

MINUTES
Board of Directors Meeting
Druid Hills Civic Association
7:30 pm Wednesday, May 20, 2009
St. John's Lutheran Church

BOARD ORIENTATION

The meeting was opened by 1st VP Cathy Vandenberg who introduced the first of a three part orientation for the 2009 Board of Directors.

The Historic Preservation Committee Chair Alida Silverman gave a brief overview of the 70 year history of the DHCA which included a sampler of articles from the past. A 1939 news article documents the civic association's success in zoning Druid Hills exclusively for residential purposes. A 1969 tour promotion points out that Druid Hills was named as one of the Nation's ten most desirable neighborhoods by Esquire Magazine. A 1984 fact sheet lists past achievements such as obtaining national and local Historic District status. A 1984 newsletter also documents the DHCA's official position opposing the Presidential Parkway Project.

The orientation continued with a brief summary of the By-Laws by Board Secretary Ken Gibson. The 13 articles of the DHCA By-Laws define who we are, what we do, and how we do it.

The orientation session concluded with introductions of the six Board Officers, and the Chairs of the following Standing Committees: Land Use/Zoning, Historic Preservation, Transportation, Tour of Homes, Membership, Community & Lifestyle, DH Parents Network, DH News, and the Budget Committee.

THE BUSINESS MEETING

The business meeting was opened by President Dick Shuey who noted that there were more than the 17 board members needed for the required 2/5 quorum.

Two guests, Wright Marshal and Tim Ralston were welcomed and the minutes of the April 22 meeting were approved.

BURBANCK PARK

Becky Evans, representing Park Pride, gave a presentation on future development plans for Emory's Burbanck Park.

Emory University paid \$500K for the Burbanck lot in 2006 and it is categorized in Emory's records as a preserve, but not as a conservation easement. The DHCA contributed \$5K towards the purchase of the lot which was used for the initial development of the park. The DHCA also helped raise \$2K to help tear down the house (leaving the foundation) and develop the park. Park Pride now has permission to remove the foundation and has set aside \$28K for landscaping the park in a more natural state. Becky then proposed for DHCA to contribute either \$3K for landscaping or \$5K for landscaping and granite stepping stones for a path crossing the Peavine Creek.

Concerns were raised by some members about how Emory is unwilling to make an official conservation easement even though most of the lot is in a floodplain. The question was raised "Why should we contribute to Emory's park?" since contributions by DHCA and Park Pride would go through Emory (although liability is covered by Emory's policy).

A motion was made to hold Emory responsible for returning a \$5K donation if the lot does not remain a park. This motion failed 10/12. A Motion was made to donate \$5K for landscaping and this motion failed 8/12.

MEMBERSHIP

Thea Roeser summarized efforts to increase top level Olmsted Memberships (currently there are 13 memberships at this level). The current benefit of House Tour tickets needs to be increased as an incentive for Olmsted Memberships. The inclusion of attendance to the Tour of Homes Gala Event was proposed but, because this may increase expenses for the Gala Event, extra money needs to be given to the tour budget. The motion was made to contribute an amount equal to the top level membership (currently \$100) to the tour budget for each top level membership awarded. The motion passed by voice vote.

ALCOHOL ORDINANCE

Bruce MacGregor summarized the changes proposed in the alcohol ordinance: Presently all alcohol sales have minimum distance requirements to churches and schools. The current proposal eliminates distance to churches for beer only. For Restaurants and Taverns in an overlay or mixed use district, all distances are eliminated. Concerns

were raised about the elimination of distance requirements for churches and schools which are not normally part of mixed use developments as well as existing residential houses outside of the mixed use districts. The purpose to allow restaurants and taverns to be part of mixed use developments is understood and unopposed. Most concerns are about noise and behavior in areas adjacent to the mixed use districts themselves.

This is Cathy Gannon's initiative and will be voted on in June. There is a need to get other civic associations involved. A motion was made to oppose ordinance as written. This motion Passed.

A suggestion was made to write a letter to the AJC, all civic associations and churches stating our opposition to the existing ordinance expressing our concern for need to include minimum distances from existing churches, schools and residential houses outside of the mixed use districts.

Dick will draft a letter for the AJC.

TREES ON OAKDALE

Dick Shuey summarized the status of the trees on Oakdale near the Byway marked for removal by the County arborist. Dick communicated with Commissioner Jeff Rader to slow the process down.

Sean Riffin made several calls and had Greg Levine of Trees Atlanta come out. Greg thought only 2 of 8 should be removed immediately. Sean will try to get a letter from Greg Levine sent to the County.

There was a motion by Alida Silverman to get a written second opinion on the marked trees to the county and to communicate to the residences of Oakdale about the situation. She also suggested that we need to 1) develop a street maintenance program for all of DH and 2) reactivate the tree planting program to replace canopy trees by planting in yards separated from street.

The motion was supported (w/o a quorum).

The Meeting adjourned at 10:33