

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Druid Hills Civic Association
March 17, 2004**

Welcome and Introduction of Visitors:

Mark Arnold and Mary Stouffer of Pool Together were in attendance. Natalie Desantis was also present. Valerie Gallagher and Joni Winston, residents attended. The Olmstead Linear Park Alliance was represented by Beth Grashof and Tally Sweat. Davis Fox of the Alliance to Improve Emory Village (AIEV) was also present.

Presentation by Pool Together: Mark Arnold and Mary Stouffer of Pool Together made a presentation of their proposal for a pool to be located on the site of the original pool and bath house on the Candler Estate located on the corner of Briarcliff and University. The property is currently owned by Emory University as part of the West Campus. This group was formed out of the Virginia Highlands/Morningside Parents Association. They have conducted a survey to determine the needs and desires of the neighborhood with regard to a neighborhood pool. The findings included:

- 47% of families maintain an "out of neighborhood" pool membership.
- 43% do not maintain a pool membership.
- 95% would join a neighborhood pool.
- 80% would like to be involved in the process of developing a neighborhood pool.

Pool Together has spoken with representatives of Emory University who found the concept interesting but did not see this project progressing at this time. The organization sees the project coming to fruition in phases. The first phase would include the Bath House, pool and Gate House. Pool Together has come to the DHCA Board for help in determining if there is interest in the Druid Hills community for belonging to such a pool.

Board Member, Joanna Stroud expressed concern about increased traffic on Briarcliff Road from pool members entering and exiting from the pool. Mark and Mary reported that they would like to be able to access the pool from University Road instead of Briarcliff. Pool Together would like access to the DHCA's e-mail list to send out a link to their survey on their website.

A motion passed to allow Pool Together access to DHCA's E-Alert system for this purpose.

Approval of Minutes and Status of Action Items from the Previous Meetings (Review To-Do List):

The February Board Meeting Minutes were approved without change.

The To-Do List was reviewed. A copy is attached.

Nominating Committee Report and Election of Executive Committee: Ellen Nemhauser reported that the Nominating Committee has nominated Bill Moseley to a position on the Executive Committee. Bill was approved by the Board to serve on the same.

Children's Health Care of Atlanta Follow-Up: Rolf Grun reported that he has received the following answers to question raised by members of the Board during last month's presentation by CHOA:

- Dirt removed from excavation area will be 250,000 cubic yards
- Car trips in and out of the current parking deck are approximately 390 daily trips made by patients and visitors plus 150-200 estimated card-swipe entries (employees).

BoC Action Concerning Infrastructure Projects: Chuck Palmer has met with Bruce McGregor and Mike Terry.

To Do: Mike Terry is conducting research of possible legal action. The committee recommends that DHCA write a letter expressing concern over the recently adopted budget and send it to the BoC.

To Do: Chuck Palmer to write the letter and send it the Executive Committee for approval.

A motion passed to have Chuck Palmer write the letter.

Nunan Property Update: Bruce Wobeck was not able to attend this portion of the meeting.

To Do: Rolf Grun and Bruce are to meet to see where this issue stands.

Golden Key Property: Joni Winston, a Druid Hills resident, presented a concept for the Golden Key property to the Board. She has made an offer on the property with the idea of turning the property into a community center for the neighborhood. This would include space for neighborhood meetings, a exhibit space for neighborhood history, including the Olmstead Linear Parks and office space for DHCA and OLPA. The space available to DHCA for offices, the exhibit and meetings would total approx. 2,000 square feet. She estimates that she will need at least \$150,000 per year to maintain the facility and believes that \$100,000 of this could be raised by leasing the remaining 9,700 square feet to non-profit organizations for office space. This would leave \$50,000 that would have to be raised each year through fund raisers. The property could include space for a playground satisfying the requirement of having a playground in Springdale Park. Would like support from DHCA in getting the word out for a town hall meeting she plans on having later in April to see if there is interest from the community including people who can contribute their time and finances to get this project off the ground. She would like to raise \$75,000 to set up an endowment to go forward. She is on a tight timeframe and will have to commit to the sale just a few days after her town hall meeting. She has the support of a foundation that will take title of the property for insurance and tax purposes.

A motion passed to express support of the concept of a community center for the Golden Key property and the holding of a town hall meeting.

Springdale Park Play Structure: Beth Grashof, a member of NPU-F and Board member of OLPA and Alida Silverman, DHCA and OLPA Board member presented the news that the OLPA Board had voted to support the placement of a play structure in the Southeast corner of Springdale Park. Pam Terry and Deb Stone of the Playground Committee expressed misgivings about this placement. Tally Sweat of OLPA explained that a final decision has not been made at this time but that this allowed a study of the feasibility of this location to proceed.

A motion was passed to continue discussions of the playground at another date.

1595 Emory Road: Valerie Gallagher, resident of 1602 Emory Road requested that the Board take action to help promote the condemnation of the house at 1595 Emory Road. The house is vacant and in disrepair. The Board suggested that this amounted to "Demolition by neglect," which is prohibited by the Historic Preservation Ordinance, and is best addressed through that ordinance. Walter Saunders reported that the Historic Preservation Commission has recently become more interested in demolition by neglect issues and in fact has begun a review of this property at their March meeting. Walter agreed to bring up this property and the neighborhood's concerns at the next HPC meeting for further action.

AIEV Update: Davis Fox reported that the traffic consultant has completed the study of the North Decatur Corridor/road diet/round-about. The surprise was that the study showed that the corridor can handle the traffic with no significant increase in travel time with the exception of Oxford Road. DeKalb County has accepted the findings. Emory University now recognizes that the proposal can work and is considering making some internal changes. One of these is to make Dowman a one-way entrance into the campus. Another possibility is to shift Dowman closer to Oxford. Problems with this include the removal of a substantial number of trees and encroachment on the creek.

Historic Preservation "Comedy Hour" Presentation - Alida Silverman will give this presentation at a future meeting.

Reprints of *Southern Living* Article: This will be discussed at a future meeting.

Contribution to Bill Kennedy Scholarship Fund - Chuck Palmer proposed a contribution by DHCA to a fund established to honor Bill Kennedy, a long time city planner. This fund would provide a GA Tech student with an internship in the Atlanta City Planning Department. It was agreed that further discussion of this would take place after the Tour of Homes, when the financial success of the tour was determined.

Announcements:

Rolf Grun made several announcements:

- DeKalb County Park & Recreation Citizens Advisory Board will hold a meeting on March 23rd at 6:00 p.m. at the Lucious Sanders Recreation Center in Lithonia.
- Open Committee Chairs
 - Peavine Watershed Alliance (succeeding Basil Campbell)
 - DeKalb County Civic Coalition Position (succeeding Mike Lancaster)
- DeKalb County Comprehensive Transportation Plan Public Forum. Meeting to be held on March 18th at 5:00 p.m. in the Maloof Auditorium to discuss the County's Comprehensive Transportation Plan.
- Committee Membership Update - Board members were asked to update their committee assignments.
- Infill Development Meeting. There will be a community forum meeting on March 18th at 7:30 p.m. at Lakeside High School to address community concerns about infill development and teardowns.
- Board Training - Kathie Gannon has agreed to conduct Board training. Ellen Nemhauser has agreed to assist. It was suggested that this session take place on Saturday April 24 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned.

