

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Druid Hills Civic Association
July 21, 2004**

Welcome and Introduction of Visitors:

There were several visitors present including: Stuart Tunnell, Tunnell & Tunnell, Brian Bowen from OLPA, Beth Grasoff, from OLPA, Tally Sweat from OLPA, and Ed Tamas, resident.

Approval of Minutes and Status of Items from Previous Meetings:

The minutes were approved amended as follows. The sentence under 1424 Fairview that read "A second motion was initiated and seconded to submit a letter to the UDC Commissioners and Executive Director and ask for definition for Secretary of the Interior standards." Should be changed to read: "A second motion was initiated and seconded to submit a letter to the UDC Commissioners and Executive Director ."

Nomination for the Executive Committee (Non-Agenda Item):

The Nominating Committee nominated Krista Brewer to the Executive Committee. This was approved by the Board.

Proposed Springdale Play Structure - OLPA, DHCA Playground Committee, LDPC

President Rolf Grun began this item by reading a statement of the history of the renovation and proposal for a playground in Springdale Park (see attached).

Brian Bowen and Stuart Tunnell presented the design of the restoration of Springdale Park on behalf of OLPA, Silverman, and Tunnell and Tunnell. The park will be much as it was originally designed by the Olmstead Firm. A space with open spaces closing into smaller spaces traversed with undulating paths. A playground will be placed in the Southeast corner of the park. This area will be regraded. A bridge will be constructed in this area to go over the spring or bog area. This area was identified as the least obtrusive area for the playground. The playground will be divided into two sections, an upper and lower section. The Gorick Company has been selected to manufacture the equipment. This will be the first use of Gorick equipment in the Atlanta area. The equipment is designed to appeal to different ages.

Joanna Stroud spoke on behalf of the Landmark District Preservation Committee. She began by reading from the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for park rehabilitation, "Installations of additions should not be emphasized (?)." The LDPC and contiguous neighbors have expressed their support for OLPA's plans for the rehabilitation of Springdale Park but without a playground.

Joanna has discovered a new form of playground, the Boundless Playground. There is a website: www.boundlessplaygrounds.org which further explains the concept. Essentially, boundless playgrounds allow for play by individuals regardless of ability or disability. These playgrounds are barrier free and for everyone, adult and child alike. Currently boundless playgrounds are located in 19 states and Canada. There are none in the City of Atlanta. A site for this playground has been identified adjacent to Jackson Hill Baptist Church and the Candler Park Community. Additionally, an anonymous donor has agreed to donate \$300,000 for the creation of the playground on this site. Issues to be determined:

Would the City of Atlanta Parks and Recreation Department support both the playground at Springdale Park and a Boundless Playground?

Would the Candler Park neighborhood support this site for a Boundless Playground?

Is one playground mutually exclusive of the other?

Would the donor agree to allow his/her donation to be used for a Boundless Playground in another location?

Pam Terry spoke as a member of the Playground Committee. She made several points.

1. There currently exist lots of playgrounds in Olmstead designed parks. Olmstead believed in playgrounds.
2. There is not enough information currently available to arrive at a reasonable decision.
3. OLPA's charter is to preserve the Olmstead vision of the parks.
4. The DHCA Playground Committee is charged with representing the neighborhood in its desire to have a playground.

Pam then read several e-mails from neighbors supporting the playground in Springdale Park. The Playground Committee overwhelmingly supports the playground in Springdale Park while also embracing the idea of another playground at the Jackson Hill Baptist Church site.

Pam repeated the statement that it was not clear whether the City would allow both parks to be placed in such close proximity.

Board members expressed concerns with both park sites such as parking and traffic.

President Rolf Grun called Councilwoman Anne Fauver to get some clarification on whether the City would allow both playgrounds to co-exist. Ms. Fauver believes that one playground is not mutually exclusive of the other.

Councilwoman Fauver later appeared at the meeting and reiterated this belief.

Alida Silverman made a motion to have the DHCA support OLPA's design of Springdale Park without the inclusion of a Playground. Because this a City of Atlanta issue, two votes are required. The first only taken by board members living in the City of Atlanta and the second by the rest of the Board.

City of Atlanta vote: 2 in favor, 3 against. Motion fails.

DHCA vote: 5 in favor, 11 against. Motion fails.

Deb Stone moved to have the DHCA endorse OLPA's plan for Springdale Park as presented (including the Playground)

City of Atlanta vote: 2 in favor, 3 against. Motion fails

DHCA vote: 10 in favor, 4 against. Motion carries.

Charles Palmer moved to have the DHCA support OPLA's plan for Springdale Park but with the understanding that we would still like to explore the possibility of having a Boundless Playground at the Jackson Hill site. After further discussion, Chuck withdrew his motion.

Alida Silverman moved to have the DHCA support the plan for Springdale Park but to separate out the playground for the purpose of determining whether the City would require that there be a playground located specifically in Springdale Park.

No one seconded this motion.

Joanna Stroud moved to have the DHCA request that the Urban Design Commission defer a decision pending further information.

City of Atlanta vote: 3 in favor, 1 against. Motion carries.

DHCA vote: 8 in favor, 5 against. Motion carries.

As it was now after 9:00 p.m. and the meeting facility was set to close shortly, most of the agenda was tabled until a future meeting.

Historic Preservation Ordinance: Ed Tamas

Mr. Tamas owns the properties at 1715 and 1723 S. Ponce De Leon Avenue. Mr. Tamas read a statement detailing his struggle with these properties. His home is located in the Landmark District. Many years ago, the home burned. The City forced him to preserve the ruin to prevent further deterioration. He feels his Constitutional rights have trampled upon because he has not been allowed to do what he wants with his property.

The meeting was adjourned.