

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

Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 6:00pm

Meeting Location:

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Meeting Attendees:

David Breland
Cindy Upton
Brenda Henson
Harriette Mathews
Marsha Ercegovic
Nancy Greenleaf
Astrid McIntosh
Canitha Thomas
Darcy Hopkins
Tyler Davis
Kevin Malcolm

2020 HDA President Brenda Henson called the meeting to order. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom rather than in person due to precautions involving the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, the meeting was held a week early due to the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday.

The minutes from the October meeting were approved with David Breland providing the first motion to accept and a second from Canitha Thomas. The approval vote carried unanimously. The minutes will be archived on the HDA website.

There was no treasury report because Treasurer Mike Meely has been on an extended business trip and was unable to receive or process checks. Mike will send a treasury report later once he is able to work on it. Mike also reports each month on membership, so we did not get an updated report, yet. Brenda pointed out that she had collected 38 dues checks for Mike to process, with a few people also adding donations above the dues amount. This is exciting news that more member households have registered. The recent newsletter was successful in encouraging new member households to pay dues. In addition, Brenda said that two Old Decatur neighbors had expressed interest in joining the HDA BOD, as interest was sought in the newsletter.

The Christmas Tour report was next. Chairperson Harriette Mathews and her committee are hard at work getting all the many details taken care of with the December 12th virtual tour date fast approaching. Harriette reported that the ornaments presented to the winners of the decorating contest are in work, with Marley Schmidt taking the lead. For the swags that will go on the street signs, Justin Hall has taken the lead to prepare the many bows needed. Marley is also the lead overall for the swag project and she has lined up the Decatur Jaycees to support this activity, as well as set up plans for gathering the greenery. Because of the many things going on during our normal swag making/installation weekend after Thanksgiving, the activity has been moved to December 4-6th.

Harriette asked for volunteers to help with greenery cutting, swag assembly and installation. There will be calls for help posted on social media sites. Harriette also said that DeAnn Meely's latest Decatur themed painting had been printed as Christmas cards and are available at DeAnn's studio on Bank Street. Continuing, Harriette said that progress had been made on plans for the parks that will be open the day of the Tour. Bank Street Green will have lights and luminaries, plus a special tree in honor of the late John Black, a longtime supporter of the historic neighborhoods and parks. Visitors will be able to leave notes on the tree. Luminaries are also planned to be placed in the Delano Park Rose Garden and in Frazier Park. Harriette asked for help with all these parks in getting the lights set up and taken down, as well as anything else needed.

The ordered greenery is expected to arrive earlier than usual, and it is expected around November 20th. Harriette said that the decorations judges have been arranged and everything is set for that activity. She indicated that more help may be needed here, too. Harriette and Mike worked more on the PayPal feature for the Christmas Tour website to allow viewers to leave donations.

The Garden Tour Committee is currently dormant and had nothing to report.

The Tree Committee report was next. Chairperson Marsha Ercegovic reported that 14 trees have been planted in this latest phase. The neighbors who received trees also received care instructions.

The most recent newsletter was successful in both generating interest in ordering greenery and especially in prompting neighbors to mail in their dues checks – some for multiple years.

The Social Committee had nothing to report.

The last discussion topic concerned the identification of neighbors to serve on this year's Nominating Committee for the 2021 BOD membership. A poll was taken to determine who was willing to re-enlist to serve on the BOD for another year. All the online meeting participants answered in the affirmative except one person who had reservations due to other commitments and needed to provide an answer later. Brenda said that the two new people who expressed interest in serving were from Old Decatur. Depending on the final re-enlistment decisions made by existing BOD members, additional prospective new members may be needed from Albany.

The HDA BOD does not normally meet in December, and no meeting is planned. The next meeting of the HDA BOD is tentatively scheduled for January 26, 2021, which would be shortly after the neighborhood-wide Annual Meeting normally held in mid-January. All meetings for the foreseeable future are planned to be conducted virtually.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Upton
Secretary, HDA