

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Officers: A Wallace, R Graham, F Putney, T McGuigan

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

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

2018: T Roeser, B Evans,

2019: H Lane, P Moise, A Silverman, E Riley

2020: S Sullivan, K Eisterhold, J Jones

Guests: L Chaplan, A Fromherz, W Tomlin, M Foust, J Ring, D West, D Crider, S Brown, A Shoji, B Hobbs, Four Marta Representatives, R Bessett, J + L Dow, M +J Gayden, R Wilbanks

Administrative VP Ryan Graham called the June Board meeting to order at 7:32 PM. The May minutes were not approved as they are with the current Secretary Ken Gibson who is out of town through August. We will approve the May minutes upon his return. Renee Nelson is taking notes in his absence.

Announcements:

Need volunteers & ideas for Committee Planning 2018 "Picnic in the Park" scheduled for 9/23/18.

Please contact Steven Mathias or Anne Wallace.

Budget requests for 2019 Fiscal Year must be submitted to Tom McGuigan by **July 18th**. Budget must be reviewed/approved by Board August 15th.

Freedom Park Conservancy has a new president, Laura Heninghausen; there are meet and greets with her every Saturday at 9 AM. Learn more on Freedom Park Conservancy social media sites or FreedomPark.org. Reviewing improvements across full footprint of 212-acre park. Update provided by Harriett Lane.

Druid Hills News Fall Edition theme is 80th anniversary of DHCA. Please send article ideas to Fran Putney who is serving as editor of this issue; the deadline is August 1st with a targeted publication date of early September. The following newsletter will come out in late November. We're looking for greater board participation for articles and content for the newsletter; it wasn't cost-effective to publish only twice a year, so we are now publishing four times a year; advertisers require more frequent exposure than just twice per year according to the printer. Elise Riley will work with Emily Webb to do something around the Parents' Network potentially.

Committee Reports

LDPC UPDATE:

Jan Jones notes that things have been busy and there are updates both good and bad. In good news, the boys choir property has accepted an offer from the Montessori Intown School who plans to use the property as-is and will renovate the buildings.

In less good news, 1609 South Ponce plans have been approved; this feels like a subdivision and was opposed by both the landmark district preservation committee and the adjacent neighbors. The UDC vote to pass was 3-1.

SPARK is adding fencing; parents, teachers, administrators, etc. are concerned about three things: 1) an active shooter situation and 2) helping deal with clearing out homeless individuals each morning upon arrival and 3) safe play area in front of buildings on Ponce. APS has legal authority to act independently. They have committed via email to lower the fence from eight feet to six; LDPC requested four feet. They will also add plantings in front of the fence and put the fencing only front of the main house. There is discussion about submitting a letter encouraging further reduction of fence height. However, the EC recommends not objecting and puts forward the following position: *DHCA should not take a position that could be interpreted of elevating the aesthetics of the neighborhood over the safety of its children.* Justin Critz notes the LDPC has been discussing this issue for a while. Elise moves to adopt the conclusion of the EC; Steven seconds. 18 vote in favor; 2 oppose; 4 abstain.

Transportation Committee:

Mike St. Louis is putting together a meeting targeted for June 21st from 6-8 PM in the Oxford Road building on the Emory campus, top floor, big meeting room off the elevator, to address high speeds on N Decatur Road around the intersections of Springdale, Oakdale and Oxford roads. Last year Van Biesel, Mike and others met with Patrice Keeter, Jeff Rader, and others to discuss and identify what the neighborhood wanted to do in terms of addressing the issues with speeding and accidents and these generally dangerous intersections. 180 people signed petitions, about 74% of the households targeted, were collected from neighbors living on N Decatur Road in all houses on N Decatur itself as well as about 10 houses in from N Decatur. 90-94% were in favor of putting in four-way stops, replacing any two-way stops already in place. The proposal to be discussed is the notion of removing the light at Oxford and replacing it with four-way stops at all three intersections.

Guest Speakers from MORE Marta:

Four speakers from Marta presented information on the proposed [Clifton Corridor](#) (CC) expansion as part of the [MORE Marta](#) initiative. The objective of the CC is to connect the gold and red lines to the blue line via CDC, Emory and (currently) CHOA. CDC and Emory are major employers for the area which is very congested; MORE Marta aims to provide some relief to the congestion through high-capacity transit. The approach would be through light rail transit with a dedicated right-of-way; stations would vary between one-half and one mile apart with an overhead wire system providing power (vs. third rail).

The project was initiated in 2009 with alternatives analysis occurring between 2009 and 2012 including public and stakeholder involvement. The outcome of this study was the adoption of the proposal to add a light rail line from Lindbergh center to Avondale; additional improvements were added later with an aim to improve the overall design of the project as well as transit reliability and frequency of service, the latter two which are requirements if the necessary 50% federal funding is to be secured. The most recent, past two years have been focused on federal and environmental impacts including transportation, community, natural resources and other impacts as well as assessing the CC project against other projects.

Considerations for preferable alternatives:

- Needs to be cost effective
- Needs to be feasible
- Needs to provide accessible and reliable service via the most efficient and reliable route

The Marta representatives acknowledge that, because this is no dedicated right-of-way, while they wish it wasn't the case, they acknowledge there will be project impacts to traffic and to properties, and they commit to working with the local communities in an ongoing way.

The preferred alternative is 8.3 miles long, primarily at grade with three tunnel sections. It begins just west of Lenox Road and continues to just west of Briarcliff, then travels along Clifton from Old Briarcliff Way to the Emory/Rollins area, and then goes from North Decatur under Scott Boulevard and Church St. The Clifton Road portion will be a cut-and-cover tunnel.

The current focus is the EIS right (Environmental Impact Study); this is substantially complete with a publication date targeted for next summer, 2019. The Marta board will adopt a recommended project list this fall. While the Clifton Corridor project remains the full Lindbergh to Avondale route, the funding currently exists for only the portions of the project that fall within the City of Atlanta. Any extension beyond the City of Atlanta would require local funds, in this case DeKalb County. There is \$500M in local funding; Marta anticipates a 50% federal match.

A potential schedule for the first phase has construction beginning in 2022 with a target timeframe of ~2026 to be up and running.

“There were some residents of Emory Grove present for the meeting. They proceeded to ask questions trying to assess the direct impact of the proposed plans on their particular neighborhood. The MARTA representatives were patient and tried to answer all questions. The June DHCA Board meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.”

The presentation can be accessed [here](#) (will download the powerpoint file directly to your computer; search your browser downloads if you don't see it).

The June DHCA Board meeting adjourned at 9:40.