

DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

Board Meeting

Wed., January 16, 2019 @ 7:30 pm

Hosted by: Thea Roeser

Location: The Frazer Center

IN ATTENDANCE

Officers: A Wallace, A Keenan, R Graham, F Putney, K Gibson

Past Pres./Ex-Officio: B MacGregor, J Richardson, C Sleeth

Div Chairs: J Critz, Y Weatherly, M St Louis, R Nelson, D Engle, S Thornton, S Mathias, R Foust, V Biesel, S Misner.

2018: T Roeser, C Waterbury

2019: R Atkins, H Lane, P Moise, A Silverman, D Winston

2020: K Eisterhold, J Giegerich, C Liggett, L VanGelderens.

Guests: Jim Roberts, Mike Walters, Cindy Reedy, Mike Bergeson, Tonya Holder, Gale Walldorff, Matt & Jill Gallagher, Travis Blalock, Laura Hennighausen, Allen Bradley, Honora Handley, Doug Rollins, Wayne Richardson.

President Anne Wallace called her last January Board meeting as president to order and the November minutes were approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The DHCA Annual Meeting will take place at Fernbank Museum this Sunday, January 20, 2019 at 1:30. DeKalb CEO Michael Thurmond will speak to us at 2:30, and representatives from FLOCK Safety will give an update on the installation of security cameras in Druid Hills. The DH Tour of Homes and Gardens committee will give a preview presentation.

The 2019 DH Tour of Homes and Gardens takes place on April 12-14 which is the same weekend as the Atlanta Dogwood Festival. Both events will support each other.

Chris Liggett reported that the Executive Committee is recommending a \$1000 donation to create an educational fund to support the family of slain DeKalb Police Officer Edgar Flores.

Jennifer Richardson announced that her new book, Historic Druid Hills, is now at the publishers.

SPECIAL REQUEST

Alida passed out a revised request for a motion to form a task force to address concerns about changes to the by-laws of the Freedom Park Conservancy in 2014. The proposed motion would create a task force to determine whether the DHCA board voted on the amended FPC by-laws, but Justin Critz clarified what took place when he was the new President of DHCA. Justin and Allen Bradley, the DHCA representative to the FPC at that time, both thought the by-laws changes were OK so the DHCA board did not vote. The proposed motion was modified to create a task force to investigate the FPC by-laws to possibly make recommendations to the FPC to change their by-laws. Much discussion followed and Harriet Lane, our DHCA current representative to the FPC as well as president of the FPC pointed out that the mission of the original CAUTION group evolved by 2014 to improve an established park. The 2014 vote to amend the by-laws was unanimous so a no vote by the DH representative in 2014 would not have changed anything. There was back and forth discussions between those who thought there was no harm in appointing a task force to look more deeply into the FPC actions and those who thought the DHCA has no legal right to question past FPC actions as long as we have an assigned representative on the FPC board.

A Motion to have the DHCA president appoint a committee to investigate the FPC by-laws to make a possible recommendation for the FPC to amend their by-laws did not pass with 11 votes for and 16 votes opposed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Steven Mathias reported that paid memberships are down compared to last year, partly due to members moving. He questioned if Welcome Bags are doing any good. Very few Division Chairs or anyone else in each division volunteered and it is too much work for two people to keep up with new residents. There will be a membership outreach in February. There have also been calls from residents concerned with DHCA responses to (and/or lack of response to) developments at Emory University, traffic on North Decatur and possible future bike paths on Lullwater. Thea Roeser responded to the anti-PATH group on Lullwater that is organizing to divide the Druid Hills neighborhood over possible bicycle path plans that do not exist. Historic preservation depends on our neighborhood being united.

Finance: John Giegerich reported that our 990 tax form as well as the fiscal year budget is on our website under DHCA Financials. John encouraged others interested in finance to be involved.

Governance:

Phil Moise announced the DHCA positions that have been filled including:

Officers: Kit Eisterhold, Chris Liggett, Anne Wallace, Fran Putney, John Giegerich, Ken Gibson.

