

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

**Thursday, August 29, 2019 at 6:00pm**

### **Meeting Location:**

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

### **Meeting Attendees:**

David Breland  
Cindy Upton  
Sue Powell  
Brenda Henson  
Mike Meely  
Astrid McIntosh  
Tyler Davis  
Lynn Schuppert

### **Guests:**

Barbara Kelly

2019 HDA President Brenda Henson called the meeting to order. This meeting was held off schedule due to conflicts amongst BOD members' calendars.

The minutes from the July meeting were approved with Lynn Schuppert providing the first motion to accept and Mike Meely 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 \$61,741.60 in the bank. There were expenditures included in this report for the Christmas in July event, membership mailers and website domain license costs. After the successful efforts of Rodger Henson, who mailed letters to each non-member household encouraging HDA membership, Mike reported that we now have 129 paid member households. This is still fewer members than last year, but a big improvement. The motion to accept the Treasury Report was made by Cindy Upton with a second from David Breland. The approval vote carried unanimously.

The Garden Tour committee is "dormant" for now.

Christmas Tour Committee Chair Harriette Mathews was not able to attend this meeting, but Brenda reported that the Committee continued to work toward the upcoming Tour. Sponsorship forms had been delivered and the checks were coming in. Brenda noted that although the North Alabama Lakes Association receives payment from the HDA to display the Christmas Tour rack cards (and the historic Decatur walking tour brochure) that follow-up was needed to assure that the Association personnel were keeping the display racks stocked. An ample supply of rack cards have been delivered to the specified location for further distribution. The rack cards are "evergreen" in that they provide the date of the Christmas Tour as the second Saturday in December.

Several BOD members continued to work through final planning for our next round of tree planting, with contacting homeowners receiving trees a priority in order to gain assurance that the tree was wanted and would be cared for.

The next newsletter is planned for distribution around October 1<sup>st</sup>, and more information on the tree project would be included. Brenda asked for article ideas and write-ups on other topics as well.

The Social Committee report was the next discussion topic. Several BOD members indicated interest in a fall potluck picnic social at Delano Park. Brenda took an action to work with the Parks and Recreation Department to schedule Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at the large pavilion. The cost is expected to be \$25. Brenda called for a vote for a \$200 budget to cover meat dishes and incidentals. The motion to accept was provided by Lynn with a second from Sue Powell. The approval vote carried unanimously. The plan is to include an invitation flyer in the October newsletter.

The Communications Committee had nothing to report.

Progress in the new historic neighborhood marker signage was discussed next. Brenda continues to lead the BOD in gaining traction by presenting to the Decatur City Council's work session earlier in the week of this meeting. She asked for BOD support the next week when the vote was planned to take place. The \$6,000 grant from Decatur Morgan County Tourism added to the \$30,000 funding set aside from the HDA are believed to be enough to cover at least 4 new signs. The HDA BOD expects the City of Decatur to provide the installation for the Phase 1 signs. Brenda asked for a vote to allocate up to \$35,000 of HDA funds towards the new signs. Cindy provided the first motion and Sue Powell seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous positive vote.

Brenda also reported that she had completed the application process for a potential \$50,000 grant from the Rural Conservation Development group. There is another opportunity coming up for a potential \$10,000 grant from the Muscle Shoals National Heritage organization.

Under Old Business, Brenda indicated that the plan to include information on the Bank Street merchants in the upcoming newsletter would be delayed due to conflicts with the representatives' schedules. It is anticipated that the information will be included in a later newsletter.

Brenda requested BOD assistance with the first neighborhood cleanup session, concentrating on weed eating and weed/trash removal from the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue areas near Jackson and Sherman streets. The desire is to clean up these areas before the River Clay festival. Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> is the planned date for the cleanup.

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 September 24, 2019. The location is planned to be the Historic Depot and Railroad Museum.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cindy Upton

Secretary, HDA