

Meeting of the Historic Decatur Association (HDA) Board of Directors (BOD)

Tuesday, June 26, 2018 6:00pm

Meeting Location:

Offices of Eyster, Key, Tubb, Roth, Middleton & Adams LLP

402 East Moulton Street, Decatur, AL

Meeting Attendees:

Wade Dinsmore

D Hall

Larry Freeman

Cindy Upton

Lindsey Faulkner

Brenda Henson

Chad Hopkins

Craig Baker

Guests:

Astrid McIntosh

2018 HDA President Wade Dinsmore called the meeting to order. The first topic on the agenda was the acceptance of the minutes. Cindy Upton sent the updated draft version for review prior to the meeting and there was no further comment or discussion. D Hall moved to accept the minutes as submitted and Chad Hopkins seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The final version of the minutes are kept on the HDA website.

The next topic was Larry Freeman's treasury report. As of this meeting, the HDA had \$45,252.95 in the bank. There are currently 97 paid member households. Expenses included costs related to the payment of the storage unit and printing the Christmas in July event invitations. The motion to accept the treasury report was made by Cindy Upton, with a second from Lindsey Faulkner. The motion passed unanimously.

The next topics were Committee Reports. Cindy reported that the Garden Tour for 2019 was scheduled for May 19th and that Westminster Presbyterian Church had agreed to be the headquarters location again.

The next Committee Report was about the Christmas Tour. Wade reported on behalf of Committee Chairman Justin Hall that the Christmas in July event planned to be held at Townhouse Galleries on July 12th was coming along.

There was no update from the Tree Committee.

The Newsletter Committee report was next. Brenda Henson produced the current newsletter, which had just been distributed. The Christmas in July event invitations were inserted into the newsletters. The next edition of the newsletter is planned for release in the September timeframe.

Discussion of the Social Committee's activities was next. The covered dish/potluck social held on June 24th at the Cross Eyed Owl Brewery was a success. Attendees enjoyed the event and the location worked very well for food, beverages and as a meeting space. Astrid McIntosh and Kim Carr are overseeing these activities. The next social is planned for the first Sunday in October. The Christmas Tour after party location was discussed, with the Cross Eyed Owl being a possible location.

No new report from the Communications Committee.

No Old Business was discussed.

The next topic was New Business. D Hall discussed the reduction of the decorations stipend that Christmas Tour homes receive from \$400 down to \$250. His concern was that this decreased stipend would limit the ability of homeowners to fully participate in the Tour and that overall, the additional funds to raise the stipend back to the old level for all of the homes was not a large amount and provided benefit to the neighborhoods. Although the stipend is not enough to fully decorate the home, it does help in offsetting the costs for things such as live greenery. D motioned that the stipend be raised back to \$400 per home starting this year. Lindsey seconded and the motion carried with a unanimous approval. For now, donations to the church holding the headquarters location would remain \$200. Cindy discussed the Garden Tour comparison to the Christmas Tour. While the Christmas Tour is a ticketed event with much anticipation and preparation surrounding it, homeowners frequently decorate and open most if not all of their home to tour goers. Many volunteers are needed to staff the Tour at the various homes and the headquarters location. The Christmas Tour is the main event for the HDA and requires maximum participation from the neighborhoods. The Tour Committee starts meeting in the spring timeframe to begin preparations for the Tour in December. In contrast, the Garden Tour has always been a simple request for neighbors to open their gates to allow visitors in. No extraordinary preparations are requested or expected, and an army of volunteers are not needed to staff the Tour sites or headquarters. There is currently no standing Garden Tour Committee to work the details needed for a larger event. Going back to the 1980s, the Garden Tour has been a free event and has even been described by early organizers as a "thank you" to the community. This year, the Christmas Tour was advertised on the Garden Tour flyer as a "save the date", so that participants would hopefully come back and support the Christmas Tour. While there have been questions concerning the Garden Tour being a free event with no additional stipends for the homeowners, until there are enough volunteers with the desire to support a larger event there are no plans to change this format.

There was discussion on the plan to fund new signage to mark the historic neighborhood areas. Wade said that Mike Meely was looking into grants which could cover some of the costs. The earmarked funds from the HDA are still set aside for now.

Wade also said that he had an opportunity to speak with City Council President Paige Bibbee concerning the replacement of damaged curbs in Old Decatur from the April 3rd storm. Because the damaged and missing curbs are a safety hazard, the plan is to replace and repair them before the Christmas Tour.

The HDA BOD normally meets at 6:00pm on the last Tuesday of every month except December. The next meeting of the HDA BOD is planned for July 31st. The location is planned to be at the Offices of Eyster, Key, Tubb, Roth, Middleton & Adams LLP.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Upton
Secretary, HDA