

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

Tuesday, September 24, 2019 at 6:00pm

Meeting Location:

Historic Depot and Railroad Museum, 701 Railroad St NW

Meeting Attendees:

David Breland
Cindy Upton
Craig Baker
Harriett Mathews
Brenda Henson
Mike Meely
Astrid McIntosh
Tyler Davis
Lynn Schuppert

Guests:

Barbara Kelly
Sally Smartt

2019 HDA President Brenda Henson called the meeting to order. The minutes from the August 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.

HDA Treasurer Mike Meely provided the treasurer's report. The HDA has \$67,891.60 in the bank. There were expenditures included in this report related to the Christmas Tour, membership mailers and signs 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 133 paid member households. The motion to accept the Treasury Report was made by Cindy Upton with a second from Kevin Malcolm. The approval vote carried unanimously.

The Garden Tour committee is "dormant" for now.

Christmas Tour Committee Chair Harriett Mathews reported that sponsorship forms were due on October 4th. The forms had also been included in the last newsletter, with good response. The Christmas greenery orders were due on October 25th. Harriett added that the houses had been selected for the Tour, the pictures had been done and the rack cards had been delivered to the various points of distribution. Harriett developed a document to assist Tour house neighbors with information. Every year, there are special ornaments made for the winners of the decoration contest and Harriett said that she was working with local high school art departments to ask for their students to help produce the ornaments. Local artists may be asked to support, as well. This was all still in work, as well as decisions on any stipends provided. The downtown merchants had expressed interest in participating in the

decorating contest, so Harriett said that she would make sure they knew the date of the judging. Ticket sellers for Tour tickets were still being lined up.

The Tree Committee report was next. Brenda reported on a planting plan for Old Decatur, and Astrid McIntosh had the plan for the Albany tree placement. Of the 20 trees planned for Old Decatur and the 10 trees planned for Albany, Brenda and Astrid had identified potential spots for most of the trees, and they continued to talk to neighbors. Since Decatur City has to concur with the type of tree and the placement, records are kept for where large and small trees are planned to be installed around both neighborhoods. An invoice was received from the Catbird Seat Garden Center for 2 Japanese maples and 4 ginkgo trees (all 7 gallon size) for a total of \$779.94, including installation labor and materials. Since the tree budget has already been approved, Mike wrote a check for the amount invoiced and Cindy delivered it to Cory Brown. This is the first round of ordering trees from our vendors this go around.

The next newsletter is planned for distribution in early October. Brenda asked for article ideas and Kevin suggested an article about the Decatur Village and to ask for volunteers for the Banks-Caddell Elementary School Homework Helpers program. Brenda also said that a tribute of gratitude was planned to honor neighbor John Black, who has been instrumental for many of the improvements to our neighborhoods through the years, including Delano Park where John was an early supporter. Barbara Kelly is providing pictures for the article thanking John for his tremendous support.

The Social Committee report was the next discussion topic. The fall picnic is planned for Sunday, October 20th with a 1:30pm start. The HDA plans to provide the meats and drinks. The budget was approved at the last meeting.

The Communications Committee had nothing to report.

Progress on the new historic neighborhood marker signage was discussed next. Brenda reported that the application submitted for a \$50,000 grant from the Rural Conservation Development group had been approved. She received a call from State Senator Arthur Orr with the great news. Brenda discussed the mechanics of the grant and possible strategies for moving forward with more signs while using this successful effort to leverage for other possible funding opportunities. She met with the Decatur Police Department's sign division representatives to determine sign placement. Since these placement determinations have a short time span for implementation before a new study is required, Brenda said the plan to let neighbors vote on sign placement priority was not going to be possible. The first signs are planned to be installed in the triangle near St. John's Episcopal Church and the entrance at Somerville Road into Delano Park. Signs along the 6th Avenue corridor require additional approvals from Department of Transportation and Decatur City. Brenda had another discussion with Joel McWhorter on the signs and he needs to know the exact location of placement so that he can tweak the design of each sign for maximum visibility. The desire is to get Phase 1 of the signage installed before the Christmas Tour. Brenda said that an email vote may be forthcoming to approve any outstanding details on the sign design and cost.

Under Old Business, Brenda indicated that the plan for the first neighborhood cleanup session, concentrating on weed eating and weed/trash removal from the 6th Avenue areas near Jackson and

Sherman streets, would be rescheduled. There was a question on getting the City's response to neglected, overgrown yards and Astrid McIntosh said that there is an online form one can submit on the Community Development's website.

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 October 29, 2019. The location is planned to be the Historic Depot and Railroad Museum.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Upton
Secretary, HDA