

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

Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 6:00pm

Meeting Location:

Historic Depot and Railroad Museum, 701 Railroad St NW

Meeting Attendees:

David Breland
Cindy Upton
Tyler Davis
Brenda Henson
Mike Meely
Lynn Schuppert
Harriette Mathews

Guests:

Barbara Kelly

2019 HDA President Brenda Henson called the meeting to order. This meeting was the delayed November meeting due to the Thanksgiving holiday. The minutes from the last meeting were approved with David Breland providing the first motion to accept and Mike Meely seconding. The approval vote carried unanimously. The minutes will be archived on the HDA website.

Under New Business, Brenda discussed the need to select the 2020 HDA Board of Directors. The Bylaws require that a Nominating Committee is formed whose members are paid HDA members. There also must be an equal number of Albany and Old Decatur representatives on the Committee. Barbara Kelly/Albany and Lynn Schuppert/Old Decatur volunteered to be part of the Nominating Committee and other possible members were discussed for later contact. Since the current HDA board members have staggered terms, Brenda listed the members whose terms expire at the end of 2019. Of these board members, Craig Baker and Lynn Schuppert/both from Old Decatur have elected to not re-enlist. Tyler Davis/Old Decatur, David Breland/Member-at-Large and Cindy Upton and Astrid McIntosh/both from Albany have re-enlisted for another 3 year term. For this period, only two new Old Decatur HDA BOD members are needed. Information will be sent out to seek interest in supporting the HDA BOD. The 2020 officers will be elected early in the New Year.

The next topic concerned the annual neighborhood meeting. The plan is to have the meeting at the Carnegie Visual Arts Center sometime in January. Harriette Mathews took an action to check with the Carnegie to schedule the meeting. There may be some costs for refreshments and facility use covered by the HDA and if so, since this event would happen before the next BOD meeting – an email vote will be taken to allow coverage of costs. A recap of that vote will be presented at the next BOD meeting so that it is recorded in the minutes.

HDA Treasurer Mike Meely provided the treasurer's report. The HDA has \$56,956.13 in the bank as of this meeting. With the already approved budget liens for the new signage and trees there is \$23,203.82

remaining in unobligated funds. There were expenditures included in this report related to the Christmas Tour, membership mailers, newsletters, signs, trees and social events costs. Income was attributed largely to membership dues and Christmas Tour sponsors. There are 154 paid member households as of this meeting. The motion to accept the Treasury Report was made by Cindy Upton with a second from David Breland. The approval vote carried unanimously.

Committee reports were the next several discussion topics. The Garden Tour committee remains "dormant" for now.

Christmas Tour Committee Chair Harriette Mathews provided a status on the upcoming Christmas Tour. There are several activities going on to prepare for the Tour. Related to this are the neighborhood decorating contests. That judging is scheduled for December 10th and includes the Downtown Merchants. Local artist Tracy Roberts McCann is painting the ornaments given to the winning homeowners of the decorating contest. Harriette also expressed the need for volunteer help for luminaries and to bring finger food to the Tour Headquarters at Westminster Presbyterian. The Decatur Daily article is scheduled to be in the Sunday, December 8th edition. Harriette also said there is an article about our Christmas Tour in Alabama magazine.

Brenda said that the tour site signs are worn out and in need of replacement particularly the Old Decatur signs. The Albany signs would be usable one more year. Brenda asked for a vote to allow the purchase of 18 temporary Old Decatur signs at a cost of \$20 each (total \$360). That request was approved with a motion from David and a second from Harriette. The motion passed with a unanimous approval. The plan is to purchase new signs. That will be addressed by the new HDA BOD next year. Brenda also said that the number and type of homeowner decorating awards would be re-evaluated to optimize the number and category and allow the judges to make their decisions more efficiently.

The Tree Committee report was next. Cindy reported that all of the phase one trees had been installed by the Catbird Seat and that several people had commented on how happy they are with the new trees. The Committee will continue to look for opportunities to add more trees to the neighborhoods and there may be additional phases of tree plantings later.

The Social Committee had nothing to report.

The Communications Committee had nothing to report.

Brenda then discussed the latest progress on the new wayfinding signs. She is checking with Decatur City to see if the signs have been delivered. An issue she noted was that the City had planted new trees in one of a traffic islands set to have a sign installed such that the sign would not be visible once the trees grew. She will ask the City to move some of the trees to the other island that is set to be landscaped. Brenda and David discussed the strategy to access the grant money the HDA has already received so that more signs could be purchased. Part of the plan needs to include the 6th Ave Gateway project, which does not have a set start date. Until our signs can be approved as part of this project, installation has to be placed on hold for that area. More to come on this topic.

Mike said that he was working to close out the 2019 financial books for the HDA, and needed all checks, receipts, invoices, etc. as soon as possible.

There was no Old Business discussed.

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 TBD and is expected to occur in the late January 2020 timeframe if we do not meet as normally scheduled. The location for our meetings is planned to be the Historic Depot and Railroad Museum.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Upton
Secretary, HDA