

**DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Wed., September, 16, 2015; 7:00 p.m.**  
**St. John's Lutheran Church, 1420 Ponce De Leon Ave., Atlanta**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Officers: C Vandenberg, J Critz, F Finegan, C Keenan, K Taylor, T McGuigan, K Gibson  
B MacGregor, J Heerin, R Graham, J McGuigan, D Frymire  
A Wallace, R Vicevich, M St. Louis, D Parrington, S Thornton, R Foust, V Biesel  
2015: B Evans, S Montgomery, C Waterbury  
2016: J Markham, P Moise, T Winn, D Winston,  
2017: R Benfield, K Eisterhold, P Mitchell, J Morawetz, S Silverman  
Guests: Judge JP Boulee, Lt. T Singh

**Introduction of Guests**

President Cathy Vandenberg introduced our new non-partisan Division 6 Superior Court Judge J. P. Boulee who replaces Judge Cynthia Becker. Judge Boulee is a veteran and former Jones Day law partner. He stated his goal to establish a veterans' court in DeKalb County to help veterans suffering from PTS and substance abuse with a mentoring program to assist in treatments and employment.

Muffie Michaelson, who serves on the steering committee for the Druid Hills Patrol, gave an overview of the subscription patrol service, which costs \$300.00 per year for residents. The DHP officers are in uniform and have the power to arrest and communicate with residents and police through an integrated communication system.

Lieutenant Tony Singh is the Officer-in-Charge with four other Atlanta officers. He believes high visibility is the best way to prevent crime and the uniformed officers patrol in a marked car. Since membership has declined and rates were lowered, patrol hours have been reduced to 80 hours bi-weekly from 130 hours bi-weekly. Crime data is analyzed to schedule coverage and reports and activity can be seen at the [druidhillspatrol.org](http://druidhillspatrol.org) website.

For emergencies, call 911 first, and then phone 404-373-1060 to leave a message on Officer Singh's email. It was noted that even though we pay taxes for Dekalb County police, they spend their time in areas with more violent crime.

**Approval of August minutes.**

The August 19, 2015 Board Minutes were approved.

**New Business**

**Communications:** Claudia Keenan and Jenny McGuigan have vastly improved our electronic presence by making many improvements to our free WordPress account. Because our Website is now the heart of DH communications, it is important to create a more central, interactive, and streamlined presence than our current account can provide.

Jenny McGuigan presented some ideas for updating our web presence. The idea is to enable more people to have administrative management. Rather than one administrator keeping track of 70 different email addresses with the current set-up, a more robust system would enable Committee Chairs to communicate and update events to specific groups, and to accept payments for dues and special events. Jenny recommends a conversion to Wild Apricot and distributed handouts that included sample Wild Apricot websites and demos. This system makes it possible for each division to have their own page and to communicate with only those members that are involved. The Ansley Park Civic Association uses the Wild Apricot service and is pleased with how it enables residents to participate in social events.

Because we have more than 500 members, the monthly cost would be \$130 plus significant start up costs to set up the account, transfer current data and train members to administer the website. Although Wild Apricot has never had a security breach, Jenny will look into security as well as provide an estimate of the start up costs.

## **Budget**

Treasurer Kelli Taylor handed out a copy of the 2015/2016 budget. Of note, there is a 50% increase in membership revenue, another successful Home and Garden Tour, and no significant increase in expenses. Division Chairs will continue to have \$100 for local events and will be expected to put this to use. In the future, parks will be treated more equitably and members will be encouraged to advocate for park improvements

A Motion to approve the budget as presented passed without opposition.

## **Public Safety**

Jon Markham of the Public Safety Committee reported that since the last board meeting there have been 56 crimes and 3 stolen cars. The crimes are concentrated on Briarcliff, the By Way, in Division 7, and on East Clifton. Having met with our Commissioners and with the Druid Hills Patrol, the Committee concludes that a short-term blitz is needed to deal with the current wave of crime, which the DeKalb Police and the Patrol have been unable to stop. The Committee reached out to Atlanta Police Captain Bennie McGee who has been in charge of our House Tour security and runs a micro patrol that charges \$35/hour. The estimated cost of 125 hours of additional surveillance is \$5K and could take place immediately.

