

DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Board Meeting
Wed., November 14, 2018@ 7:30 pm
Hosted by: John Giegerich
Location: The Frazer Center

IN ATTENDANCE

Officers: A Wallace, A Keenan, F Putney, K Gibson
Past Pres./Ex-Officio: B MacGregor, C Vandenberg
Div Chairs: S Day, Y Weatherly, R Nelson, S Thornton, R Foust, V Biesel, S Misner.
2018: B Evans, R Hughes, T Roeser, C Waterbury
2019: R Atkins, H Lane, P Moise, A Silverman, D Winston
2020: K Eisterhold, J Jones, C Liggett, S Sullivan, L VanGelderren.
Guests:

President Anne Wallace called the November Board meeting to order and the October minutes were approved.

Announcements

The annual DHCA Holiday Party will be at the Home of John Giegerich, 1250 Fairview Rd, on Saturday, December 1, at 6:30 pm. Board members can bring a guest as well as a dish and the DHCA will provide drinks. Sign-up on the PerfectPotLuck.com site sent by email. There is no board meeting planned for December. The final meeting of the 2018 Executive Committee will be on January 9, 2019, and the final meeting of the 2018 Board of Directors will be on January 16, 2019.

Committee Reports

Membership Committee:

Renewal notices have been sent out via Wild Apricot. There will also be a tear out form mailed to all residents in the November issue of the Druid Hills News. Memberships are down so far this year.

Finance Committee:

Three new donation requests have been received. A \$200 donation to Park Pride was suggested and the Executive Committee recommended an increase from \$500 to \$1,000 for this year's donations to both the Druid Hills High School auction and to the Paideia auction. A discussion followed, weighing public relations advantages against the uncertainty of income when membership is down and plans for the next home & garden tour have just begun. Also, the appearance of favoring one school over another is a concern. A motion to donate \$1000 to the two schools and \$200 to Park Pride passed with 3 opposed and 2 abstentions. A suggestion was made to have further discussion on appropriate amounts to budget for donations in light of the DHCA goals, priorities and mission at a facilitated retreat.

Governance Committee:

Chris Liggett announced the following nominations for the 2019 Officers:
Kit Eisterhold, president; Chris Liggett, 1st VP; Anne Wallace, Administrative VP; Francis Putney, Communications VP; Ken Gibson, Secretary; and John Giegerich, Treasurer. The Nomination

Committee is vetting 7 nominations for the Class of 2021, and Justin Critz and Jennifer Moore will join the Governance Committee.

Phil Moise presented a proposal to amend Article XVI of the bylaws to streamline operation of the Board. Currently, the bylaws may only be amended by DHCA members at the annual meeting. The proposed amendment that was emailed to the Board on November 9, 2018, would also allow the Board itself to amend the bylaws throughout the year.

Much discussion followed and concerns were expressed that the amendment may appear to isolate, disenfranchise, and even antagonize the membership when in hindsight the changes may not be necessary.

A motion to recommend to the members that they approve an amendment to the by-laws that allows the board to amend the bylaws during the year in addition to the ability for the members to make amendments annually was made and seconded. The motion did not pass with 8 votes to approve, 13 against and 4 abstentions.

Transportation Committee:

Van Biesel reported that DeKalb County is seeking funding from SPLOST to implement the changes proposed to improve safety on N Decatur Road. An estimate for the cost of the changes is \$6M.

GDOT recognizes the legal limits on making changes to the Clifton/Ponce intersection so no changes will be implemented until the community tells them what we want. Community groups including DHCA and OLPA are in communication with our representatives. Tentative plans to add more drain inlets on Ponce along Deepdene Park are being considered to allow more controlled releases of water runoff through riprap. GDOT is redrafting their plans to conform to community wishes.

The Clifton Area Bicycle/Pedestrian Connectivity Study continues at a slow pace and two required community meetings have not yet been scheduled.

It was reported that MARTA is in contact with CSX about the light rail plans, but skeptics wonder if it is only just to show they are pursuing all options. The northern route has many advantages but MARTA claims it would add \$80M to the cost of the rail system. The latest reported Light Rail plan may replace two stations at the High School and at the School of Public Health with a single station on Clifton.

Communications Committee:

Fran Putney reported that the last four printed issues of the DH News magazine, each with 24 pages, have cost less than the previous two issues, but it takes a lot of volunteer work and volunteer contributions. The Communications Committee has a great team and plans to have four issues again next year. The next deadline for the March issue is on February 1. Susan Baker and Jennie Richardson will continue editing and writing for the DH News. The deadline for e-news is by the 10th of every month.

The DH Website has added drop down menus for committees and events like the parents network.

Home and Garden Tour Committee:

Currently, five homes and one garden have been selected and one or two more homes are being considered. Volunteers including a Recruitment Chair are still needed.

Public Safety Committee:

Thea Roeser reported on the reinstated committee that is focusing on sharing crime fighting information and meeting with all four police groups covering our community. Since April, there have been 87 reported car break ins, 8 car thefts, and 6 house break ins in the DeKalb County portion of our neighborhood. There will be expanded reporting of crime stats in 2019. The committee is focusing on the following six crime deterrents:

- 1) The newly installed Flock Cameras have already helped the police issue an arrest warrant.
- 2) Ring outdoor battery operated cameras with alarm capability are highly recommended.
- 3) Ellen Meshnick has reinvigorated our Neighborhood Watch program with 29 streets covered and 32 street captains in place.
- 4) Our own DHP police force is patrolling our neighborhood 8 hours every day.
- 5) Our "If you leave it, they will retrieve it" campaign is getting residents to leave nothing in their cars and to lock the doors.
- 6) The committee itself will be an information conduit in our community and is planning to arrange meetings on one street each month to discuss how to better secure each area.

The Parent Network:

Robert Hughes reported that there was lots of interest in the Parent Network at the Emory Village Open Streets festival on October 28. 30 families had signed up for more information.

Annexation/Cityhood Committee:

Chris Liggett reported that DeKalb County is working with the Carl Vinson Institute on studying annexations and cityhood as a whole rather than isolated movements. This is an issue that is not going away and we need to be cognizant of what is going on since we are now an unincorporated island. The new city maps currently being pursued are Vista Grove and Greenhaven. Lavista Park is proposing to be annexed to Brookhaven.

Other News

Alida shared her concerns about a 2014 amendment to the Freedom Park Conservancy by-laws. The FPC formed from the CAUTION coalition of neighborhood civic associations that successfully opposed the Presidential Parkway in the 1980's and her concern is that the influence of the neighborhoods on decisions by the FPC is diminished. Phil Moise responded that he has reviewed the FPC by-laws and all related historic & legal documents and that the DHCA has no role in inserting ourselves into the running of the FPC except to have a representative on the FPC board. Our representative is Harriet Lane who is the FPC President. Harriet responded that the FPC was very supportive of OLPA's and the DHCA's response to the Clifton/Ponce GDOT controversy. Alida asked to put this issue on the January agenda.

The November DHCA Board meeting adjourned at 9:42.