

**DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Wed., March. 18, 2015; 7:30 p.m.**  
**Frazer Center, 1815 S. Ponce De Leon Ave., Atlanta**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Officers: C Vandenberg, J Critz, F Finegan, S Storbeck, K Gibson

B MacGregor, D Shuey, J Heerin, J Richardson, R Graham

Chairs: B Vogel, A Wallace, R Vicevich, M St. Louis, R Foust, V Biesel, S Misner

2015: C Hamilton, E Riley, L Sones, C Waterbury

2016: J Hart, A Howell, J Markham, T Winn, D Winston

2017: K Eisterhold, C Liggett, T McGuigan, P Mitchell, J Morawetz, S Silverman

Guests: Dan Frymire, Jeff Bragg, Alida Silverman, Courtney Broussard, Cathy & Hector McCabe, Martha Porter Hall.

Justin Critz began the meeting with a motion to approve the February minutes, which passed without opposition. He then handed the gavel to Cathy Vandenberg, our new president. Steve Misner inducted the new board members and division chairs and all present introduced themselves. It was clearly evident how much talent, experience and dedication to the preservation of our community continues to comprise the DHCA.

**Community Wildlife Habitat Certification**

Cathy McCabe made a presentation about the advantages of being certified as a Community Wildlife Habitat through the National Wildlife Foundation (website <http://www.nwf.org/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife/Community-Habitats.aspx>) whose goals include improving air and water quality, restoring wildlife habitats, greening landscapes and buildings and improving the health of inhabitants.

There are three local communities that have been certified in the last few years: Johns Creek, Milton, and Roswell. Benefits include building community pride and a cleaner environment as well as gaining national recognition (signage is an option). The foundation also gives guidance to individuals that want to improve their community environment.

The application costs \$75 and requires a minimum of five volunteers as well as a minimum number of participating yards (approximately 200 for our community) that are modified to provide food, water and shelter for wildlife. Our community already has much of what is required and mainly needs organization to identify the benchmarks needed for our community.

Anne Wallace nominated Chris Liggett to lead an ad hoc committee to pursue CWH designation and no opposition was voiced. It was also suggested that Division chairs could identify and initiate the benchmark requirements for certification.

**Treasurer's Report**

Scott Storbeck handed out a graphical summary of membership income. Membership has doubled in the last few years and 62% of the memberships gave more than the \$25.00 fee. The health of our association savings is strong.

**Grant Request: The Frederick Law Olmsted Papers Project**

Alida Silverman applied for a DHCA grant to support the Olmsted Papers Project, which started collecting all the writings of F. L. Olmsted in 1972. The final and 25<sup>th</sup> volume to be published includes a section with photos on Druid Hills, his only subdivision in the South East. Publication of this section will raise awareness of the significance of our community, and may also support preservation in the future as a source of documented evidence. Volumes may be purchased at [www.olmsted.org](http://www.olmsted.org)

A Motion to fund the Olmsted Papers Project with a \$1500 grant, which is supported by the Executive Committee, passed without opposition.

### **D&O Insurance**

Our insurance carrier is not renewing the DHCA coverage as of next month. The Executive Committee would like the authority to purchase D&O insurance when a quote is received. A motion giving the EC such authority passed without opposition.

### **Weissman Settlement**

The Weissman law firm that the DHCA retained to represent us in earlier Buckler litigation had charged us for fees after they had missed an important deadline. Rob Benfield negotiated a mutual release, which erases those fees from our books. Rob's continued leadership was recognized and appreciation for his tireless work was amply expressed.

### **Committee Reports**

#### A) DeKalb Historic Preservation Committee

The DeKalb Historic Preservation Commission is a DeKalb County government body that makes decisions about appropriate development and should not be confused with the DHCA Committee. The DHCA needs a replacement for Chris Leeth who will continue to help residents with advice but can no longer represent the DHCA at the Commission meetings. We need representation at the Commission meetings and are seeking volunteers.

The DHCA representative for Atlanta is Dan Frymire.

