

**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Druid Hills Civic Association**  
**7:30 pm Wednesday, April 22, 2009**  
**1784 N. Decatur Rd., Emory**

**Call to Order, Recognition of Guests:** President Dick Shuey called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests, including new resident Erin Strathdee.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the March 18, 2009 meeting were approved.

Sean Rikken was present and was appointed Division 4 chair.

Scott Schuman was appointed Division 7 chair.

### **Division Reports**

1: Division 1 reported that the former Howard School is now a NE Atlanta Elementary School named Springdale Park Elementary. The new building behind the Neel Reid house is named Olmsted Hall.

2: Bob Ballou: Div. 2 continues to build their neighborhood watch list which meets twice per year. After attending a Historic Preservation Committee meeting, identified a need to correct DeKalb County web site information and to communicate to DH residents historic preservation guidelines and rules. Also need to identify who is available to help residents with appropriate designs. Realtors were proposed as a potentially informed resource.

4: Sean: Oxford Rd. residents have begun the process of obtaining resident-only street parking. Petitions were sent to houses but 5 signatures were not from the required owners of the houses. Restrictive Parking issues are a growing concern due to Emory parking demands and can be best addressed by first communicating with all homeowners.

6: Dick Shuey: DH patrol employed for one part of division.

9: Steve Misner: Community meeting concerned about inadequate sidewalks on Vickers for pedestrians walking to Fernbank ES. DeKalb County has no money now for sidewalks. Traffic needs to be slowed down, especially before and after school.

Jeremy Turner: There are no cross walks or signs within a ½ mile radius of the school where there is no bus service.

Thea Roeser suggested utilizing PR by having TV stations film inadequate and unsafe crosswalks. This needs to be a top priority for Transportation Committee.

Alida Silverman suggested getting Fernbank parents involved

Steve: hopes to post the new Chelsea Heights guidelines on our website.

### **Artists Market**

Becky Evans: presented preliminary figures from the Druid Hills House Tour: Overall very successful tour but numbers are down from last year. Will need final expenses tally for final numbers.

Joanna Stroud: Income from Artists Market was down (\$1500 vs. \$2400) but artists were pleased with sales. The Artists Market ran very smoothly this year.

We have the potential to increase attendance with a marketing team which can communicate to residents outside the perimeter and in retirement homes.

### **E-Mail Communication with Membership**

David Hill is responsible for the great improvements in our website which now allows immediate membership and communication to appropriate parts of the organization. There are limited access links available for membership data.

### **Historic Preservation Committee**

John Hudson: Chris needs to report to the community on trends (like problems with casement windows). In the past there was a summary available in the form of a score card of number of applications approved.

DHCA needs to communicate what is going on with HPC since we get blamed for inappropriate rulings. We as an association may need to challenge some of the rules and change guidelines regulations that do not make sense. The DHCA needs to communicate trends and give clear instruction on how process works.

Alida Silverman: We need to demonstrate important aspects of the guidelines. For example, we can show the difference between appropriate wood windows and inappropriate vinyl windows.

Bruce MacGregor: to streamline the process, the HP commission should not allow incomplete applications that they currently deal with during their meetings. We need to identify who oversees HPC and go to the CEO for needed changes.

Becky Evans: There is a risk in demanding more from the CEO since complaints may result in removing funding and difficulty in obtaining new appointments. Then we would be left without any oversight. We should ask for a review of the current guidelines.

It was proposed that Cathy Vandenberg, Bruce McGregor and Chris Leeth address communication and review of the guidelines.

John: we need one person from each division to be part of this committee so input is representative of the entire community. (NOTE: to email Cathy Vandenberg on this)

### **Membership:**

Thea Roeser: 65 Shopping Bags for new members sold at the house tour. We need a consistent procedure to fill bags with brochures and information to give to new residents in each division.

Thomas Winn has joined the Membership Committee.

If the Fall edition of the paper is to emphasize membership, we need to get this edition to printer by the end of August for September distribution. Then we can include the DHCA neighborhood yard to help with PR. We should continue distributing four 8 page issues per year.

A Motion was unanimously passed to summarize all dimensions of DHCA committees in the paper.

It was proposed to do more to help St. Lukes with a significant gesture. Painting exterior window woodwork and assisting with their capital campaign were two suggestions.

### **Public safety**

Jeremy Turner: To have an effective neighborhood watch, we need to have full participation when distributing information. There is concern that some divisions are not represented at board meetings. Information should flow from Officer Turner to division chairs and block captains to residents.

Dick Shuey: funds should be available for division chairs and block captains to have socials to increase participation.

### **Parents Network**

An early summer event by the parents network is being planned for all residents. This will be a second event (after the Halloween party which had big turnout). With no opposition, \$250 was allocated to fund this effort.

### **Land Use and Historic Preservation**

Bruce MacGregor: Update on the creation of a 501c-3 organization that Chad Henderson was looking into for the purpose of gaining tax deductible donations for streetlights, sidewalks and parks. There are risks that a separate organization could create divisions as well as compete with the fundraising efforts of the tour. Organizing the governance of a 501c-3 is very important to avoid potential problems in the future. Thea Roeser: Perhaps the organization can be set up so any donations are earmarked for specific uses.

A Hummingbird resident is asking the DHCA to support him in getting DeKalb County to enforce its code concerning a neighbor's retaining wall. It was agreed to have Bruce write a letter for Dick to sign.

The Sagamore Hills night club found to be in violation of code has sued DeKalb County and SHCA. A hearing on Monday, April 27 requests the support of community.

Meeting adjourned at 9:31

D-R-A-F-T