

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

**Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 6:00pm**

**Meeting Location:**

**Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**Meeting Attendees:**

David Breland  
Cindy Upton  
Brenda Henson  
Mike Meely  
Harriette Mathews  
Marsha Ercegovic  
Nancy Greenleaf  
Astrid McIntosh  
Canitha Thomas

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.

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

The treasury report was next. HDA Treasurer Mike Meely emailed the report to the BOD prior to the meeting. The HDA has \$30,955.21 cash on hand. There is a remaining \$15,370.06 obligated budget bookkept for trees. The HDA may revise this obligation after the next round of planned tree plantings this fall. The \$31,730.60 grants reimbursement for the wayfinding signs was received and is included in Mike's latest report. As of this report, there are 90 paid member households, compared to 158 total for 2019. Because it is so late in the year, membership drives will be considered early next year. The newsletters will continue to include the membership registration/payment form. The motion to accept the September treasury report was made by Cindy Upton, with a second by David. The motion passed with a unanimous positive vote.

The Christmas Tour report was next. Chairperson Harriette Mathews said that she was still looking for more online tutorial content and asked if anyone was interested - or knew someone – who could participate with a 15 – 20 minute video showcasing their skill or interest. The Christmas Tour Committee continues to develop activities that can be enjoyed while COVID-19 distancing is required. Harriette said that Delano Park could not be illuminated enough to be a tour stop. Since both Frazier Park and possibly Bank Street Green may be illuminated – both are in Old Decatur - a park on the Albany side was sought. Since Delano Park is the only site in Albany, further discussions were held to brainstorm possibilities. If the whole park could not be illuminated properly, discussions turned to just illuminating the rose garden portion of the park with luminaries. Harriett took an action to discuss this idea with the Delano Park Conservancy group.

Because there are no tour homes open for visitors this year, luminaries are not planned to be used other than possibly for highlighted areas such as a park. In addition, the required additional help from jail trustees is not available this year due to the pandemic. Since this year's Christmas Tour will be non-revenue generating, any plans for luminaries would be to use materials that are leftover from past seasons.

Plans are to proceed with making swags and bows for the street posts as usual on the weekend after Thanksgiving. Harriette has identified some greenery sources and is also discussing with the Decatur Jaycees for them to provide some help in assembly and installation of the swags.

Harriett discussed the Christmas Tour website upgrades that are ongoing. She is working with someone who has largely donated their services in order to keep costs low. In order to upgrade the site to accept donations, a cost of \$300 is needed to cover the capability. David made a motion to accept this cost and Marsha Ercegovic provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

Continuing the discussion, Mike asked if there was any economy in setting something up to also accept HDA membership dues. The update to the Christmas Tour website is only set up for that event, and is not linked to the HDA website. We couldn't accept HDA dues on the Christmas Tour website without generating confusion. More discussions and research are needed to pursue future abilities to make online payments. Any use of online payments will require someone on the HDA BOD managing the payments, since they are deposited in a certain manner.

Going back to swag making, Harriette asked for a budget in order to purchase ribbon and zip ties. The BOD decided that an investment into these decorations would serve a larger audience and provide benefit. Harriette asked for a budget of \$700 to cover materials. Nancy Greenleaf made a motion to accept this budget, and Marsha seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The combined \$1000 (\$300 for the website upgrade and \$700 for swag materials) represents the entire expected costs for the Christmas season. Costs are kept to a minimum since we will not be able to generate income through ticket sales.

Garden Tour Chair Cindy Upton said that this year has been a pivotal year for new gardening enthusiasm all over the world, to a great extent due to the pandemic. Taking into account all of the interest in all areas of gardening topics, the Garden Tour next year was planned to include more educational and inspirational aspects.

The Tree Committee report was next, and Chairperson Marsha Ercegovic reported that she had met with Cory Brown/Catbird Seat Garden Center and selected most of the trees needed for the next planting. She was going back to a few home owners to discuss options and would then be able to complete our tree order. Once Cory confirms the trees availabilities, the next step is to meet with the Parks and Recreation representative to get their approval for the trees and sites selected. Once the sites are approved, then the planting can be scheduled. The Catbird Seat is also providing the planting materials, delivery and labor.

Marsha discussed the desire to follow-up with the meetings held with Decatur City officials on efforts to make Decatur a Tree City again. It doesn't appear that any groups are actively pursuing this project, and Marsha asked the BOD to consider taking the lead.

The next newsletter is in work, with Harriette and Brenda leading the effort. A budget of \$125 was requested for the printing. The motion to accept this cost was made by Cindy, with Canitha Thomas providing the second. The motion passed with a unanimous positive vote.

Brenda said that since the signage project was completed, the BOD should give some thought on the next project to benefit our neighborhoods. Since we won't have Christmas Tour ticket sales to increase our budget, we should consider smaller projects this year. One idea that Brenda gave as an example and possibility was to add enhancements to the new Moulton Street pocket park that is being installed at the old Express Oil Change site.

The Social Committee had nothing to report.

Brenda said that we have a continuing problem with BOD members missing meetings. Understanding that commitments and responsibilities change for all of us, it is still important to have everyone's inputs and participation. Our current Bylaws do not specify conditions where a non-attending BOD member could be removed. She recommended that we look into revising our Bylaws so that if a BOD member misses a set number of meetings that they are automatically removed from the Board. Missing 3 consecutive meetings is being considered as the basis for removal. David pointed out that an advantage to updating the Bylaws is that it makes the requirements for BOD membership clear upfront and doesn't put everyone in an awkward position of voting someone out. Brenda said that she would look at how the Historic Commission handles this and look for wording we could use.

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 expected to occur on October 27th. The meeting is planned to be conducted virtually.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cindy Upton  
Secretary, HDA