

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

**Tuesday, January 28, 2020 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  
Harriette Mathews  
Nancy Greenleaf  
Marsha Ercegovic  
Darcy Hopkins  
Sue Powell  
Canitha Thomas  
Kevin Malcolm  
Astrid McIntosh

2019 HDA President Brenda Henson called the meeting to order. New BOD members Nancy Greenleaf, Marsha Ercegovic, and Darcy Hopkins were welcomed. The minutes from the last meeting were approved with Canitha Thomas providing the first motion to accept and David Breland seconding. The approval vote carried unanimously. The minutes will be archived on the HDA website.

Under New Business, Brenda led the group on selecting the 2020 officers. Brenda Henson was nominated to be the 2020 President by Cindy Upton with a second from Harriette Mathews. The vote carried with a unanimous agreement. Brenda asked that succession planning be considered so someone can be ready to step in next year. Since there were new BOD members at their first meeting, it was decided to table that discussion to a later date. Brenda nominated Harriette as the 2020 Vice President and was seconded by Kevin Malcolm. That vote was also unanimous in agreement. Cindy Upton was nominated by Astrid McIntosh to be the 2020 Secretary and was seconded by Harriette. That vote was unanimous in favor, as well. Mike Meely was nominated for 2020 Treasurer by Cindy and was seconded by David. The vote was unanimous in favor of this nomination. David was asked to remain in the role of Member At Large and he agreed.

With the completion of these elections, the 2020 HDA BOD officers are:

- President: Brenda Henson
- Vice President: Harriette Mathews
- Secretary: Cindy Upton
- Treasurer: Mike Meely

The rest of the 2020 BOD membership is comprised of:

- Member At Large: David Breland
- From Albany:
  - Astrid McIntosh
  - Darcy Hopkins
  - Sue Powell
  - Canitha Thomas
- From Old Decatur:
  - Tyler Davis
  - Nancy Greenleaf
  - Marsha Ercegovic
  - Kevin Malcolm

Correspondence/New Business was next and it was noted that dues checks had been received and would be covered as part of the Treasurer's Report, which was the next topic.

Mike distributed copies of his report and said that the HDA has \$31,446.81 in unobligated funds in the bank. An invoice for \$17,610.75 was received from the McComm Group for the balance of the Phase 1 way finding signage order. David motioned to accept the invoice and provide payment and Cindy seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Mike continued in his report and discussed membership now that we are in a new year. Only 44 neighbors have paid their 2020 dues, although several neighbors have paid for more than one year. It was mentioned that some of the HDA BOD members had not paid dues and that should be done soon since the HDA Bylaws stipulate that BOD members will be current in dues payment. Mike also said that the entire greenery bill had been paid. The motion to accept the Treasury Report was inadvertently skipped. An email vote was requested after this meeting and will be reported in next month's minutes.

Committee reports were the next several discussion topics.

Christmas Tour Committee Chair Harriette provided a recap of the recent Tour. Harriette has agreed to serve as the 2020 Christmas Tour Chair and reported that there was some early interest from neighbors to be part of this year's Tour.

Westminster Presbyterian Church provided the location for the Christmas Tour Headquarters. Brenda asked for approval to pay a \$300 stipend to the Church. The motion was made by Harriette and seconded by David. The Carnegie Visual Arts Center served as the location for the Tour After Party, as well as the location for the recent HDA Annual Meeting which occurred on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Brenda recommended a combined \$500 stipend to the Carnegie to cover these two events. The motion was made by Marsha and seconded by Kevin.

Cindy reported on behalf of the Garden Tour, which is scheduled for Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Tour preparation activities are beginning to ramp up. Westminster Presbyterian Church has been confirmed as Tour Headquarters. The Morgan County Master Gardeners will again set up a plant sale and will

donate the plants that the Extension Agent will use for a demonstration. The finished product will be won by an audience member. Tour gardens will be sought within the next several weeks as spring approaches, since many people do not think about gardening in the wintertime. Cindy asked the BOD for their thoughts on including some of the same gardens every year since some neighbors volunteer to be on the Tour every year. Since the event is free and open to everyone, the BOD determined that no limits should be placed on inclusion in the Tour. The Tour gardens are not vetted prior to the Tour, but there has not been an issue with unsuitable gardens in recent years. Brenda asked for a vote on this inclusion decision and Kevin made the first motion with Harriette seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

The Tree Committee report was next. The next phase of tree installations was discussed, and Cindy pointed out that the size of the trees already installed was determined by the budget set per tree. In some cases where a larger tree would be more advantageous, the BOD should consider that upgrade. The increase in cost would be determined by the type of tree. Since several neighbors had declined an offered tree, the discussion turned to installing trees in some open areas in cases where the home owners had not responded. Some people would not answer their door when the volunteer was there to discuss trees. Cindy suggested making a flyer to leave at the door that would explain about the tree program and provide a call back number. She offered to develop a draft flyer for the group to review. The group also discussed purchasing water bags for the recently installed trees to help them get through the summer season.

The Social Committee had nothing to report. Brenda asked for someone to volunteer to be the Committee Chair. Since there were several new BOD members at this meeting, it was agreed that this designation would be delayed in order to give everyone time to consider filling the position. A possible April timeframe was discussed for the next neighborhood gathering.

The Communications Committee had nothing to report.

Concerning the next Newsletter, Brenda said that she is targeting a February delivery and so needed inputs by February 5<sup>th</sup>.

Brenda then discussed the latest progress on the new wayfinding signs. The first delivery of signs have arrived at Decatur's Park and Recreation Department, but there is no installation scheduled. Decatur City will handle the installation and not charge the HDA. Joel McWhorter/McComm Group volunteered to assist with sign placement. Brenda reviewed the requirements from the recently awarded \$50K grant which can be used to pay for the phase 2 signs. The requirements include a project finish date of September 3, 2020. Brenda's concern is that the signs designated for the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue areas cannot be installed until the completion of the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Gateway project plans, and that date is not firm. In addition, one of the signs is set to be installed where a pocket park is planned on the current Express Oil Change location that the Decatur City now owns. The schedule for the demolition and park installation are not known. Brenda suggested changing locations so that these signs are not considered part of the Gateway project. Because there was a lag of a few months before Brenda received word about the awarding of this grant, David suggested asking whether a grace period of this same amount of time

could be given to our current deadline in order to possibly allow more Decatur City plans to be firmed up.

This grant works as reimbursable funding, so as the BOD funds the purchase of the signs the reimbursed funds can be used to fund additional signs. Therefore, Brenda asked for a motion to fund Old Decatur area signs and start the process on the first two signs for this area. Kevin motioned to approve this plan and Nancy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There was Old Business discussed in that Astrid asked about the HDA website, which has out of date information on it and is in need of some rework. Since volunteers provide the support for this asset, Brenda has gotten the log-in credentials and it was decided that a few people would have access to make updates.

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 expected to occur on February 25<sup>th</sup>. The location for our meetings is planned to be the Historic Depot and Railroad Museum.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cindy Upton  
Secretary, HDA