

DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Board of Directors Meeting
Wed., November 20, 2019 @ 7:30 pm
Location: St. John's Lutheran Church
HOST: Sharon Day/Chris Liggett

IN ATTENDANCE

Officers: K Eisterhold, C Liggett, A Wallace, F Putney, J Giegerich, K Gibson.
Past Pres./Ex-Officio: B MacGregor, C Vandenberg.
Div Chairs: J Critz, S Day, Y Weatherly, R Nelson, S Thornton, V Biesel, S Misner.
2019: R Atkins, H Lane, P Moise, T Roeser, A Silverman.
2020: J Jones, S Sullivan.
2021: M Herold, T Stephens, W Tomlin.

President Kit Eisterhold called the Board meeting to order and the October minutes were approved.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Sandy Kruger of the **Olmsted Linear Park Alliance** (OLPA) updated us on what's going on in the park and what we can do to volunteer for upcoming events. Their Gala Benefit for the Park is Sunday, February 23, 2020 and tickets as well as volunteer sign-ups are online at atlantaolmstedpark.org.

OLPA is considering caroling through the park for singers and listeners over Christmas as well as a Spring concert in the park. Recent maintenance projects include repairing bridges in Deepdene, repairing the hard surface trail in Dellwood, working with the Parks Department to mitigate flooding and updating the playground facilities in Springdale. The next maintenance event is repairing trails and planting native plants around the waterfall area in Deepdene.

The OLPA annual budget is \$250K with \$150K from personal donations as well as volunteer labor needed for maintenance projects. OLPA will be meeting with GDOT's new project manager to consider mitigating the flood prone area on the Ponce curve.

Yvette Weatherly and Schaune Griffin of the Equal Justice Initiative are asking for support of projects on the **history of race relations in Druid Hills**. The Equal Justice Initiative is donating an historic marker in the Olmsted Linear Park for Porter F Turner who was lynched by the KKK in our community in August 1944. DeKalb county has approved placing a monument in front of the new court house addressing all lynchings in the county. A Druid Hills Subcommittee working with the Equal Justice Initiative will be asking for a donation of \$2,500 to support the installations and Fall ceremonies as well as congoing lectures, workshops and programs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The **DHCA Holiday Party** will be held on Wednesday, December 18 at John Giegerich's home. There will not be a December board meeting.

Alida Silverman announced that the **Olmsted 200 bicentennial celebration** takes place in April 2022. Events will be held in many of his 300 parks, neighborhoods, golf courses, and campuses. The Druid Hills subdivision is his last subdivision and one that is uniquely intact. Gale Waldorff suggested pairing with the Riverside subdivision in Illinois near Chicago as a sister community to celebrate the bicentennial of Olmsted's birth.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TREASURER: John Giegerich distributed the year-end statement for the Fiscal Year ending in August 31, 2019 which shows a net gain in savings. Flock installed three extra cameras free for one year, so these cameras will need to be funded for the second year so the Public Safety Committee can complete their two-year study. A motion to approve \$3500 to fund the three Flock cameras during their second year was approved with one opposed.

TOUR: Sue Sullivan, Tour Home Selection chair, reported that only 10 volunteers show up at meetings. Currently there is no Tour chair and six other chair positions are still open. Volunteers who show up do not feel supported. Although Ryan Graham who ran five successful tours will attend the next meeting to share his records and advice, Sue is suggesting that it may be prudent to take a break from running the House and Garden Tour for a few years. Perhaps the next tour could be combined with the Olmsted Bicentennial celebration in 2022. The Tour Committee will decide if the 2020 tour will be cancelled at their next meeting December 12.

It was pointed out that memberships in most community organizations from scouts and civic associations to Rotary clubs are all in decline as fewer young families participate.

GOVERNANCE:

Harriett Lane and Rocky Atkins summarized the Governance Committee's reasons for recommending hiring Theisen Consulting, a strategic management consulting service, to assist the Board in determining the best structure for DHCA to operate. The Governance Committee advocates funding the first of three proposed phases. This first Data Gathering phase will efficiently and objectively secure all board members' viewpoints and ideas as well as input from the community over a four-month period.

Justin Critz made a motion to move ahead by funding phase one for \$10K. During discussions, concerns were expressed: Theisen Consulting does not have experience with neighborhood organizations. The need for DHCA to get organized is way overdue. If there is no tour for several years something else needs to take its place. The board needs to trust the Governance Committee to guide the process. Also, the January 19th public meeting at Fernbank will be a "kick off" meeting with legislators, presentations and future goals rather than an official annual meeting.

The motion committing to phase one passed with 23 for and one abstention.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Thea Roeser reported that there are now 43 street captains and their streets have new Neighborhood Watch signs posted.

DeKalb County is moving forward with providing “moveable pedestrian solar lights” at N Decatur and Springdale, possibly by the end of the year. Other N Decatur crossings being considered include at Emory Village and Ridgewood Dr. There are mixed feelings about providing pedestrian flags.

TRANSPORTATION:

Van Biesel looked into the feasibility of using radar guns to gather traffic data in our neighborhood. They can now be purchased for as little as \$80 and even though they cannot be used for stopping speeders, traffic police would be more likely to be on a street where speeds are consistently over 20 MPH faster than a 25 MPH speed limit. Pedestrian Safety around SPARK continues to be a concern.

LAND USE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEES:

DeKalb County: Steve Misner reported that the DeKalb HPC defeated a proposal to rezone three lots on Briarcliff north of the Metro church that would have allowed 16 new units.

Atlanta Landmark District: The historic former Atlanta Boy Choir facility and new Montessori school at 1215 S Ponce De Leon Ave has been beautifully restored inside and out. The exterior is now painted in the original colors.

The November DHCA Board meeting adjourned at 9:51.