Questions were made about hiring this service from the DH Patrol since both Captain McGee and Lieutenant Singh are with the Atlanta Police Department. Also there was a concern about liability and insurance when a group hires a service like this.

A Motion was made for the Executive Committee to fund and execute a \$5K contract for emergency intervention surveillance with bids from both the Druid Hills Patrol and Captain McGee's Patrol.

The Motion passed without opposition.

A motion was made and seconded to go into **EXECUTIVE SESSION**. After the Executive Session ended, the meeting resumed with Committee Reports.

## **Land Use and Historic Preservation**

Justin Critz reported that the Paideia School owns 4.4 acres of woods adjacent to their campus, which will be cleaned up for student trails. All relevant organizations have been informed and there will be no construction.

Bruce MacGregor reported on the lot at 1904 Ridgewood Dr., which was split and recorded without public comment. The Board voted 2-1-1 to approve a permit to build that was previously denied. Our Commissioner Rader's appointee was mute for this unfortunate result. Across the street, the ZBA denied permits to build on the split lots.

At 291 Vickers and Hummingbird, a permit was denied for a tear-down and split.

Dan Frymire reported that the Atlanta Urban Design Commission is permitting demolition of structures at 817 Lullwater Rd. The property is zoned DH Landmark District.

Residents are all encouraged to attend the DeKalb County Historic Preservation Commission meeting on Monday, September 21 at 7:00 since COA applications for Clifton Ridge and 1680 East Clifton will be considered.

## **Home and Garden Tour**

Ryan Graham reported that the 2017 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour Committee is already forming and will be meeting concurrently with 2016 Tour Committee, which meets again October 7.

The April 22-24, 2016 date conflicts with fewer competing events. Traffic problems and low Friday morning attendance will be avoided with a half-day on Friday and a full day on Sunday.

Ryan also reported that Laura Zimbrick, formally chair of the artist markets for the Candler Park Festival, has volunteered to chair the artists market committee.

### **Communications**

As always, photos & articles are welcome for the monthly e-News as well as the next Druid Hills News print edition in mid November.

### **Transportation**

The Transportation Committee will be meeting with GDOT in November to consider improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists along the Clifton corridor and along Ponce.

The Urban Land Institute did a pro bono survey looking into bicycle and pedestrian connectivity between Emory Village and the surrounding areas. Emory Village can be connected on the south to the Freedom Park trail and on the north to the Medlock trail & the South Fork Conservancy.

Ron Foust reported that Emory is planning a bike lane on east side of Clifton from N Decatur to Haygood. The West side will continue to be a shared lane. Plans are also being considered to connect the Clairmont campus with the Medlock bike path under Clairmont Rd.

### **Executive Committee**

The EC proposed an increase in membership levels to include an Olmsted membership at \$500 and a Centennial level at \$1000. Because our Bylaws mandate approval of membership levels, the creation of the Olmsted and Centennial memberships was approved unanimously by the board.

### **Membership & Community**

A September 29 meeting was held at Sally Montgomery's house. There is room to improve retaining memberships as well as to find new members. There is a need to communicate reasons for renewing and to recognize and show appreciation for memberships at all levels.

Cynthia Waterbury reported that the DHCA Yard Sale had 71 residents sign up but there is no easy way to see how many are members and to use the sale to help with recruitment.

The Emory Village Open Street Festival is growing with much more planned activities.

### **State, County & Local Governments Committee**

The former "Cityhood Committee" will become the "State, County & Local Governments" Committee. The first initiative will be to encourage voting in November to pass proposed ethics reforms for DeKalb County.

### **Division Reports**

Sandra Thornton is organizing a block party and will be looking into adding streetlights in Division 7.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45