

DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Board Meeting
Wed., April 18, 2018 @ 7:30 pm
Location: The Frazer Center

IN ATTENDANCE

Officers: A Wallace, F Putney, K Gibson

Past Pres./Ex-Officio:

Div Chairs: J Critz, S Day, Y Weatherly, A Ballard, R Nelson, D. Engle, S Thornton, S Mathias, R Foust, V Biesel, S Misner.

2018: T Roeser, M Walters, C Waterbury

2019: H Lane, P Moise, A Silverman

2020: J Giegerich, C Liggett, S Sullivan, L Van Gelderen

Guests: Ellen Meshnick, Paul Roeser.

President Anne Wallace called the April Board meeting to order and the March minutes were approved.

Announcements:

For the second time, DHCA will join with the Olmsted Linear Parks Alliance (OLPA) to host the annual Picnic in the Park on Saturday, September 23 at 4:00 pm.

The Deadline for submissions to the June issue of the Druid Hills News is May 18. Let Susan know if you are writing an article.

Board Training will take place on two Sundays, June 10 & 24, from 1:00 to 4:00 at Ryan Grahm's office, KellerWilliams, 621 North Avenue NE.

Guest Speakers and Flock Safety Presentation:

Garrett Langley & Paige Todd founded their security company one year ago and have set up their cameras in 13 states where 20,000 homes are accommodated. Locally, Flock has cameras in Cobb County, Vinings, Atlanta, Sandy Springs, Johns Creek, North Druid Hills and in Mableton where car break-ins have been significantly reduced. Garrett and Paige gave a presentation at the DHCA annual meeting and more information is notated in the January 2018 minutes.

Their presentation included the following information about their camera system:

- The cameras only hold 20 minutes of data so the data is stored and accessed on the cloud.
- Privacy is ensured since Flock does not monitor data. Access to data would be controlled by the DHCA Board and available to a member only after a police report is made.
- Neighbors have the option of opting out and their tag information will not be stored.
- Continuous camera feedback only lets Flock know when a camera is damaged, stolen, or has a low battery. The cameras are charged by a solar panel that required one hour of sunlight.
- New technology allows data to distinguish between residents and regular commuters and can filter these cars out.
- Visible signage is available and may contribute to reducing crime.
- New technology can filter out specific times as well as vehicle characteristics such as trucks and vehicle color.
- Flock partners with companies that keep track of national data on stolen and suspicious cars.
- A you-tube video on Flock is at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZzbZmsFVt0>

Questions from Board members were then answered:

- Since data would be controlled by the DHCA, individuals that want to opt out would need to be members. The cameras at intersections are recording in public spaces.
- Upgrades such as recognition of colors, trucks, busses, and delivery services, are added every two years as needed.
- Flock is looking into monitoring speed, but currently only documents the time at the camera.
- Georgia Power's Site-view is just a camera without the recognition software.
- Current software can track commuting cars going to work on a regular basis and filter them out.

Details about what needs to be done before committing to a two year trial of the Flock Security system in Division 1 were discussed. Six members present were residents of Division 1. A suggestion was made to take a vote in the May Board meeting if a pilot program is to be started in September before the Holiday Season of increased crime.

Committee Reports

Public Safety Committee:

Thea Roeser, Justin Critz and Ellen Meshnick are advocating a revival of the Neighborhood Watch program in addition to other existing and future safety measures taken. Currently, "boots on the ground" actions include the police (there is one officer that can be called away to our neighborhood), the DH patrol, and the Neighborhood Watch program which has the potential of being the most important tool. Street captains are being recruited to volunteer for a significant number of streets. Alarm systems are not as effective as many are led to believe since 89% of calls are false alarms resulting in limited responses. Recommendations from experts include getting a door ring camera, emptying cars and locking them, and having a dog.

Transportation Committee:

Van Biesel made the second of two informational presentations to the Board on the existing transportation infrastructure in Druid Hills and outlined current trends on street design. The AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) Roadside Design Guide provides a standard for traditional roads used by engineers but only designs for automobiles and trucks. The NACTO (National Association of City Transportation Officials) Guide is a more modern guide for street design which includes sidewalks and bicycle access. Complete Streets is a national movement to improve urban and suburban roadways that will accommodate safe access for all users including motorists, cyclists, pedestrians and transit riders. The Vision Zero Network plans to accommodate all types of transportation in a safe way that will eliminate traffic fatalities.

Van reviewed existing bicycle infrastructures such as shared lane markings, bike lanes, buffered/protected bike lanes, one- or two-way cycle tracks, and trails/paths. The challenge is to accommodate the 60% of the population that includes children and families in addition to the 10% of dedicated cyclists. The successful Westside Atlanta bike lane next to Georgia Tech is receiving national attention but has a huge width. Most roads in Druid Hills are 24 to 32 feet wide.

The DHCA is one of many stakeholders for the Clifton Corridor Bicycle and Pedestrian Sub Area Connectivity Study led by DeKalb County which covers a two-mile radius from the campus center and will be completed this year. As pedestrian safety is part of the study, our sidewalks should be addressed. There are many sidewalks in terrible shape and repairs need to be a DHCA priority. DeKalb County has a long waitlist for repairs. The City of Atlanta gives homeowners the responsibility of sidewalk maintenance but it was reported that the city will repair sidewalks if one is persistent. Any desire to redesign our streetscapes must make sure the product is historically appropriate.

Home and Garden Tour Committee:

A motion to approve Steven Mathias' appointment as chair of the Home and Garden tour passed unanimously.

The March DHCA Board meeting adjourned at 9:14.