

DRUID HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 15 2016 @7:30p.m.
Location: St. John's Lutheran Church

IN ATTENDANCE

Officers: A Wallace, P Moise, H Handley, K Taylor, T McGuigan,
C Vandenberg, D Shuey, J Richardson

S Kruse, Y Weatherly, R Vicevich, M St. Louis, P Lee, S Thornton, R Foust, V Biesel, S Misner
2016: M. St. Louis, E Riley

2017: K Eisterhold, D Frymire, C Liggett, P Mitchell

2018: B Clark, W Heaps, R Hughes, L Teunis, C Waterbury

Guests: Lisa Campbell Harper, Carolyn Rader, Trish McCarthy Bleau, Diane Aiken, Laura Shine
Lee, Steve Perkins

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm.

The May 16, 2016 Board Minutes were approved

Welcome & Announcements:

- Wild Apricot will be live on druidhills.org on June 16. Board members will receive an email explaining the sign up procedure. Be sure to let Jenny McGuigan know of any access issues or errors you receive. Once Board sign up is complete, a communication to go to the DHCA membership enabling access. When Wild Apricot is live, it will be the system for DruidHills.org. This will enable online membership sign up capabilities and much more.
- NWF – the application was submitted and we are awaiting confirmation from NWF National. The possible missing piece is individual home certification. We believe that we may be missing 15 homes. A request was made to please certify your home and that there is a minimal cost to this (approximately \$20 per home). Visit <http://www.nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife/Certify.aspx> to help Druid Hills achieve this goal.

New Business

- Appointment to the Board: Renee Nelson, Co-Chair of Division 5

Budget Requests:

- 2017 Budget Requests are due to the Treasurer.
- Donation Requests:
 - Emory Village Alliance is requesting \$1500 for their fall event. Motion was passed for approval of these funds to EVA.
 - OLPA – this is a request to fund the 25th anniversary of stopping the road for a “Road Reunion” including a party with former members of the road effort. At the event, Trees Atlanta and other organizations will have activities onsite. The

event is intended to be free for the community. The fund amount recommended for this is \$750. DHCA supports OLPA is \$2500 for other efforts. A motion to approve both OLPA amounts passed.

- A discussion ensued about other possible activities to co-sponsor and have in the neighborhood parks. Ideas included a wine stroll and hosting neighborhood, family friendly movie nights. The intention is to bring more neighbors together. A suggestion was made to have these events be a walk and bike friendly. A request was made to ask the church and Frazier Center to allow some parking for this event. This will occur once something is planned.

Emory Grove – Request for DHCA Resolution

The President read the following resolution and opened this topic, an at-grade MARTA transit along Emory Grove, up for discussion:

"While the DHCA is supportive of efforts to bring mass transit options to Druid Hills, we are opposed to the routing proposal of an at-grade line down N. Decatur Road, as it contravenes the guidelines for the DeKalb Local Druid Hills Historic District, and will have an substantial and immitigable adverse effect on the historical character and beauty of Emory Grove, as well as its viability as a neighborhood, and as an integral part of the larger Druid Hills community."

A discussion ensued with the following points:

- Land Use and Transportation met jointly and asked the Board to approve the above statement. Impacted areas are Division 8 and 5.
- There was a voiced concern about a statement focused on opposition and not providing an alternative that is viable from Lindbergh to Avondale. There was another concern that the Starvine proposal does not serve Druid Hills, due to skirting the neighborhood boundaries and station locations.
- Alternative wording proposed: "DHCA is supportive of an alternative for the proposed line connecting Lindbergh and Avondale stations that provides the greatest benefit to potential riders in the community while minimizing adverse effects."
- It was stated that it was believed that the at-grade MARTA effort will not yield from its stated plans. A discussion ensued about the 4 "locally preferred alternatives" but it was noted that the local stakeholders were not consulted.
- A homeowner stated the preferred option (called "locally preferred alternatives" in plans) was to go through front yards on the North side of N. Decatur. It was reiterated these are not 'locally preferred.' It was mentioned there was a stated objection for going along CSX line at a previous MARTA meeting, although this was considered an option. Examples were given of previous MARTA route plans which use existing DH roads, without any prior DH approval.
- A recommendation was made to take a view of transit for what DH would *support*.
- A map was shown identifying the station locations (Andrews Circle stop, none at Clifton at the center of the Emory campus, a stop on N. Decatur Across from Clairmont Road, and potentially another at the CDC). The intention of these stops was stated to serve the Emory Community and employment centers. The potential upside to this proposal is

less traffic congestion from employees of Emory. This may potentially reduce traffic on N. Decatur based on the proposed lines.

