

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

**Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 6:00pm**

### **Meeting Location:**

**Historic Depot and Railroad Museum, 701 Railroad St NW**

### **Meeting Attendees:**

David Breland  
Cindy Upton  
Sue Powell  
Justin Hall  
Harriette Mathews  
Brenda Henson  
Mike Meely  
Chad Hopkins  
Wade Dinsmore  
Astrid McIntosh

### **Guests:**

Kim Carr, Sally Smartt, Barbara Kelly

2018 HDA President Wade Dinsmore called the meeting to order. The first topic on the agenda was the acceptance of the minutes from the last meeting which was in November 2018. HDA Secretary Cindy Upton sent the draft version of the November meeting minutes for review prior to the meeting and there was no further comment or discussion. Brenda Henson moved to accept the minutes as submitted and Justin Hall seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The final version of the minutes are kept on the HDA website.

2018 HDA Treasurer Larry Freeman's BOD term ended and he has worked with various BOD members to transition to a new Treasurer. Justin Hall met with Larry prior to the BOD meeting and got information on the money in the bank, outstanding bills associated with the recently completed financial review, Christmas Tour and the annual neighborhood meeting and membership dues collected. Justin was not able to get a full report in time for the meeting, but he said that we have \$64,418.56 in the bank. Within this discussion, Wade suggested that we vote again on the cadence of financial reviews from an annual review (as approved last November) to a review every two years and whenever the Treasurer changes. Wade asked for motions on this review plan and the Treasury report and Cindy motioned to accept and Chad Hopkins seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous positive vote.

Committee Reports were next. Garden Tour Chair Cindy Upton said that plans were starting for the upcoming May 19<sup>th</sup> Tour. The first need was to identify gardens to tour. Cindy asked for help from the BOD to contact neighbors who might be interested in participating on the Tour. She also said that Westminster Presbyterian Church had agreed last year to provide a location for the headquarters, but that she would check with them to be sure this was still planned. Cindy also asked the BOD for suggestions for improving or adding to the Tour.

The Christmas Tour was the next topic. Chairman Justin Hall was very pleased with the success of the Tour, even though the weather was rainy that night. Visitors still came from out of state and out of town, as well as local guests. Justin asked for approval to pay the \$200 stipend to First United Methodist Church for hosting the Tour headquarters. He also asked for approval to pay \$500 to the Carnegie Arts Center to cover both the Christmas Tour after party and the annual neighborhood meeting held in January. A vote was taken and Cindy motioned to accept with Chad seconding. The motion passed with a unanimous positive vote.

The 2019 Christmas Tour leadership will be Harriette Mathews as Chair with Brenda Henson and Justin Hall as Co-Vice Chairs.

The next topic was a report from the Tree Committee. Extensive and prolonged rain has delayed the installation of the trees. Desired locations for planting have been identified. Consultation with the tree vendor/installer is needed to reset the plan.

Wade spoke on behalf of the Newsletter Committee and said that there are no definite dates for the release of the next edition, but asked for inputs and write-ups.

The Social Committee had nothing to report.

Kim Carr reported on behalf of the Communications Committee that the BOD needs a PayPal account in order to pay for online services such as website hosting. Kim added that she still did not have all the information she needs to determine how to pay for the renewal of the HDA website. She did not know the renewal date, so planned to back up the current site until this can be resolved. The Christmas Tour website needs to be updated and redesigned. Kim needs help with this since it can be a big job. She also would like to have a back-up administrator to work with her. Kim asked that the BOD assist her with a search amongst the neighborhoods for the additional support. The website renewal due date is in May and the new PayPal account is needed for this bill, too. The new Treasurer will work on getting the PayPal account set up.

There was no Old Business discussed.

New Business was next. Wade recommended forming a new Signage Committee, with David Breland as the Chair. Past BOD members had researched and gotten designs for various types of signage that could be used around the neighborhood areas. Because of the high cost of the entire project, the HDA has not been able to implement the plan even in stages. David's knowledge and capabilities present new opportunities for possible funding matching which could allow a significant amount of the project to be started soon. Wade asked for \$30,000 for David to use for possible multiple matches from various sources. Brenda expressed her concern with earmarking such a large percentage of the overall budget when in her opinion a higher immediate priority was additional street lighting since the lack of visibility at night was a safety concern. There was additional discussion on various approaches to getting more lights installed and the group ended up agreeing that there was more work to do to fully flesh out a lighting plan. Since this will take time, the BOD agreed to move out with the aforementioned signage plan now and to keep working on a lighting plan. If David is unable to secure matching funds, the \$30K earmarked for signs would be re-evaluated for best use. A new Lighting Committee was formed with

Brenda as the Chair. A vote was taken to approve the \$30K set aside for the signage plan. The motion was made by Sue Powell with a second from Cindy. The motion passed with a unanimous favorable vote from the BOD.

The final order of business was the election of the 2019 slate of officers. Wade announced that he was moving to Denver, Colorado within the next few weeks and that he would not be able to continue as president.

The 2019 BOD officers are:

President: Brenda Henson/Old Decatur

Vice President: Justin Hall/Old Decatur

Treasurer: Mike Meely/Old Decatur

Secretary: Cindy Upton/Albany

Member-At-Large: David Breland

The motion to accept this slate of officers was made by Chad and seconded by Sue. The vote passed with unanimous consent. The BOD also voiced appreciation for Larry Freeman, who served as the Treasurer of the HDA during his entire term on the BOD.

Here are the members of the 2019 BOD:

Craig Baker/ Old Decatur

Lindsey Faulkner/ Old Decatur

Lynn Schuppert/ Old Decatur

Astrid McIntosh/ Albany

Wade Dinsmore/ Albany

Chad Hopkins/ Albany

Sue Powell/ Albany

Harriette Mathews/ Albany

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 March 26, 2019. The location is planned to be the Historic Depot and Railroad Museum.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Upton

Secretary, HDA