

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

Tuesday, November 27, 2018 6:00pm

Meeting Location:

Historic Depot and Railroad Museum, 701 Railroad St NW

Meeting Attendees:

D Hall
Cindy Upton
Larry Freeman
Justin Hall
Lynn Schuppert
Brenda Henson
Mike Meely
Chad Hopkins
Wade Dinsmore

Guests:

Astrid McIntosh, Kim Carr, DeAnn Meely, David Breland

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 versions of both the September and October meeting minutes for review prior to the meeting and there was no further comment or discussion. There was not a quorum of BOD members at the October meeting so the September minutes were not approved previously. Brenda Henson moved to accept the minutes as submitted and Lynn Schuppert seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The final version of the minutes are kept on the HDA website.

Treasurer Larry Freeman sent the monthly financial report to the Board prior to the meeting. As of this meeting, the HDA had \$54,060.28 in the bank. Some dues and donations including Christmas Tour sponsorships were collected and expenses included the cost for new HDA checks. The membership report showed 148 paid member households for 2018. Larry's HDA BOD tenure ends with the 2018 meetings, and he will transfer duties of Treasurer to Chad Hopkins. Larry also mentioned that the greenery profit may be just enough to cover the freight bill. Brenda suggested reviewing the pricing next year in order to assure expenses can be paid. D. Hall motioned to accept Larry's treasury and membership reports, Cindy Upton seconded and the motion passed with a unanimous positive vote.

Larry suggested a closing audit for his books so that Chad has a clean start. Several BOD members indicated agreement with this approach as good practice. Lynn Schuppert motioned to require a treasurer's audit at the end of every year. Cindy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Christmas Tour was the next topic. Chairman Justin Hall discussed key activity dates coming up and encouraged the BOD to participate. Help was needed to cut and assemble greenery into street sign swags, and later in the week help was needed to assemble luminarias. Justin posted the details on

Facebook and Nextdoor. He also posted information on judging criteria for the upcoming decorating contest. A "People's Choice" award would be offered this year, with information about voting provided through social media. Justin said that ticket sales were going well, and that there were some large group ticket purchases.

The next topic concerned trees. An ongoing discussion continued on the number, placement and requirements for receiving trees. Although the BOD had already voted to only provide trees to paid HDA members, Lynn Schuppert requested a revisit of the discussion. Her reasoning was that the tree canopy was the most important aspect to preserve, and that responsible homeowners who desire a tree should be allowed to have one planted near their property. Lynn requested that the BOD vote again on tree placement, with the emphasis on getting verbal agreement from the homeowner that they will care for the HDA provided trees planted around their property. That the tree provided was a benefit from the HDA would be communicated to non-member households with the hope that they will join the HDA. Lynn made a motion to accept the revised plan of placing trees in the best location and not only offered to HDA members. The homeowners would have to verbally agree to care for the tree and the benefits of HDA membership would be explained. Brenda seconded. The vote went as follows: 5 ayes, 3 nays and 1 abstention. Wade indicated that a meeting would be held soon to determine a tree placement plan.

Wade indicated that the next newsletter, normally scheduled for January, was planned for distribution in early 2019.

The Social Committee report was next. The next neighborhood-wide event is planned to be held at the Carnegie Visual Arts Center sometime in January. Details will be worked out later. Wade said that the free movie night on Nov. 6th was not well attended. Several people like this idea and would like to see other attempts at scheduling this kind of neighborhood activity. Wade said that the Princess Theatre staff told him that they are considering showing a series of old movies with the possibility of discounted tickets for HDA members.

Kim Carr reported on behalf of the Communications Committee that they are working on ways that HDA membership dues can be paid online. Any convenience fee would be added onto the membership dues total.

New Business was next. The attendance requirements of BOD members was discussed, as a few members have missed several meetings. Wade took an action to contact those members to see if they can commit their time to the BOD or not renew their terms. He will also contact the Nominating Committee to discuss progress on appointing the 2019 BOD members and on the planned terms for returning members. Since Julia Roth's term as HDA Member at Large is ending, David Breland has agreed to serve in that capacity for 2019. David was in attendance at this meeting.

The last discussion topic under New Business was from DeAnn Meely. She had paid (and was reimbursed) for the current year of the domain website used by the Christmas Tour Committee. DeAnn indicated that her payment was not recurring so other arrangements would need to be made before

May 2019 in order to keep our website. The HDA currently does not have a bankcard to use for these types of charges. New treasurer Chad Hopkins will investigate options for a later discussion.

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 tentatively planned for January 29, 2019. The location is planned to be the Historic Depot and Railroad Museum. Additional information will be provided through Facebook and Nextdoor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Upton
Secretary, HDA