

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

**Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 6:00pm**

**Meeting Location:**

**Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**Meeting Attendees:**

David Breland  
Cindy Upton  
Brenda Henson  
Mike Meely  
Harriette Mathews  
Marsha Ercegovic  
Sue Powell  
Darcy Hopkins

2020 HDA President Brenda Henson called the meeting to order. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom rather than in person due to precautions involving the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first discussion topic was the excitement generated by the demolition of the old Express Oil Change building located on the corner of Moulton Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The property had been given to the Decatur Downtown Redevelopment Authority by Express Oil corporate and removal of this building clears the way for a new pocket park to be installed.

The minutes from the July meeting were approved with David Breland providing the first motion to accept and a simultaneous second from Mike Meely and Marsha Ercegovic. The approval vote carried unanimously. The minutes will be archived on the HDA website.

The treasury report was next. HDA Treasurer Mike Meely emailed the report to the BOD prior to the meeting. The HDA has \$14,619.67 cash on hand. There is remaining obligated budget bookkept for trees. The HDA may revise this obligation after the next round of planned tree plantings this fall. Also, we are waiting on the grants reimbursement for the wayfinding signs. As of this report, there are 87 paid member households. The motion to accept the August treasury report was made by David, with a second by Harriette Mathews. The July report was inadvertently not voted on at the last meeting, so the motion to accept that report was made by Harriette with a second from Sue Powell. Both motions passed with unanimous positive votes.

Brenda discussed the next steps to receive the expected \$31,730.60 grant reimbursement for the wayfinding signs. She contacted a grant representative, who indicated that it would be a few more weeks before we could expect to receive a check.

Brenda said the August 6<sup>th</sup> wayfinding signage dedication at Walden Oaks Park was a success, even with the COVID-19 dictated social distancing. Harriette wrote an article for the Decatur Daily's use, and also posted the article on the HDA website and Nextdoor. Brenda said that some people asked about the

next project, now that the over 10 years long signage project was finally completed. Some previous discussions with the BOD were about getting new decorative lighting. Brenda said that she discussed this possibility with Joel McWhorter/McComm Group, who said that these type of lights would be expensive, with an estimated cost of \$1M for the entire project. Brenda suggested getting word out to the neighborhood about this possibility and to look for initial interest and also interest in sponsoring signs.

There was no Garden Tour report.

The Christmas Tour report was next. Chairperson Harriette Mathews said that she was looking for more online tutorial content and asked if anyone was interested - or knew someone – who could participate with a 15 – 20 minute video showcasing their skill or interest. Harriette has been working with our soon to be Albany neighbor and Decatur's Historic Preservation Specialist, Caroline Swope, in showcasing her home as the Preservation in Progress video tour site for this year. Caroline indicated that she is documenting this extensive restoration herself, and would be able to provide photographs to post on the Christmas Tour website page.

Harriette said that Justin Hall had already arranged for decorating contest judges and food for that activity. For now, those plans are still in place. Harriette also said that she had talked with the organizers of the annual Decatur Jaycees' Christmas parade to include some of the HDA homes on their parade route that would be decorated with this year's theme. More information to come on this, as well as the theme description. Harriette also used this opportunity to look for other ways to collaborate with the Jaycees, such as with the swag making. The Christmas Tour website has been redesigned by Harriette and she said that she had continued to add new things, including a donations button. Mike asked about whether that donations route could somehow be used to collect HDA membership dues. On first glance, there are more costs for adding the additional donations capability, and the added fees may not be feasible given the low membership dues cost and the expected number of neighbor households that would join.

The Tree Committee report was next, and Chairperson Marsha Ercegovic sent a list of trees desired for each neighborhood to committee members. There are 6 new trees desired for Old Decatur and 10 new trees desired for Albany. Cindy Upton took an action to send the information to Cory Brown/Catbird Seat Garden Center. Once Cory confirms the trees availabilities, the next step is to meet with the Parks and Recreation representative to get their approval for the trees and sites selected.

Brenda mentioned last month that the BOD needs to appoint a nominating committee for the 2021 slate of BOD members earlier than the usual end of the year timeframe. She is planning on a mid-September newsletter in order to solicit interest in HDA BOD participation. Brenda asked if anyone knew of possible Nominating Committee members.

The Social Committee had nothing to report.

The Communications Committee had nothing to report.

Brenda said that some kind of neighborhood cleanup was still planned for the fall. She asked BOD members to identify areas on city right of way that would be improved with a 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 expected to occur on September 29th. The meeting is planned to be conducted virtually.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cindy Upton  
Secretary, HDA