

DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

Board Meeting

Wed., June 21, 2017 @ 7:30 pm

Hosted by: Perry Mitchell

Location: St. John's

IN ATTENDANCE:

Officers: A Wallace, L Van Gelderen, H Handley, Fran Putney, K Gibson

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

Div Chairs: S Day, Y Weatherly, M St.Louis, P Lee, R Nelson, V Biesel, S Misner

2017: B Aitkenhead, K Eisterhold, C Liggett, P Mitchell.

2018: L Teunis, M Walters

2019: H Lane, E Riley, A Silverman

Guests: Kirk Rich, Atlanta City Council candidate for District 6

President Anne Wallace called the June Board meeting to order at 7:39 after Stephanie Ramage, City of Atlanta Ombudsman, spoke to Atlanta City residents. The May 2017 minutes were approved.

Featured Division of the Month: Phillip Lee, Division 5 chair.

Philip Lee outlined the Division 5 boundaries of N Decatur Road, the CSX railroad and the Peavine Creek back to N Decatur Road at Emory Village. The division includes some properties on the Southern side of N Decatur that are owned by Emory, higher density units at the Clifton Condominiums, commercial properties in Emory Village and on N Decatur, and residential properties mainly developed in the 1930's and 1940's. As a result of DHCA vigilance, the R-75 zoning has been maintained even with the newer construction on the eastern side of the Division.

Parks in the division include Burbank, Rutledge and Princeton Way which is accessible by service paths between homes. Division 5 is in the Peavine watershed and is the home of the historic Houston Chapel.

Current threats to the neighborhood include the pressure of dividing properties for infill as well as a proposed light rail down North Decatur Road with transit stations. Emory's annexation into the City of Atlanta may have negative consequences if the DeKalb Historic District protections are jeopardized.

Announcement:

Anne Wallace announced that the fifth annual **Open Streets Festival** will be on October 29 and will include a Halloween parade, local performers, a dog costume contest, and a puppet factory.

Volunteers for planning, publicity & communications, and a business coordinator are needed. Please contact Becky Evans.

Committee Reports:

Communications:

Fran Putney reported that next week, she will be meeting with David Winston, who will professionally film the **History Documentary** to be used with the 50th Anniversary Home and Garden Tour. The names of twelve people to interview for the History Documentary have been collected so far.

Druid Hills News:

Jennie Richardson reported that the deadline for articles in the next **DH news** is coming up soon in October.

Transportation:

Van Biesel reported on a community meeting with Commissioner Jeff Rader concerning 1) **traffic and safety on North Decatur Road** and 2) traffic on **Ponce**.

1) Options on improving safety on **North Decatur** are limited since it is a minor arterial road with the exception that it is not a thoroughfare for trucks unless their route is the shortest distance to a destination like Emory Village. During the meeting Patrece Keeter, DeKalb County Transportation

Engineer, reported that input from neighbors resulted in a study by the county concerning the two intersections with Springdale and Oakdale. The study indicates a need for traffic signals but there are no funds for needed cantilevered posts which cost \$300,000. Also, traffic on Springdale would increase. Because there are 18,000 cars per day, a four-way stop would result in traffic coming to a halt. What can be done to increase safety is to increase sight distances and neighbors are encouraged to trim overgrown vegetation appropriately instead of having the county clear all vegetation. The county could possibly look into providing “piano bar” markings for pedestrian crossings which the county does not currently provide and which may interfere with turns. Mike St. Louis also had a meeting with neighbors and information will be included in the next issue of the DH News.

2) GDOT Plans to replace existing traffic signals and poles with cantilevered poles & new signals on **Ponce** at Clairmont, Oakdale, Springdale and Lullwater as well as on Fairview.

Anne Wallace reported that Jaime Smith, Emory’s Business Operations Director, spoke about **Emory’s bike/pedestrian study** led by Patrece Keeter, Dekalb County Traffic Engineer. This “last mile” study covers a one to two-mile radius from Cox Hall on campus. The ARC has also completed a bicycle study which Julie Ralston has presented. It appears that different groups doing similar studies are not communicating with each other or the DHCA. Anne has asked for the DHCA to be included in communications.

LDPC Landmark District Committee is communicating with the architect for the “Tamas” house on the corner of S. Ponce and Clifton as the house is being put back together. The exterior will be restored. The Jim Jackson house on Ponce next to the ΑΔΠ Sorority house is on the market as a private sale asking for offers.

Philip Clark, a potential developer of the lot next to Pine Bloom mansion and the Jackson Hill Baptist Church, has contacted neighbors but not the LDPC.

Dekalb Land Use Committee:

Bruce MacGregor has successfully convinced the developer on **Burlington** to plant larger 4” trees to replace trees that that were clearcut.

The HPC addressed concerns about stream buffers and an archeological study request on **Old Briarcliff Road**, but ruled in Minerva’s favor. Minerva may consider increasing the street setback by 10’ if there is a 10’ reduction in the stream buffer.

Minerva’s condo development on the Fox5 outparcel on Briarcliff Rd, conditionally downzoned from O-I to multifamily, did not have buried power lines. The intervention of Cynthia Tauxe and Kit Eisterhold resulted in the power lines being buried, in conformance to the rezoning condition.

New Business:

Signs are up for the 4th of July Parade, and an announcement will be posted to neighbors. Some volunteers are needed to run the refreshments stand on the corner of Oakdale and the Byway at 11:00. There will be a “band” and a Boy Scout color guard.

Guest Kirk Ritch was introduced. He is running for Alex Wan’s District 6 Atlanta City Council.

A Motion was made and passed to go into Executive Session. The June Board Meeting adjourned at 9:20 at the end of the Executive Session.