

MINUTES  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Druid Hills Civic Association  
7:30 pm Wednesday, July 15, 2009  
St. John's Lutheran Church

## BOARD ORIENTATION

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

President Dick Shuey reviewed DHCA Policies and Traditions, in particular the policy on the use of official DHCA stationary, Who Speaks for the Association, Conflicts of Interest, and the Policy on Speaking With One Voice.

Cathy Vandenberg and Communications VP David Hill announced that an electronic version of the DHCA Board Notebook will shortly be posted on the DHCA website. For those board members who want (and don't already have) a hard copy of the latest version (with helpful tabs), a sign-up sheet was circulated. For more information on notebooks, contact Cathy Vandenberg or David Hill.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and final orientation segment will be held August 19, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. prior to the August Board meeting. The topic will be the role and duties of Division Chairs. All Division Chairs and new Board members (and all others) are strongly encouraged to attend.

## THE BUSINESS MEETING

President Dick Shuey opened the business meeting  
Minutes from the June 17 Board meeting were not available. Defer until August Board meeting.

## OAKDALE TREES

Sean Riggan reported that that they have gotten reassurance from DeKalb Roads and Drainage that they'll give us time to assess the trees that were marked for removal by the County arborist. Sean reported that 1 or 2 of the neighbors with trees marked for removal have said that they don't want the trees saved. The consensus was that DHCA would honor that wish.

Spence Rosenfeld with Arboguard and Sean Riggan did a drive around through the Oakdale neighborhood. They are suggesting a Tree Planting program utilizing the Tree Watch Program (a copy of which is attached to these minutes). They have identified Oakdale Road as a target area, the blocks between Ponce de Leon and North Decatur

Road. They have identified 100 possible tree locations. They are hoping 40 neighbors will agree to host new trees in their yards. Trees Atlanta has pledged its support. November 7 is the tentative date. Next step is to send out a letter to Oakdale residents.

Spence (a former DH resident) then spoke .He said the older trees have outgrown their space-- 80 years is the maximum healthy life span. The root flares are compromised. We ought to start replacing trees and do it differently, planting them 7 feet behind the sidewalk on private property rather than in the street space, so clearly the neighbors have to be in agreement. In 2001, the Tree Watch Program planted 350 trees on Fairview, Oxford, Oakdale, Ridgewood, and Harvard roads. Trees Atlanta sold trees for \$50. Today, those trees will cost \$75, which is still a big discount. The issue is how to replenish the tree canopy. Spence distributed the Tree Watch booklet and a brief Q and A ensued. Spence is happy to help us organize this.

Alida thought we voted to reactive Tree Watch at the last meeting. Dick stated that we voted to allocate up to \$500 for further evaluation of several of the marked trees. Three trees need drilling analysis (the way to determine if the tree is at risk-30% decay is the magic number). Question is how much do we need to spend for further evaluation. Spence stated that the drilling analysis is not determinative. Even if decay isn't a problem, the tree could still have root issues. The cost per tree is \$295. Alida stated that we need to do a street tree survey count (inventory and management) to look at species diversity and maintenance requirements. We could apply for a Georgia Forestry grant to do such a survey. Spence said he or others could do a survey. The Deadline to apply for the grant is May and Alida is willing to work on it. Nill Toulme made a motion authorizing Alida to apply for a Georgia Forestry grant to do the street tree survey. Rob Vicevich seconded the Motion. The motion was approved.

Ron Foust made a motion to begin implementing the Tree Watch program on Oakdale and to send a letter to homeowners who reside on Oakdale. Alida seconded the Motion. Discussion ensued. Rolf asked if letter would be on DHCA stationary or Tree Watch stationary and once the letters are sent out, can we follow though on the program. Dick stated that the letter will go out on DHCA stationery. Miles Hall and Amy Durrell will be asked to send the letters out and lead the effort on their respective blocks of Oakdale. Ron Foust volunteered to be on the Tree Watch Committee. The motion was approved.

## ALCOHOL ORDINANCE

Dick Shuey reported that the revision passed unanimously with the 50-foot buffer. Bill Gryboski's group made a presentation to the Board of Commissioners during the public comment period. They think the revision passed because of the e-mail campaign.

Dick reported that he and Cathy attended a meeting with Jeff Rader, Kathie Gannon, the head of the DeKalb Planning Department, Davis Fox, Stuart Meddin, Jan Saperstein, and the owner of the SABA and Domino's Pizza buildings to discuss implementation of the mixed-use zoning overlay for Emory Village. They also discussed the BP site and its application for a COA to demolish the gas station. Nill suggested we should ask if the

Taco Mac property is covered by the COA application. Dick agreed to talk to Chris Leeth who is our point person for the HPC meetings.

Alida thanked David for his e-alerts re the BP COA, street trees, Board meeting agenda, etc., and commended him for doing such a great job. David announced that the DHCA forum has gone live. Nill suggested we need to let any private contractor know when they get mentioned on the forum so they have an opportunity to respond.

## DIVISION REPORTS

DIVISION 1-Alida announced that Springdale Park Elementary will be opening in August.

Division 2-Bob Ballou reported that his Division has a website. If anyone sends in a crime notice, Bob sends it out to people who indicated they wanted crime notification e-mail. The options they have are crime-watch, classifieds, and discussion. Rolf asked why not have the Division 2 website under the DHCA website? David said that the Forum could do that-It will have sub forums and e-mail could be sent out.

Division 3-Rob Vicevich reported that multiple trees fell down in the Stillwood Road area.

Division 4-Sean Riggan announced that resident parking only signs are slated to go up on Oxford Road from Emory north of North Decatur Rd. to the Byway.

Division 5- Elise reported that the Alcohol Ordinance is the big news-Also power is going out all the time.

Division 6-Dick reported that in Edmund Park off E. Rock Springs Road 15 people have signed up for the Druid Hills Patrol.

Division 7-Scott Shuman reported that from Cornell to Oxford, the twittens/bywalks are being paved/repared by DeKalb County

Division 8-Ron reported that they lost a tree on Westminster. He has been told that Emory is taking down 6 houses on Haygood/Ridgewood. The Druid Hills High School construction continues.

Division 9-Cathy reported that multiple trees have come down on E. Clifton.

## OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Dick reported that Thea Roeser is resigning as Membership Chair and Board Member because they are moving. Thomas Winn has agreed to be the Membership Chair. We need someone to volunteer to take charge of the DHCA yard sale, which is slated for the fall.

We now have 2 vacancies on the Board. Also, Divisions 3 and 8 have only their Division Chairs on the Board and we could use these vacancies to give these divisions more representation..

It was agreed that discussion of the Master Plan will be deferred to the next meeting.

Ron moved to adjourn and it was seconded by Nill.