

MINUTES
Board of Directors Meeting
Druid Hills Civic Association
7:30PM Wednesday, July 16, 2008
Emory's 1784 N. Decatur Road Building

Call to Order, Recognition of Guests: **Jim Morawetz**, President, called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. Guests included **Deborah Jackson**, of Lithonia (S. DeKalb) community groups, and **Chris Hamilton** of Dovetail Craftsman.

Secretary's Report (approval of minutes): Minutes of the March 19, 2008 and April 9, 2008 meetings were approved; minutes of the May 21, 2008 meeting have not yet been submitted by the substitute secretary for that meeting; and minutes of the June 18, 2008 meeting were approved as changed.

Administrative Vice President's Report

Chris Hamilton, Dovetail Craftsman, has offered to give back to the community by inspecting one neighborhood house per month and suggesting ways to fix it up before it deteriorates. He could also have a Saturday session to show a group of homeowners what he found and what could be done at each of the selected houses. He is seeking assistance in reaching out to the community for homeowners who would be interested in having their homes reviewed, and others who would be interested in attending the review sessions.

Thea Roeser volunteered to promote the idea during the fall membership drive, and to be the point person for a new subcommittee under the Community and Lifestyles Committee to coordinate the project.

On another subject, Thea reported that she had found bags for the membership kits @ \$3.60 for two colors on beige. She can order 108 for \$388.80 plus tax.

First Vice President's Report

1. Emory Health Care Expansion Response Committee: Bruce MacGregor will chair the committee, and will involve the Transportation and Land Use and Historic Preservation Committees. It may also be necessary to hire a traffic consultant. This committee will be on a tighter schedule than the Master Plan Committee, but much of the work should be transferable.

2. RFP for Druid Hills Master Plan: Max Creighton and Alida Silverman reported on the committee's progress in identifying the areas that should be addressed by a consultant. They include a review of all DHCA policies concerning land use, legal issues surrounding zoning/land use inconsistencies, differences in County and City zoning and land use, traffic and transportation, and community involvement and oversight.

During the ensuing discussion it was acknowledged that a master plan would make a good internal document, but it was questioned how useful it would be. It was emphasized that before any substantial amount of money is committed, we need to have a reasonable assurance that the development of such a master plan would be welcomed by the DeKalb County and City of Atlanta governments, and that it would be likely to be adopted as an integral part of their respective comprehensive planning processes. We must be ready to proceed before we solicit proposals from consultants.

3. Chelsea Heights Design Guidelines: The design guidelines will be presented to the HPC on July 21st. There is strong opposition from some of the residents, who are actively working against it. They need residents who are in favor of it to show up at the hearing, as well. **Steven Misner** will be out of town; **Chris Leeth** will lead the effort.

4. Update on Proposed Nightclub (“Late Night Establishment”)
Ordinance: No one seems to know what the BOC is going to vote on at its upcoming meeting, but there is a feeling that it is a prelude to lessening the distance requirements between establishments that sell alcohol, and churches and schools. It was suggested (again) that we need a unified effort by all of the civic associations in DeKalb County.

5. Druid Hills Golf Club is requesting changes to the Emory Village Design Standards regarding the rear of the buildings and to provide protection from errant golf balls.

6. Historic Preservation: Alida Silverman announced that a CDR of the correspondence between the Olmsted firm and Joel Hurt/Kirkwood Land Company would be coming out soon and a copy will be given to DHCA, specifically to our communications VP, to put on the web site. Other copies will be given to libraries, history centers, etc.

Alida reviewed the definition of “National Historic Landmarks” and advised that a National Historic Landmark application is going to Washington this year that includes the linear park and some of the area around it. Everything within the boundaries has been deemed to be the way the Olmsted plan envisioned implementation of the plan.

Also, all of the Landmark and Historic Districts in the City (11 total) are participating in a poster project. Druid Hills and each of the other participating neighborhoods has been asked to contribute \$150 towards making an Atlanta poster. A motion to contribute that amount was approved.

7. Legal Update – Hummingbird lawsuits: Our lawyer, Susan Garrett, has advised that the new lot merger ordinance may be applicable.

Treasurer’s Report – John Hudson

1. Budget Committee: The budget committee has been asked for input. A budget proposal should be presented for the board’s consideration in September.

2. Unpaid Sales Taxes: John Hudson met with the State Revenue Collections Department concerning the 2006 sales taxes. They will send us a letter stating the tax amount and penalties on 2006 sales of Tour tickets and lunches.

President's Report

1. New Noise Ordinance: A new noise ordinance is being worked on because the existing ordinance is too complicated.

2. Emory Arms Apartments on Rock Springs Road: The apartments are being torn down. Any redevelopment plans are unknown.

3. Callanwolde Amphitheater: Chris Leeth reported that they are rebuilding a rock house on the premises. There is seating, but he would not call it an "amphitheater." Four to six large trees are being taken out. It's a done deal.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Shuey, Secretary