

## Druid Hills Civic Association Summary of Minutes Wednesday, January 20, 2010

(Complete minutes are available on the DHCA Website)

President Dick Shuey Tom Stubbs who is running for the David Adelman's open seat, and Charlie Henn of the Theater Emory

**Street Sign Toppers** - Alida Silverman reported that 32 toppers are missing and extras should be purchased and stored. A motion was passed without opposition to approve the purchase of sign toppers to be installed before the tour.

**Master Plan** - Alida Silverman Max Creighton met with Commissioner Rader last fall to discuss the Master Plan for Druid Hills. The local Historic District may be strengthened with the development of more character areas and a Liveable Cities Initiative (LCI) application would address traffic, transportation and land use issues.

**Character Areas** - Kate Dannenberg is working with DeKalb County's David Cullison to define character areas including three areas of one story houses built in the early 50's that are now more than 50 years old: Artwood, Barton Woods, and Ponce de Leon Manor. Help is needed to collect data, especially from long time residents who know the history, since original records have not been kept by the county. Bob Ballou, chair of Division 2, will hold a neighborhood block meeting to help.

**LCI Application** - Commissioner Rader suggested that the DHCA master plan committee should meet with Emory & the CDC, and that our master plan should include 'concurrency' where transportation and land use are combined to fit into the county's LCI (Livable Centers Initiative) in the north Druid Hills corridor. A directive to meet with CDC and Emory to seek cooperation in developing a Druid Hills master plan was agreed to.

**Possible change in FAA Flight Paths** - There is a request to alter Atlanta Airport flight paths which will also affect PDK flights.

**Annual Meeting Preparation** - Presentations at the annual meeting in February will include the ING race, the tour of homes, the associated Artists Market, Theater Emory, character areas, and OLPA.

### Division Reports

Div.1: reported on progress made in designing the replacement for the 'Mother Goose' building at Paideia.

Div. 2: reported their neighborhood watch meeting was attended by 100 residents with a presentation by 10 police and DH patrol members. A burglar who has admitted to 8 burglaries has since been turned. Division 2 successfully reached a compromise with Georgia Power over new lines with increased set back.

Div. 5: reported on the CEO sponsored budget meetings and that Commissioner Rader will have his own budget meeting at the Avis Williams Library. Residents only parking has been granted to Emory Drive and parts of Ridgewood Dr.

### **New/Old Business**

Residents are looking for properties the county may be interested in purchasing for greenspace.

The DHCA was not informed when Judge Scott granted permission to demolish an historic house on the Byway to build 2 new houses that were not approved by the HPC.

The meeting adjourned at 9:51

Board of Directors Meeting  
Druid Hills Civic Association  
7:30 pm Wednesday, January 20, 2010  
Emory's 1784 N. Decatur Road Building

**Welcome**

President Dick Shuey opened the meeting and welcomed two guests:

Tom Stubbs is running for the Senate seat that opens when David Adelman is appointed ambassador to Singapore.

Charlie Henn of the Theater Emory was introduced by Chad Henderson. Charlie conducted a brief presentation and pointed out the advantages of having professional performances in the community. He encouraged community members to see the professional performances at the DUC on Emory campus. Barbara Vogel & Mary Angela Whyte have served on Theater Emory Board

**Approval of Minutes**

With the inclusion of the Rutledge property in the DeKalb County Greenspace Program discussed in the November Board Meeting, the minutes of November 18, 2009 and December 16, 2009 were approved.

**Street Sign Toppers**

Alida Silverman reported that each installed topper costs about \$50 (\$30 plus \$6 to \$9 for brackets plus \$12 per installation). At least 32 toppers are missing and extras should be purchased and stored. There are some hanging street signs not included. Dick Shuey asked if toppers could be spot welded since so many are missing. Neighbors had bought toppers in the past during a campaign led by Cynthia Tauxe. A suggestion was made to have a small fund raiser at the annual meeting but a motion was passed without opposition to approve the purchase of sign toppers consistent with existing toppers using existing funds. The toppers are to be installed before the tour.