Board Class of 2019: Rocky Atkins, Ryan Graham, Harriett Lane, Phil Moise, Thea Roeser, Alida Silverman, Tom McGuigan, David Winston.

Board Class of 2020: Rob Benfield, Kit Eisterhold, John Giegerich, Robert Hughes, Jan Jones, Chris Liggett, Sue Sullivan, Leon Van Gelderen.

Board Class of 2021: Travis Blalock, Mark Herold, Rob Kincheloe, Dick Shuey, William Tomlin, Tim Stephens.

Standing Committee Chairs:

DeKalb Land Use & Historic Preservation: Kit Eisterhold

Governance: Phil Moise

Landmark District Preservation: Jan Jones

Membership and Community: Steven Mathias

Public Safety: Thea Roeser

Tour of Homes: Steven Mathias

Transportation: Van Biesel & Mike St. Louis

Druid Hills News: Jennie Richardson, Editor; Susan Baker, Managing Editor

Representative to NPU/N: Carol Sleeth

Division Chairs: 1) Justin Critz & Sharon Day, 2) Yvette Weatherly, 3) Allan Ballard, 4) Mike St. Louis

5) Renee Nelson, 6) Darin Engle, 7) Sandra Thornton & Steven Mathias,

8) Ron Foust & Van Biesel, 9) Steven Misner.

Executive Committee: the officers + the following five nominees to be approved by the Board:

Van Biesel, Harriett Lane, Steven Misner, Phil Moise, Renee Nelson.

The officers and directors are elected by the members.

A motion to approve the people named above for all the other positions passed with all for except for one abstention.

Transportation:

Van Biesel reminded the board that the neighborhood meeting with GDOT announced on our E-News takes place at the DH Golf Club on Saturday, February 2 at 9 AM. They will report on the results of the three year safety audit and listen to residents about what we do and do not want for the Ponce corridor. The only change implemented by GDOT is the no left turn going west on Ponce at the Clifton intersection, and any future changes will only be considered with neighborhood input.

Home and Garden Tour:

Steven Mathias reported that the Home and Garden Tour Committee still has some open chairs, and help is needed with recruitment of docents and Patrons. The Gala is on April 5 and the tour is April 12-14. All board members need to take a docent shift!

Land Use

LDPC: Justin Critz reported that Paideia has received approval for a new Junior High building on the former property of Jim Jackson.

DeKalb HPC: Kit Eisterhold reported on local controversies concerning possible bike lanes in Druid Hills. The 15' lanes on North Decatur allows shared bike lanes as an East-West bike path to Briarcliff. However, the Clifton Corridor Bike and Pedestrian Study, which has collected input from residents, has not compiled any results. No current or active proposal for any bike route on Lullwater Road exists. Lullwater resident Honora Handley asked the DHCA to reach out to her neighbors to engage in finding out what they want. Some board members suggested that the DHCA should respond to all concrete transportation infrastructure proposals in an appropriate manner, but no proposals currently exist and no funding for such infrastructure exists.

Annexation/Cityhood:

Chris Liggett, Renee Nelson, and Anne Wallace are monitoring cityhood proposals and attended a January 5 meeting where elected officials listened to all proposals including Greenhaven in south DeKalb (which would be the second largest city in Georgia), Vista Grove (similar to the unsuccessful Lavista Hills proposal), and LaVista Park that has asked to be a part of Brookhaven. Opposition groups did not have an opportunity to speak.

Druid Hills is now an island only connected to unincorporated DeKalb County at North Decatur and Clairmont. Decatur Mayor Patti Garrett assured us that Decatur has no plans for annexation except for a bridge to the Children's Homes. The Carl Vinson Institute of Government has been hired to evaluate the feasibility of cityhood in DeKalb county as a whole which may have an impact on us. The institute rarely if ever determines any proposed city infeasible.

The January DHCA Board meeting adjourned at 9:32.