- A question was raised about why not using a subway, a CSX right of way to Clairmont/ N. Decatur.
- A group called 'Save Emory Grove' has formed and has applied for section 106 so as to have an official voice, stated position and manage possible litigation. It was reiterated that this at-grade proposal will have an "immitigable and adverse effect." It was stated that David Cullison (Senior Planner, Historic Preservation DeKalb County) stated that the at-grade line would have "an adverse effect."
- A request was made for volunteers to collaborate to work on a position statement(s). A statement was made that DHCA was a nonprofit organization, as a corporation, and will go on record stating a position. The DHCA does not wish to take the active role, but will rely on ad hoc organizations to "carry the water" and make the recommendation to the DHCA. Only then will the DHCA take an official position of the behalf of the larger neighborhood.
- A discussion ensued if the proposed language was sufficient to what the group wants to accomplish and it was deemed that the statement from Land Use and Transportation fell short. However, there is a request for a DHCA to have an official position on this matter. There was a statement made that without DHCA stance, the lack of position is a 'tacit approval.' Acknowledgement was given that the DHCA would support the "Save Emory Grove" effort.
- A motion was made to approve the statement. Then, a motion was made to also propose an amendment to the original statement. The proposed amendment read:
 - **"In lieu of the at grade line down N Decatur Rd, we strongly urge MARTA to find and pursue an alternative route that proceeds East from Andrews Circle without causing the substantial and immitigable adverse effects on the Emory Grove Neighborhood and the larger Druid Hills Community."**
- A motion was made and a second was given to pass the language with the addendum. The motion passed with one abstention.
- The official language approved is as follows:
- **"While the DHCA is supportive of efforts to bring mass transit options to Druid Hills, we are opposed to the routing proposal of an at-grade line down N. Decatur Road, as it contravenes the guidelines for the DeKalb Local Druid Hills Historic District, and will have a substantial and immitigable adverse effect on the historical character and beauty of Emory Grove, as well as its viability as a neighborhood, and as an integral part of the larger Druid Hills community. In lieu of the at grade line down North Decatur Rd., we strongly urge MARTA to find and pursue an alternative route that proceeds East from Andrews Circle without causing the substantial and immitigable adverse effects on the Emory Grove Neighborhood and the larger Druid Hills Community."**

Overall, a suggestion was made for the DHCA to make a more proactive approach on all transportation solutions across the neighborhood, to engage residents and to get in front of some of these discussion instead of being reactive.

Committee Reports

- 2016 Tour – Ryan Graham & Kelli Taylor
 - Tour sales were upwards of \$76K, expenses were approximately \$28K. The net is approximately \$45K. It was a great year for the Tour!
 - The Tour committee is focused on the upcoming 2 years, looking ahead to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Tour of Homes in 2018. There is a list of homes on the original 1st Tour and the Home Selection Committee has met to discuss plans.
 - The Rose Library archives at Emory will receive some material from the DHCA files that feature some of the original home tours. An exhibit is planned for the Rose Library during the Tour to allow visitors to see some of this archive material.

- Land Use –
 - Ian Bogost: Emory Student Affairs Liaison- not present, no update
 - Kit Eisterhold: 999 Briarcliff Rd
Minerva (developers Dan Cotter & Brian Davison – a Clifton Road resident) wants to permit 33+ units on Briarcliff on existing church property (across from Callenwolde). There was a DHCA position to remain as residential zoning (R85) at the last board meeting. The property is in DeKalb and is in the Historic District in DeKalb. The action was deferred at the Community Council meeting. Suggestion was made to invite the developer to present to DHCA at an upcoming meeting.

- Transportation – Mike St. Louis/Van Biesel/Wendy Heaps
 - *Mass transit* – key issues on mass transit and Emory Grove were discussed.
 - Guest introduction: Carolyn Rader, worked formerly with the Atlanta Regional Commission and is now involved in Transportation Committee.
 - *Bike Areas*- controversy exists in the DH neighborhood around bike + trail plans. There is a grass roots group forming to encourage biking across millennials. A Walk/ Bike /Thrive plan for the Atlanta Regional Commission has passed, with approved funds of \$100M.
 - *Walking group* - Van reported a walking group has formed and has met recently. The 1st official Walk is planned for August 13 to explore the hidden parks in Emory and over to Lullwater Preserve. OLPA does some walks, and Atlanta Preservation Center also has planned walks. The goal is to promote active living. The GA walks summit will have some DHCA member attendees.
 - *Traffic calming and safety report*- there were 2 relevant meetings this past week. The main goal was to examine options for traffic calming on the Ponce corridor, stemming from the Road Safety Audit. Clifton and Ponce is a known trouble spot

and has a high incident number for traffic accidents (was noted there have been 45+ accidents at Ponce & Clifton). The first meeting with GDOT regarding this intersection, Anne Wallace attended at the Druid Hills Golf Club with leaders from the golf club, GDOT and others. The other meeting with GDOT was facilitated by Elena Parent, reported as a request of Becky Evans and the TC. Wendy Heaps reported on that meeting with GDOT and the outcomes are as follows:

- Agreed on actions for short term (by October 2016)- A proposed, restricted hours left turn signs at the Clifton Road and Ponce intersection. There may be a future traffic counts once school commences in August to help determine hours and congestion needs. The intention is to determine feasibility for a left turn lane from Ponce to Clifton (heading south). An outcome action was police enforcement coordination between DeKalb and City of Atlanta once the turn signs are up.
- It was noted that the intersection of Clifton and Ponce was not part of the Olmsted design.

Other Business/Division Reports

- July 4 Parade – 11 am at corner of Oakdale and The By Way; signs are available for distribution.

A Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm on June 15, 2016.