

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

Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 6:00pm

Meeting Location:

Historic Depot and Railroad Museum, 701 Railroad St NW

Meeting Attendees:

David Breland
Cindy Upton
Harriette Mathews
Brenda Henson
Kevin Malcolm
Lynn Schuppert
Chad Hopkins

2019 HDA President Brenda Henson called the meeting to order. The minutes from the April meeting were approved with Harriette Mathews providing the first motion to accept and Chad Hopkins seconding. The approval vote carried unanimously. The minutes will be archived on the HDA website.

HDA Treasurer Mike Meely was not able to attend the meeting, so there was no treasurer report.

Brenda noted that there are currently 69 paid members in the HDA, which is still much lower than the memberships of the separate Albany or Old Decatur neighborhoods prior to the formation of the HDA. She discussed a successful plan within Old Decatur to encourage membership. Rodger Henson sent a series of letters to each household. The first letter explained benefits. The second letter (to those who did not become members from the first letter) was a reminder. The third letter (to nonmembers) allowed a "not interested" response, along with the opportunity to join for those who hadn't so far. The letters provided the information on where to send checks. Rodger agreed to craft letters for the HDA. A vote was taken to reimburse Rodger for printing, postage, etc. The motion was made by Lynn Schuppert and seconded by Kevin Malcolm with a positive unanimous vote.

A special New Business topic was next. Wade Dinsmore/Albany moved to Colorado and so resigned his position on the HDA BOD. Canitha Thomas/Albany agreed to take Wade's place. The motion to accept Canitha's appointment to the HDA BOD was made by Cindy Upton and seconded by Kevin. The motion passed with a favorable unanimous vote.

Continuing with New Business, Brenda said that she had been asked for the HDA to provide funding for maintenance and other projects at Frazier Park. Since several BOD members were not in attendance, Brenda did not ask for a vote at this meeting and the topic would be raised at the next meeting. Brenda also discussed possible expectations of the other parks within our neighborhoods, noting that all this needed to be considered before agreeing to any request. Since a substantial amount of money is expected to be needed for new signage for both neighborhoods, there is also the concern that the HDA cash resources would be too heavily strained.

Brenda said that the storage bill was due soon. Cagle Storage was selected as our storage location last year since they had the most reasonable prices. Brenda asked for a vote to pay the \$605 annual bill. The motion was made by Lynn, with a second from David Breland. The motion passed with a unanimous favorable vote.

Committee Reports were next. Garden Tour Chair Cindy Upton reported on a successful 2019 Tour. There was increased traffic through the HQ location at Westminster Presbyterian Church and all Tour sites noted many visitors came through. There were many positive remarks made by visitors, too. Cindy asked Westminster to schedule their Fellowship Hall for the 2020 Tour, planned for May 17th. The current Garden Tour signs are quite old and worn, and designate Albany and Old Decatur gardens instead of the HDA. Brenda handled getting the signs delivered and returned to storage for the Tour and noted that new signs were needed. Cindy took an action to find the file of the artwork used, with Harriette offering an assist with graphics software, so that new signs could be designed. The artwork used on the Garden Tour flyer and the current Albany signs was done by the late Edith Haney, who was a resident of Albany. The BOD agreed that we should continue to use that artwork since it is so special to our area.

The Christmas Tour was the next topic. 2019 Chair Harriette Mathews provided details on the tremendous amount of work accomplished by the Committee so far. She discussed the timeline and progress made toward getting Tour stops. Harriette provided Tour rack cards for handout at the Garden Tour Headquarters, with several people picking up one. The Christmas Tour committee also plans to use Westminster Presbyterian Church as their headquarters location. Several events are planned there, including music from Orchestra Sul Ponticello thanks to a sponsorship from the Brueggemans. The Committee had also made progress in getting photography completed for the current brochure as well as the Christmas in July event invitations.

The next topic was a report from the Tree Committee. Since the optimal planting time isn't until fall, the Committee is continuing to plan tree placement and selection. Brenda met with Barbara Kelly to tour areas needing trees to restore the canopy. Astrid McIntosh has already done a lot of work in this review and was out of the country at the time of the BOD meeting. Once Astrid comes back, additional discussions and planning can continue.

The Newsletter Committee report was next. Brenda reported that the next newsletter would be timed to include the Christmas in July invitations. She asked for article contributions.

The Social Committee and Communications Committee had nothing to report.

Old Business was discussed next. David Breland reported he was still working with his contact at the state level on the new signage.

David said that he had recently been at an event where preservationist Donovan Rypkma was the speaker. Mr. Rypkma has written several books on the economics of historic rehabilitation and preservation. David is working with Mr. Rypkma on a visit to Decatur hopefully later this year. David pointed out that many facets of the One Decatur plan would benefit from having an expert evaluation of our current historic districts as well as possibly incorporating other areas of the city into new districts.

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 June 25, 2019. The location is planned to be the Historic Depot and Railroad Museum.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Upton
Secretary, HDA