

MINUTES
Board of Directors Meeting
Druid Hills Civic Association
7:30PM Wednesday, December 17, 2008
Emory's 1784 N. Decatur Road Building

Call to Order, Recognition of Guests: **Jim Morawetz**, President, called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. Guests included **Jim Potts**, a resident on Ponce de Leon Avenue, and **David Hill**, a resident on Princeton Way who has offered to help with the DHCA website.

Secretary's Report (approval of minutes): The minutes of the November 19, 2008 meeting were approved.

Transportation

Haygood Drive Realignment: Haygood will consist of five lanes intersecting N. Decatur Rd at a 90 degree angle, connecting N. Decatur Rd to Clifton Rd. Emory is donating the land. Some of the neighbors are uncomfortable with the scale of the design; it may not be good for DHHS, either. DHCA wishes to back both the neighbors and DHHS (assuming their positions are consistent) in opposing the current proposal. The DHCA Transportation Committee should take the lead and consider asking the County Transportation Department to address the DHCA on this subject.

DHHS Parking Issue: DCSS has abandoned plans to purchase property in Emory Grove, and Emory Presbyterian Church is now trying to negotiate a parking arrangement with the school system. In a related matter, it was reported that the APS had to get a COA from the Urban Design Commission that entailed using the Druid Hills Methodist Church parking lot for car pools, and that the matter still has not been resolved.

Land Use

Legislation: The new **zoning ordinance** will be drawn to conform to the flawed land use ordinance. Volunteers are needed to assist **Bruce MacGregor** in studying the proposals and providing effective input during the County's planning process. The proposed **stream buffer ordinance** is stricter for homeowners, but looser for the county. **Infill development** issues mainly concern height measurement. The **workforce housing ordinance** would give have given a 25% increase in density for a project if 15% of the units were for workforce housing. Such a program is not needed in DeKalb County, and the Planning Department has backed-off. The **multi-purpose trail** plan would allow for the development of trails without the necessity of conducting public meetings to consider their impact on private property, neighborhoods, etc.

The board approved a motion to authorize the executive committee to develop and present positions on the **stream buffer ordinance** and **multi-purpose trails** if they go to the BOC before our next board meeting. Any interested member who wants

advance information before either issue goes to the executive committee is invited to work with the land use committee as proposals are developed.

Chelsea Heights Design Guidelines: The proponents and opponents of the proposed guidelines met and found common ground to resolve their differences. The guidelines will be *in lieu of* the Druid Hills general guidelines, rather than *in addition to* them. While there will probably be some opposition remaining, the new guidelines should be passed by the HPC.

New Power Lines on E. Lake: A meeting has been arranged with GDOT to seek a waiver permitting the placement of new power poles on E. Lake where the old poles were (are) rather than in the sidewalk, as planned, to comply with state highway requirements.

Assemblage on Scott Blvd near the Ponce de Leon split and railroad bridge: Three acres zoned R-75 comprising six lots with five older homes is slated for development of a senior citizens facility. Some believe a better idea would be to build new, better homes with access to Parkwood vs. Ponce de Leon.

Buckler Case (Nunan Property): The County's position, which the DHCA has supported, has prevailed in 4 ½ of the 5 lawsuits. The only remaining issue to be resolved is whether the BZA acted appropriately in denying a zoning variance.

Historic Preservation

The Druid Hills Landmark Preservation Committee is going to protest the termination of **Karen Huebner's** employment with the City's Urban Design Commission, which has now been folded into the Planning Department as a "budgetary issue."

Parks and Greenspace

The board approved a \$10,000 contribution to **OLPA**, as the final installment of a ten-year, \$100,000 pledge. A small group from the executive committee will meet with OLPA representatives in January to discuss this final installment and to begin preliminary discussions regarding future financial support for maintenance of the parks and DHCA representation on the OLPA board. No commitments will be made at this time.

The board approved a \$1000 contribution to the **Freedom Park Conservancy**, which borders on the southern boundary of Druid Hills.

Tour of Homes and Artist Market

The co-chairs have agreed that operations co-chair **Tammy Ellerbe** will run the remainder of the meetings. Everything is going well. The deadline for sponsors' contributions is January 15th.

Communications

Ad revenue is a continuing problem for the **Druid Hills News**. It has been suggested that we develop a commission pay plan for ad sales that could be offered to a variety of individuals who might be interested in this kind of work. The board approved the concept, with details to be worked out as early as possible.

Governance

The board approved the nomination of **Chad Henderson** to fill a vacancy in the class of 2010.

The **admin vp** has effectively resigned; a replacement is needed to fill the balance of her term.

The executive committee proposed some rules for the conduct of the **election at the annual meeting**, including a requirement that memberships be current two weeks before the meeting. The requirement was intended to facilitate advance preparation of a list of eligible voters and a paper ballot for each household. The board approved the measure for 2010, provided that members whose memberships have lapsed in the prior 12 months be allowed to renew at the meeting; however, the notice period was considered to be too short for 2009 and could possibly disadvantage members and neighbors who might be planning to wait until the annual meeting renew longer-lapsed memberships or become new members. The new rule should be extensively publicized well in advance of the 2010 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Shuey, Secretary