

**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Druid Hills Civic Association**  
**7:30 pm Wednesday, August 19, 2009**  
**St. John's Lutheran Church**

President Dick Shuey opened the meeting by welcoming guests and introduced Vice President Cathy Vandenberg who conducted the third and final Board Training Session on Division Chairs.

**BOARD TRAINING, SESSION #3: Division Chairs**

Robert Ballou of District 2 summarized some of the responsibilities of Division Chairs by focusing on the importance of having one representative of each community in contact with the police on a regular basis. By having a relation with the officers, information and help are more easily accessed. As division chair, Bob has taken the initiative in dealing with problems such as graffiti and broken windows, and has created a division web site focused on crime watch. In addition to the web site, an informed and involved public is promoted by having regular meetings. The Division meetings should be regularly scheduled, get right to the point, and last only one hour. Although the purpose of the Division 2 meetings is to promote the Crime Watch program, other neighborhood issues such as unwanted development come up and are discussed.

Dick Shuey then read the responsibilities of the Division Chairs outlined in the bylaws:

The Division Chairs are to be a liaison between the Board and the Division membership to communicate information and represent official DHCA positions on issues concerning the Division.

The Division Chairs are responsible for calling meetings of Division residents in order to determine neighborhood positions and to resolve conflict.

The Division Chairs should promote membership by organizing social and educational events.

Steve Misner then gave his perspective on Division Chairs in the past (1980s) when the neighborhood was more reactive rather than proactive. Block Captains were used to distribute news, and the Chair was more of a grass roots organizer who knew everyone in the neighborhood. Perhaps the DHCA web page has taken over the role of distributing information to the neighborhood.

Bruce MacGregor added that the Division Chair is a combination of cop on the beat & welcome wagon woman.

Dick expressed interest in increasing participation and communication to more residents of DH through involvement with the Druid Hills Patrol. He also reminded us that the Division Chair should bring issues from the division to DHCA directors.

Karen McCown has observed reluctance to having a directory of all residents.

Bruce & Nil Toulme pointed out that residents are more concerned about online directories than a paper one.

Ron Foust pointed out that Oak Grove has an effective organization that welcomes new residents. We do not need to duplicate things other groups do, but we should make connections & share information.

Sign Toppers were initiated by Cynthia Tauxe, but we need to have an ongoing effort to maintain them.

Dick wraps up by suggesting members of each Division should contact their Division Chairs to give suggestions about what works and the Divisions should learn from each other. For example, we know from Division 2 not to waste time inviting crime watch officers, but that the Crime Watch program can be a way to create equivalent to block captains

MINUTES from JUNE 17 and JULY 15, 2009 WERE APPROVED.

LETTER DRAFTED TO REALTORS concerning the Historic District:

Dick thought the tone of the first draft made the DHCA sound like we were taking sides with the Historic Preservation Committee against realtors and confused these two separate organizations. There have been several drafts going back and forth

Thomas Winn thought the letter should be part of a package from sellers during the listing and should include information about the DH Historic District. He has a copy of Jim Earhart's letter from several years ago.

Nill suggested that the letter should remind realtors of positive information to disseminate.

Dick thought the letter from the DHCA to realtors should advise them to disseminate information about the HPC guidelines to prevent confusion & problems.

Chris Leeth thought it would be more productive to use a carrot rather than a stick with questionable legal aspects. We should emphasize the advantages of adding value to all houses.

Mary Angela Whyte pointed out the advantages of having an HPC scorecard like the one Jim Earhart used to communicate approvals which are over 80%. We should publish results to counter the false impression of many residents that nothing is passed.

501(c)(3)

Chad Henderson reported on details entailed in creating a 501(c)(3) organization to supplement our current 501(c)(4) organization. The important difference is that the 501(c)(3) gives one a tax incentive in attracting charitable gifts & grants. The DHCA could create a separate charitable organization with a new board that overlaps with the existing DHCA board.

The relevant condition for creating a 501(c)(3) is to benefit the community as a whole rather than to benefit any one particular project. We would be required to educate the public, to make improvements such as installing sign toppers, street lights, roundabout maintenance, and buying parkland. We would need to demonstrate that we are decreasing the burden of the government

Dick Shuey requested that we need to list potential projects that would be funded by the 501(c)(3)

since it will cost approx. \$2500 /year (although some think it will be less) in addition to \$500 needed to initiate it. Any fund raising will need to document that the donations go to capital funds rather than operating costs. EVERYONE needs to send suggestions to Chad.

Chris Leeth reminded us that some people will not give to the DHCA so we should consider naming a new 501(c)(3) with a new name.

#### DIVISION REPORTS

Robert Ballou suggested that every Division chair should sit through an HPC meeting to communicate with neighbors.

DIVISION 1: Barbara and Joanna:

They have been observing the increase in morning traffic on Ponce de Leon since the new school opened. Traffic complications arise due to pedestrians crossing Ponce de Leon, carpooling, and busses making left turns from Briarcliff, The traffic is already backed up for 3 blocks north on Ponce.

DIVISION 4: Sean Riggan:

Residential parking signs have been installed on Oxford Rd.

DIVISION 5: Bruce MacGregor:

DeKalb County has ordered a fence built on a buffer zone to be removed.

The new but imprecise Land use plan in DeKalb County is being brought into public focus only because the Sagamore Hills Civic Association demanded to see it and used the freedom of information act. It appears that any non single house zoning areas are becoming town center/mixed use zones. The DHHS & Presbyterian Church are an example of this. This plan which has been hidden from the public is a major departure in land use and zoning. While it may or may not be bad, it is a huge deal that needs to be scrutinized.

The meeting adjourned at 9:44