

DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Board Meeting
Wed., March 20, 2019 @ 7:30 pm
Location: St. John's Lutheran Church

IN ATTENDANCE

Officers: K Eisterhold, C Liggett, A Wallace, F Putney, K Gibson.

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

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

2019: H Lane, T McGuigan, P Moise, T Roeser, A Silverman.

2020: R Benfield.

2021: T Blalock, R Kincheloe, D Shuey, W Tomlin.

Guests: Doug Rollins, Flock Safety representatives Davis McKnight and Sam Potts.

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

Guest Speaker

Davis McKnight and Sam Potts of FLOCK Safety gave an update on our partnership. We currently have their fourth generation cameras but the cameras will be upgraded to the new 5th generation when they come out soon. Flock now has 50 employees and their cameras cover 105,000 homes in thirty states, up from 11,000 homes last year. Their goal is to reduce non-violent crime and they act as a deterrent where communities typically see a 25-55% reduction in crime even without arrests. They work closely with the local police departments to bridge the gap between the police and neighborhoods even as the ratio of police to residents decreases. While the Marietta population has grown 21%, their police force has grown only 11%. Flock's new hot-list feature tied to the GBI has led to 10 arrests in the first three months of their partnership.

Flock has worked with the DHCA to determine priorities in adding new cameras and is willing to install new cameras with the first three months free in order to give streets or divisions time to raise money. Expanding coverage will deter crime from moving to neighboring streets.

When fielding questions, Flock reviewed that data is encrypted and is shared only with the local community after police reports are filed, that individuals in a community can opt out their vehicles but no data will exist if they need it, and that all data is dumped permanently after 30 days.

Presentation

Chris Liggett shared a guide to using electric scooters in Atlanta based on January's Electric Scooter Ordinance. Dockless Mobility Devices are allowed where bikes are allowed including on the beltline and in city parks, but not on sidewalks. Users need to follow motorized vehicle laws and are encouraged, but not required, to wear helmets. Cell phones may not be used while riding and riders are limited to only one person per scooter. Scooters should be parked upright on curbs or at bike racks, but not on landscaping or bike share stations.

Announcements

Alida Silverman reported that the Olmsted publication, Plans and Views of Private Estates, Communities, Government Grounds and Academic Campuses – Frederick Law Olmsted Papers Supplementary Series Volume III, which includes Druid Hills, goes to the printer this spring and will be available later in the year. DHCA and OLPA contributed to the Olmsted Papers Project several years ago.

Committee Reports

Druid Hills Home and Garden Tour: Steven Mathias reported that the tour planning continues to move forward but that there are still 90 docent assignments needed. Please encourage neighbors to sign up!

Governance: Phil Moise reminded the board that the training session is scheduled for Sunday, May 19, 2019 from 1pm to 5pm at the Keller Williams Office at 621 North Avenue. The session will include a presentation on revenues and expenses as well as planning for the future.

A motion to approve the election of Doug Rollins to the Board was voted on and approved unanimously.

A motion to delegate authority to the DeKalb County Land Use and Historic Preservation Committee to handle routine matters before the Historic Preservation Commission was tabled for thirty days after discussion. Discussions included the tight time schedule in DeKalb between board meetings and the need to specify what are routine issues.

Land Use – DeKalb HPC: Steven Misner gave an update on the new zoning of Emory University which is proposed to move under Atlanta codes. It became clear at Monday's NPU-F meeting that Emory will have less restrictive limits than with DeKalb County and that the residents neighboring the university have no standing in City of Atlanta decisions. The Land Use Committee advocated for a campus overlay with more oversight over university development adjacent to residential zones but the NPU-F committee rejected making any such recommendations to the Atlanta City Council. However, Emory's David Paine and Betty Willis have agreed to meet with the DHCA President to keep communications open. The annexation results in a loss of legal options to challenge development at residential borders and may have an effect on considering advantages and disadvantages of annexation of Druid Hills.

Transportation: Van Biesel reported that during their first meeting, the Transportation Committee formed four subcommittees: 1) Decatur, 2) Light Rail, 3) Ponce Safety, and 4) Briarcliff Road.

Harriet Lane reported on a February 21 meeting to discuss the GDOT Road Safety Audit (RSA) report of 2016 which includes Briarcliff Road. GDOT will do more work on finding appropriate solutions at intersections and the major bridge approaching Sage Hill.

Safety: Thea Roeser reported that the Safety Committee that was reinstated last year met in February and that the Neighborhood Watch program reinvigorated by Ellen Meshnick now has 31 Neighborhood Watch street captains. The committee started the "If you leave it they will retrieve it" campaign but some residents are still leaving items in their cars. Almost all crimes are car crimes and there are few house break-ins. The committee's goal is to continue adding more street captains, replace faded Neighborhood Watch signs, share data (did you know most crimes occur on Tuesdays?), meet with the Emory, DeKalb, and Atlanta police and the DH Patrol, and consider street lighting. An article in the DH News highlighted these efforts. Welcome Bags will continue to be handed out to new residents.

Communications: Fran Putney reported that Susan Baker and Jennifer Richardson sent out the March News and the deadline for the June News is early May. E-news is sent out around the 15th of each month. Send any content to Fran.

2019 Goals and Initiatives

Kit Eisterhold said the current focus is on the tour and that the Gala is only 2 ½ weeks away. Cynthia Waterbury is helping with sponsorships and the Tour Committee can still use more volunteers!

The Association needs to add members and we are very glad Doug Rollins is joining us. We need to encourage expansion of coverage with Flock cameras and we need to consider new streetlight initiatives as we did on Oakdale several years ago.

The 501-c3 entity is almost established and we need to decide how to use this tax designation for the advantage of the whole neighborhood. This will be discussed during the whole board training session in May.

Kit wrote a letter to the Lullwater organization reassuring them that the DHCA is representing all residents in the neighborhood.

The DHCA needs to proactively make our interests known and to advocate for what we need, but we also need to keep channels open for compromise when things don't go our way.

The March DHCA Board meeting adjourned at 9:21.