

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

Tuesday, June 25, 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
Canitha Thomas
Chad Hopkins
Mike Meely
Astrid McIntosh
Sue Powell

Guests:

Barbara Kelly

2019 HDA President Brenda Henson called the meeting to order. New BOD member Canitha Thomas was welcomed. Brenda discussed the need to find a replacement for Lindsey Faulkner/Old Decatur, who has purchased a home out of the HDA districts. Brenda recommended Tyler Davis, who has just moved to Old Decatur and has expressed an interest in supporting the HDA BOD. The motion to add Tyler to the BOD was made by Cindy Upton, with a second from Kevin Malcolm. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes from the May meeting were approved with Chad Hopkins providing the first motion to accept and Harriette Mathews seconding. The approval vote carried unanimously. The minutes will be archived on the HDA website.

HDA Treasurer Mike Meely provided the treasurer's report. The HDA has \$61,423 in the bank. There were expenditures included in this report for the storage bill and Garden Tour. Mike reported that we have 78 paid member households to date, which is still about half where we were last year. Brenda reported that Rodger Henson has mailed 100 letters to non-member households in Albany and Old Decatur. This is the personal letter discussed at the last meeting to remind neighbors about member benefits and to ask them to join. He has run out of supplies and postage and needs \$75 to cover the next mailing. David Breland motioned to increase his budget accordingly, and Cindy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Brenda discussed the upcoming Decatur City Council work session that was held on June 24th. During that meeting, the possible hiring of Caroline Swope as an on staff preservationist to support Decatur was discussed. It was understood that a job description existed so that the hiring process could begin and a

Council vote was expected next week. The HDA BOD discussed the overall benefit to Decatur's preservation efforts that Caroline could provide.

The Garden Tour was the next discussion topic. While this committee is going dormant, there is still work to do before the next Tour to replace the old Tour signs. Currently, there are separate Albany and Old Decatur signs, and the frames are broken on many of them. The desire is to use the original heritage art done by the late Edith Haney, who was a resident of Albany, for the new HDA signs. This artwork is used on the current Albany Garden Tour signs. The new HDA signs are expected to be available for use by the 2020 Tour. The motion to use the heritage art was made by Brenda and seconded by Sue Powell. The motion carried unanimously.

The Christmas Tour was the next topic. 2019 Chair Harriette Mathews provided details on the continuing accomplishments made by the Committee so far to get ready for both the Christmas in July event and the actual Tour. Harriette reported that In Bloom floral shop in Huntsville is set to provide demonstrations at the Christmas in July event. The Committee also mailed the Christmas in July event invitations and provided handouts for the July newsletter. Harriette said that she needed budget to cover the costs for Christmas in July invitations, postage, food and miscellaneous. Her proposed budget of \$589 was motioned for acceptance by Cindy with a second from David Breland. Harriette also said that they continued to add Tour homes and that Kim Carr will work on the Christmas ornaments given to the winners of the decorating contest.

The next topic was a report from the Tree Committee. Since large trees are not a good solution for several potential planting sites, Cindy suggested consulting with local horticulturist Cory Brown about ornamental tree options. Cory owns the Catbird Seat Garden Center in Madison. Cindy discussed the plans to replace fallen trees and to add new ones with Cory and he agreed to meet interested BOD members on July 3rd for a walk through Old Decatur. Albany will be visited at a later date.

The Newsletter Committee report was next. Brenda reported that the next newsletter was expected to go to the printer in a few days.

The Social Committee and Communications Committee had nothing to report other than volunteer help was needed for the Christmas in July event.

Progress in the new signage was discussed next. State Senator Arthur Orr is looking for more funding to support this project, as David continues through other avenues to add to our current budget. A decision is expected in the October timeframe concerning matching grants. The BOD discussed whether to go ahead with procuring and installing a few signs now. Possible sign locations were discussed. Voting on this topic will be done at a later meeting.

Under Old Business, Brenda mentioned the request from the Frazier Park Committee for monetary donations toward preservation projects. Brenda recommended delaying this discussion until after the tree and signage budgets are known.

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 July 30, 2019. The location is planned to be the Historic Depot and Railroad Museum.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Upton
Secretary, HDA