

**DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2016; 7:30 P.M.**  
**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**1410 Ponce De Leon Ave NE, Atlanta**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Officers: C Vandenberg, J Critz, F Finegan, K Taylor, T McGuigan, K Gibson  
B MacGregor, J Heerin, J Richardson, R Graham, D Frymire  
A Wallace, R Vicevich, M St. Louis, E Riley, D Parrington, S Thornton, R Foust, V Biesel, S Misner  
2015: B Clark, B Evans, C Waterbury  
2016: J Markham, P Moise, T Winn, D Winston  
2017: R Benfield, K Eisterhold, H Handley, C Liggett, P Mitchell  
Guests: Sarah Kruse, Wendy Heaps, Leon VanGelderren, Andy Hall

President Cathy Vandenberg opened her last Board meeting as president and all present introduced themselves.

**Presentation:** Olmsted Plein Air Invitational

Andy Hall, OPAI co-chair, expressed appreciation for the support of the DHCA last April for the first Plein Air Invitational, which raised funds for the Olmsted Parks. The event was very successful and gained national and international recognition for our Olmsted Parks in Atlanta. This year artists nationally and internationally are asking to participate, and 36 artists have been selected which is six more than last year. Because winners of three other Plein Air contests are participating, the OPAI is positioning itself as the "Masters of Plein Air." This year the event, which is from April 25 through May1, will spread out to other parts of Atlanta including the The Shops - Buckhead, the Swan House and the Atlanta History Center, the Atlanta Botanical Gardens (during a premier of the largest Dale Chihuly glass exhibit), and local gardens as well as the Olmsted Parks. Volunteers to house artists in Druid Hills are being sought. OPAI will be asking The DHCA for their continued support. Information of the event is online at <http://www.olmstedpleinair.com>

The December 21, 2015 Board Minutes were approved.

**New Business**

A) Lullwater Multi-Use Path: Anne Wallace reported that the Executive Committee is in favor of initiating a town hall meeting to communicate information and to get feedback from the community for a proposed connection from Emory Village to the P.A.T.H. Foundation Stone Mountain Trail. The purpose of the proposed meeting is for residents to become informed rather than to promote any particular plan. The Transportation Committee will be involved and all 130 addresses on Lullwater Rd. and in the Lullwater Estates will be personally invited to attend the Town Hall meeting. One possible venue is The Fernbank Science Center auditorium, which seats 500 and is available on February 23 and 24. A suggestion was made to consider Paideia as a location for the meeting. Mike Saint Louis and Becky Evans volunteered to organize the meeting and find speakers that will voice all sides, including affected local organizations like the Golf Club and garden clubs. As the purpose of the meeting is to gain facts rather than to express strong feelings, a moderator is needed to keep the purpose clear during the proposed meeting. Elise Riley volunteered to do a survey and Kim Storbeck volunteered to do a mailing. Mike Saint Louis pointed out that the Ponce Bridge at Lullwater is scheduled to be replaced and the effects on traffic and crime need to be determined.

A MOTION to convene a town hall meeting to communicate information for a proposed pathway connection to Emory Village was made and Passed without opposition.

A Motion was made to go into **Executive Session**.

Afterwards, the meeting resumed with New Business.

B) Frazer Center Grant Application: The Executive Committee recommends approval of a grant application by the Frazer Center.

A motion to approve a \$500 grant to the Frazer Center passed without opposition.

C) DHCA Annual Meeting: Frances Finegan asked for and readily received six volunteers to prepare for the Annual Meeting to be held at the Fernbank Museum at 1:00 on January 31.

Seven groups have requested tables, which may need to be shared. Outdoor signs advertising the meeting were distributed. Registration will begin at 12:30.

Mike Saint Louis reported that a full slate of new officers is listed on the website. There are 11 new board members for the 2018 class and to fill in gaps in other classes.

### **Committee Reports**

A) Land Use/Landmark District/ DeKalb Historic Preservation: The new co-chairs of the Land Use Committee are Kit Eisterhold and Bruce MacGregor who are replacing outgoing Chair Jim Morowitz.

The Fox 5/Briarcliff rezoning applicant in DeKalb's Druid Hills Historic District has asked for a deferral and the developer appears to be working with the neighbors headed by Cynthia Tauxe.

The Druid Hills United Methodist Church will be merging with the Epworth Methodist Church and both will be relocating to a new location. The after school program will continue through next year. The church is working with the Atlanta Landmark District and the Urban Design Committee and current redevelopment plans keep existing buildings for residential use.

The Fernbank Museum has purchased the Cobbs property at 845 Clifton and has applied for a COA from the DeKalb Historic Preservation Committee to link the Fernbank forest trail to the Museum with a boardwalk, Creek bridge, and mulch paths.

A Motion for the DHCA NOT to have an opinion on bridge construction was seconded and approved.

Demolition and New construction COA's are being applied at 467 Burlington Rd. and on 1680 East Clifton, both for larger houses.

B) The Druid Hills Home and Garden Tour: Ryan Graham reported that six homes and one garden have been selected for the 2016 Home and Garden Tour on April 22-24 (half day on Friday, full days on Saturday and Sunday). Every board member is to volunteer to be a docent and encouraged to form a group to host a house or become a Friend of the tour. After some research, it is determined that the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary tour will be in 2018 and volunteers are needed to start planning for this event.

C) Communications: The Tour issue of DH NEWS has a March 1 deadline and will include completed drawings of the homes by Rod Pittam. Claudia Keenan will help with this issue but we need new volunteers to help with future issues. Sarah Kruse is willing to volunteer as Communications Director and is currently helping with the Tour Committee.

D) Transportation: The Transportation Committee visited with the Georgia DOT and found that the Ponce Corridor study had more responses than any other study. The G-DOT acknowledged the importance of the Olmsted Parks and will not be widening Ponce to 6 lanes. However, parkland may be affected with some local widening at intersections to alleviate

above-average accident rates and congestion. The DOT appears to be receptive to suggestions from local residents.

Wendy Heaps reported that her husband was struck by a car while in a crosswalk and made a plea to be careful while driving since incidents often occur when local people are driving in their own neighborhood.

E) Public Safety Committee: The number of break-ins and reports of suspicious suspects decreased by 40% during the Holiday season, possibly due to the increased surveillance the DHCA has funded. The Committee is considering long term solutions such as cameras, street lighting and reinvigorating neighborhood watch programs. Atlanta councilman Alex Wan has been very receptive to working with the DHCA.

F) Membership & Community Committee: Post cards noting the annual meeting have been mailed to residents.

H) Ad Hoc – Governance Committee: Phil Moise has addressed all questions concerning the revised bylaws and has met with concerned individuals. He expects adoption of the revised bylaws at the annual meeting.

#### Division Reports

Div. 1: Justin Critz and Honora Handley have agreed to be co-chairs of Division 1.

Div. 3: reported the long-term existence of a blue tarp covering that needs to be removed

Div. 5: reported a need to attend school meetings with redistricting proposals. An existing option to transfer 334 Briar Vista students to the new Fernbank ES may limit an ability to grow in DH. Voting on proposals will be soon and details can be found on the DCSS website:

<http://www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/www/redistricting/>

Div. 7: There were fewer car break-ins and only one house break-in in December. More street lighting is needed.

Div. 8: The next bike/safety meeting will take place next week.

Outgoing President Cathy Vandenberg expressed appreciation for such a strong board this year and appreciation for Cathy was amply expressed by all Board Members at her last meeting as president.

The January DHCA Board Meeting adjourned at 9:36pm.

The February DHCA Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 7:30 P.M. at the Frazer Center.

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