

Parkwood Garden Club
Board of Directors' Minutes
January 12, 2015 Meeting

The January 12th, 2015 meeting of the Parkwood Garden Club (PGC) Board of Directors was held at 164 E. Parkwood Rd, Decatur, GA. The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm. The following officers and committee chairs attended: Steve Elmore, Sean Pruett, Becky Vocaire, Katy Mallory, Tom Bell, Karna Candler, Christina Carter, Sheri Kennedy

Approval of November's Minutes – all approved

Call to Order and President's Report – Sean Pruett

- A. Introduction of Regina Brewer to discuss the National Historic Register
- B. There is a difference between the Local Historic District, which is regulatory, and the National Historic Register, which is non-regulatory. One has no relationship to the other.
- C. The Department of the Interior at the federal level has to see importance in the history of the neighborhood.
- D. Every neighborhood that can be considered is listed out. The Parkwoods are newly eligible because up until the annexation into the City of Decatur we have been divided.
 - a. The National Historic Register must include the whole neighborhood. Individual owners cannot opt out.
- E. There is a grant due in February that would cover 60% of the \$10,000 cost to put the application package together. The PGC would come up with difference (\$4,000)
 - a. Members can volunteer to do some of the work to lower the cost.
 - b. Ultimately, the PGC can get a grant from the City of Decatur to help monetarily. Putting forth \$500 may be all the PGC would need to contribute in that case.
 - c. The neighborhood would need to decide soon so it can be considered by the City of Decatur as they are looking at their budget (end of February).
- F. Why?
 - a. It would be great recognition for our neighborhood. Owner could get plaques for their homes.
 - b. Our curvilinear streets, a nice variety of types of homes, an automobile centric neighborhood for its time, the history of how the Parkwoods came to be, and the Parkwood Garden Club make our neighborhood attractive to the NHR.
 - c. When a home is listed individually it could be eligible for the tax credit program. If you improve the house's value by 50%, the state income taxes could be up for an 8 ½ year property tax freeze at the pre-improved price. State does get to review interior and exterior.
- G. To get the process started, Regina would need a letter from PGC stating interest. It would take about 6 months to put the application package together. The National Historic Register Board meets usually in June or July to vote on the application – we would be looking at mid-year 2016 for the approval vote.
- H. Tom moved, the board should pursue the National Historic Register. Sheri seconded. All approved.**
- I. The National Historic Register will be added to be the first thing in the agenda for the neighborhood Historic District Presentation on January 29th.

Treasurer's Report – Steve Elmore

- A. Budget - See Reports
- B. Close –out of 2014 budget
 - a. Identification of known but unpaid expenses for 2014

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- b. Status of unspent funds in 2014 budget
 - i. An invoice for holiday bows is still outstanding. (Bryan)
 - ii. Anne Dicks needs to tell us how much money she's spent on Neighbor Care.
 - c. **Steve moved: Any unspent funds in the 2014 PGC general budget allocated to the "Parkwood Park Committee" (after payment of all outstanding expenses for 2014) be transferred to the Park Special Fund for use by the Park Committee as it sees fit. This amount is currently estimated to be between \$350 and \$525. Sean seconds. All say aye.**
- C. The proposed 2015 budget is reviewed
- a. Karna proposed no longer having the winter party and moving the summer party to late spring. The money from the winter party could be divided between the fall block party and the late spring party resulting in 2 parties at \$475 a piece. The total proposed budget doesn't change.
 - b. **Karna moved to removed the winter party and split the funds between the spring party and the fall block party. Katy seconds. All approve.**
 - c. **Steve moves to adopt the proposed 2015 budget with the changes to the party line items. Tom seconds. All approve.**

Membership – Katy Mallory

- A. Parkwood Directory
 - a. The board reviewed a printed draft.
 - b. Estimate of \$187.60 pre-tax for 125 books
 - c. Andy Vocaire will have them printed this week.
 - d. The PGC will pay the printer and then the Carters will reimburse the PGC for the exact amount.
- B. A NextDoor for the Parkwoods page is discussed among the board. It was unanimously agreed that we have enough representation between the Facebook page and Nation of Neighbors and NextDoor would not be necessary.

Parkwood Park Update – Sheri Kennedy

- A. Overview of meeting minutes, budget for the park.
 - a. 400 live stakes are going in the weekend of January 17th. Sheri will post on Facebook so people know what is going on and will be aware of the stakes while using the park.
 - b. In June grasses and perennials will be planted into the meadow.
- B. Karna mentioned that it would be nice to get a copy of the picture of Sheri and Steve receiving the Beer Festival Grant and put it in an email or on Facebook.

Historic District Update – Becky Vocaire

- A. See report.

General Discussion

- A. Thank You cards

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- a. 50-100 new cards would be needed. The paper needs to be matte they take ink better than the current glossy ones.
- B. Druid Hills Civic Association By-law Update
 - a. Per Anne Wallace, the DHCA decided to wait and update the area description in the DHCA bylaws until the proposed Decatur annexation is completed in 2015. Not only would our neighborhood be included in Decatur but also W Ponce de Leon and North Parkwood. With the proposal to annex the remaining portion of DH into Atlanta the bylaws area description would require a significant update and decided to wait until the dust settled on the annexation/cityhood initiatives. Until the time the bylaws are updated we are still considered part of DH and DHCA.
- C. Flags
 - a. Becky brings up the idea of making a flag for homes to display in the Parkwood Neighborhood (i.e., Oakhurst, Lenox Park, Inman Park all have flags)
 - b. This could be a fundraiser or a neighborhood unifier.
 - c. A flag was templated last year. The board wishes to revisit it. Christina has the image and pricing and will have the information for next month's meeting.

Upcoming Meeting – February 9th 7:30p @ Sean Pruett's House

Meeting closed at 9:03p

To Do List/Action Items

- Go through our neighborhood for code violations and notify City of Decatur? (Civic)
- Preserving the History of the PGC at the DeKalb History Center - discussion of plans to preserve our history going forward and how to catch up some of the missed years (Sheri Kennedy)
- Look for the 4th of July buntings (Bryan)
- Add a communications chair to relieve some of the responsibilities of the Membership. Change one of the at large members to the communications chair so the number of board positions does not change. Add to agenda for discussion in 2015.
- National register money. (February agenda - Becky)
- Nominating committee for the March agenda (Becky)
- Let City of Decatur know that we would be interested in having more street lights put in BEFORE February so we can get them budgeted for this year (Civic)