

## **Druid Hills Civic Association and Proposed Parkwood Historic District**

**Question #1. In order to be eligible for membership in DHCA do our homes need to be included in a historic district?**

*Answer:* No, homes do not need to be included in an historic district for inclusion within the Druid Hills neighborhood, although all homes currently within Druid Hills are in one of two historic districts -- City of Atlanta or DeKalb County Historic Preservation. It is our understanding that the City of Decatur is in the process of crafting the historic preservation guidelines for the Parkwood District that will continue to mirror DeKalb County criteria. These are completely independent of Druid Hills and the DHCA.

**Question #2. I understand Article 2 of the DHCA by-laws will be updated so our neighborhood is still included. What is this process and timeline? How does that impact my current membership?**

*Answer:* Yes, we are in the process of amending the bylaws that describe the eastern border of DHCA membership eligibility to include the Parkwood neighborhood even after annexation into Decatur. As we understand the timeline, you will be Annexed as of July 1<sup>st</sup> and the Parkwood District Historic Designation will be voted on July 7, 2014. Our Parkwood neighbors remain eligible to be DHCA members in 2014. We will be voting on the amendment to our bylaws concerning the eastern border at our Annual Meeting in January/February 2015 (along with any other revisions to our Bylaws which require a vote of the membership.) We do not anticipate any reason the Parkwood District neighbors would not continue to be eligible for DHCA membership in the future as they have always been.

**Question #3. What role will DHCA play in the creation and future administration of the Parkwood Historic District in Decatur?**

*Answer:* Currently, the DHCA is playing **no role** in the creation of a Parkwood Historic District in Decatur. It is our understanding that officials in Decatur, particularly Regina Brewer in the Preservation Planning department, have this in hand. DHCA has never, and can never, play a direct role in the administration of the historic districts, as these are created by ordinance and/or statute and the respective government entities -- Urban Design Commission in City of Atlanta, Historic Preservation Commission in unincorporated DeKalb -- are charged with their enforcement. What DHCA can do is seek to make sure that those government entities execute their functions correctly, but it has no enforcement power in and of itself.

**Question #4. What role does DHCA play in the approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness? Is there a need to obtain approval from DHCA as well as the governing entity (in this case would be Decatur Historic Preservation Commission)?**

*Answer:* DHCA is informed by DeKalb Historic Preservation Department when a homeowner applies for a COA and we are invited to "comment" on the request. That is the extent of it. There is no "appearance" or "need" to go before DHCA Board; we don't have any authority.

NOTE: According to Regina Brewer, Historic Preservation Planner for Decatur, DHCA will not be informed or invited to comment on a Parkwood COA's. DHCA may attend the Decatur Historic Preservation meetings to a make a comment at that time.

The only other service DHCA provides is if a homeowner wants help getting through the DeKalb process, we have a couple of volunteers who will help fill out forms and answer questions about the process and the guidelines.

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