#### B) Home and Garden Tour

Ryan Graham reported that 80% of time slots have been staffed with docents, well ahead of previous years' staffing. There will be live music in Emory Village, the Sunday morning Patch Dash before the tour, and 24 artists have applied for the artists market. Cathy Vandenberg reminded all board members that they are expected to participate as this is our major fundraiser.

#### C) Ad Hoc Cityhood Committee

The EC considered whether this committee should continue and feels it is important to continue to give out factual information to the community since cityhood is such an important issue that many are focusing on. We are seeking an individual to chair this committee.

#### D) Communications

The Druid Hills News has gone to the printer and the tour issue includes a tour pull out section. Anyone wishing to contribute information to the DHN needs to meet the strict deadlines.

#### E) Land Use

The local zoning ordinance is being updated and will include a process for neighbors to appeal decisions. Under the new code, lots over 10000 sf will legalize garage apartments and terrace apartments in an accessory building IF the owner lives on the property and qualifies for Homestead exemption. Accessory buildings are limited to 800 sf and must conform to historic conditions. It is not clear how this will play out with new construction. The DHCA wanted larger lot size restriction but did not prevail. However, we were successful in many of our concerns.

1680 E. Clifton: the first COA was overturned by the Board of Commissioners but the owner went back to the Commission for a second COA which received a tie vote which will most likely be interpreted as approved after 45 days. It is likely the neighbors will appeal.

A Ridgewood subdivision was given a COA for construction of a home in a major drainage area. Many think this gives permission but a COA only considers appearance and a development still needs to meet codes.

Dan Frymire reported that the proposed development of the Tamas property has been reduced from 17 units to only five new, detached houses behind the two historic buildings. However, the neighbors are still opposed and the developer is now saying he may need to walk away.

The 801 Lullwater property, which backs up to a creek, had trees removed and land cleared without any permits or silt fences. The City of Atlanta was informed and put a stop to it.

The David Decker property on Lullwater is being used by youth as a hangout. Although designated as a Historic property, the house is abandoned and decaying with vandalism. Neighbors have taken photos of kids climbing on the roof so the property needs to be secured.

#### F) Transportation

Ron Foust reported the committee had a meeting with the new Transportation Chief at the CDC. The chief appeared to be agreeable to limiting construction of parking until incentives for alternative modes of transportation are increased and funding efforts are taken to deal with traffic outside of their campus.

#### G) Nominating Committee

Mike St. Louis has agreed to chair the Nominating Committee and Amy Howell, Perry Mitchel, Chris Hamilton, and Jim Morowitz agreed to serve on the committee. A Motion to approve the appointments passed without opposition.

#### H) Membership & Community

Frances Finigan reported that the DHCA is invited to staff a table at Olmsted Plein Air Invitational on April 25 & 26 from 10-5. This is an opportunity to have a DH presence in a national venue and is also an opportunity to sell DHCA House and Garden Tour tickets. Volunteers are needed and should email Justin Critz.

#### I) Ad Hoc Governance - Revision of Bylaws

Dick shuey has agreed to head a new Ad Hoc Governance Committee since presentation of last year's by-laws changes were tabled. Most of the previous members plus 3 new members will be starting over with improved communication to explain what each revision is trying to accomplish. The one change that was adopted at the annual meeting was the addition of a new assistant treasurer position. This position needs to be added and codified in the bylaws.

### **Division Reports**

1) Barbara Vogel reports that there are many more children and young families at the Lions Gate and Devonshire condominiums due to the new Springdale Park Elementary School. There is a push to add play equipment to the property and improve the condition of sidewalks. Also reported is a terrible pothole on the Byway, many streetlights on Ponce not working, and concerns about many non functional fire hydrants.

2) Anne Wallace is planning to make wildlife a priority and thinks the fall tree planting with Trees Atlanta in Divisions 2 & 6 was successful with 3 dozen trees planted on a fall morning. It is recommended that other divisions continue this successful drive and the \$60 cost is mitigated by 50% donated by the DHCA.

5) Division 5 needs a division chair. Elise Riley volunteered to serve or find someone else to serve.

The March DHCA Board meeting adjourned at 9:29 pm.