**Master Plan**

Alida Silverman reported that she and Max Creighton met with Commissioner Rader last fall to discuss the Master Plan for Druid Hills. Commissioner Rader suggested that the local Historic District be strengthened with the development of more character areas and that an LCI application would address traffic and transportation and land use issues.

CHARACTER AREAS: Kate Dannenberg reported on her work with DeKalb County's David Cullison to define character areas. She identified three areas of one story houses built in the early 50's that are now more than 50 years old and deserve being treated differently. The reason why there are no two story houses on Artwood, Barton Woods, and Ponce de Leon Manor is that the original land contract intentionally included areas for single story houses which was a part of a 1950's movement to break from tradition. Currently, existing ranch houses can be replaced with much larger two story houses.

The next step is to survey residents starting with Artwood. Help is needed to collect data, especially from long time residents who know the history, since original records have not been kept by the county.

Bob Ballou, chair of Division 2, will hold a neighborhood block meeting to help.

LCI APPLICATION: Commissioner Rader has indicated that the county could apply for an LCI (Livable Centers Initiative) study for the Sage Hill to Emory Commons area. Rader has also advised us that the DHCA master plan committee should meet with Emory & the CDC, and that our master plan should include 'concurrency' where transportation and land use are combined to fit into the county's LCI in the north Druid Hills corridor.

Rolf Grun advocated being proactive and taking the initiative to establish our own master plan that others would respond to rather than reacting to plans developed externally to neighborhood. Alida commented that many external plans have adopted input from us.

Max emphasized need to focus on transportation and that we need to have a professional plan developed over 6 months which might cost \$150K. As a first step, Max proposed a directive to "take the temperature" by meeting with CDC and Emory to seek cooperation in developing a Druid Hills master plan. This proposal was agreed to with 1 dissent.

### **Possible change in FAA Flight Paths**

Nothing specific is known about a reported request to alter Atlanta Airport flight paths which will also affect PDK flights.

### **Annual Meeting Preparation**

Presentations at the annual meeting in February will include the ING race with community participation, the tour of homes which focuses on Oakdale and includes many new participants, the associated Artists Market , Theater Emory, character areas, and OLPA.

There is agreement not to have legislators and representatives make presentations.

The nominating committee meets next Monday and will need to contact Alida, Ron Foust, or Elliot Kyle. Elliot made a request for company contacts that may have creative door prizes for the annual meeting.

### **Division Reports**

Div.1: Barbara Vogel reported on progress made in designing a replacement building at Paideia which will evoke the residential character of the 'Mother Goose' building lost to fire.

Div. 2: Robert Ballou reported that recent burglaries resulted in a neighborhood watch meeting attended by 100 residents with a presentation by 10 police and DH patrol members. The burglar, a homeless crack addict, was turned in by his sister and has admitted to 8 burglaries.

The division showed that it is possible to enact a reasonable compromise with Georgia Power: They have strung new lines with increased set back.

Div. 5: Bruce MacGregor reported that the county staff outnumbered the neighbors attended the CEO sponsored budget meeting. Commissioner Rader is planning to have his own budget meeting at the Avis Williams Library.

Mary Angela Whyte reported success in granting residents only parking on Emory Drive and parts of Ridgewood Dr.

### **New/Old Business**

Mary Angela Whyte reminded us that February 15 is the deadline for the next newspaper.

Doug Grimm, Alida, Bruce, and Becky Evans are looking for properties the county may be interested in purchasing for greenspace.

The DHCA was not informed when Judge Scott granted permission to demolish an historic house on the Byway to build 2 new houses that were not approved by the HPC.

Chris Leeth questioned the lack of options that exist for dealing with new construction that is incompatible with the COA guidelines. Many historic districts utilize fines which would be problematic in DH.

The meeting adjourned at 9:51