will take the lead on any further negotiations with the PATH Foundation.

NEW BUSINESS

Treasurer Kelli Taylor presented the 2016-17 **Budget** for approval. The fiscal year starts September 1. Membership & Tour income predictions are conservative but we hope to increase the net surplus with DH News advertisements, new member outreach with gift bags and responsive communications through the Wild Apricot website. Tom McGuigan will be the treasurer for the rest of the year.

A Motion to approve the budget as presented passed without opposition.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Home and Garden Tour: Ryan Graham reported that the first official meeting was held this month and three houses are already selected for the 2017 tour as well as one house for the 50th anniversary Tour in 2018. Ideas for a 50th anniversary Tour theme include centennial homes and homes that were on the first tour. Most leadership roles are filled but a new Sponsorship Chair is needed to replace Cynthia Waterbury as well as a Tour Secretary and a Homeowner Scrapbook leader.

Membership: Honora Handley reported that Larissa Teunis and Steven Mathias are looking for volunteers to help reach out to new homeowners with a welcome tote bag with gifts and information. Recruitment for members should include Facebook and other social media. Outreach needs to give residents specific reasons to want to join their DHCA.

The EC recommends increasing the minimum membership from \$25 to \$35 to be in line with other civic associations and to cover the new expenses added every year. A suggestion was made to consider named membership levels such as \$50 Family memberships and \$100 Druid Hills memberships, and to publish a list of members by membership level in the Spring Edition of the Druid Hills News as an incentive.

A motion to raise basic dues from \$25 to \$35 was approved with one opposed.

Land Use: Phil Moise pointed out that there is a technical bylaws issue that needs to be addressed at the next annual meeting. Currently, there exists a single **Committee for Land Use and Historic Preservation**. The Bylaws need to be revised to incorporate the DeKalb Land Use and Historic Preservation subcommittee into the existing Land Use Committee while the Atlanta LDPC subcommittee will become it's own standing committee so both committees may act independently and report separately to the EC.

Landmark District Preservation Committee: Dan Frymire reported that the COA for the historic **Tamas structure** from the 1930's has been amended so the garage will not be removed and there will not be a variance for the side set-back. Tamas' son is seeking to rehabilitate the house as a single-family residence that may be expanded in the future but currently stabilizes the roof, walls, windows and porches.

DeKalb Land Use & Historic Preservation Committee: Kit Eisterhold reported on representing opposition to rezoning the Atlanta Metro Cathedral site at 999 Briarcliff Rd. The 4-acre lot on the east side of Briarcliff is currently zoned R-85 and the county voted to deny the rezoning application. Efforts have begun to increase involvement of neighbors to deal with the rapid development on Briarcliff.

Transportation: Van Biesel and Wendy Heaps have contacted GDOT to get information from the Road Safety Audit and for projects being considered over a 5 – 7 year timeline. Meanwhile,

accidents are occurring weekly, a traffic count will take place in September/October, and the **Ponce Corridor Study** is on the DH website. Many believe that the DHCA may want to hire our own professional consultant to represent our traffic concerns with GDOT.

MARTA posted a Webinar Presentation on the proposed Lindbergh-to-Avondale **Light Rail** routes through the **Clifton Corridor**. Some of the routes are different from what was presented four months ago. The lower cost Alternative 6 includes an on-grade rail along N. Decatur while Alternative 7, which was much more popular among the webinar participants, includes a deep bore tunnel under Emory and Druid Hills. MARTA appears to have ruled out routes along the CSX rail due to difficulties in gaining permission.

Commuters can no longer use the small **Clifton shuttle to Grady** due to space limitations. The committee spoke with Betty Willis, Emory's VP of Community Affairs, about this popular service.

The first **Walk Druid Hills** event was held on Saturday, August 13 and explored the "secret parks" in Emory Grove before continuing on to the Lullwater Preserve on Emory's Campus. The second event is being planned in Division 1 next month.

DIVISION REPORTS

Division 2: Yvette Weatherly expressed concern about the maintenance of Azalea Park at the junction of Ponce and East Lake Rd. The county responded and will replace dead plants and mulch, but neighbors will need to water the plants from an existing water-spigot.

The August 2016 Board Meeting adjourned at 9:31 pm