

Dresden East Civic Association (DECA) Quarterly Meeting

Date: January 17, 2013

Location: Dresden Elementary

Attendance: About 45 people were in attendance.

Nikki called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. She announced that we would have a presentation about the Village Concept followed by our Business Meeting with the election of the new DECA Board and conclude the meeting with the DECA Forum. During the election, nominations from the floor can be made and we still need a President and VP for the new year. She thanked Chocolate and Publix for refreshments. She also thanked Senior Connections, who catered the meeting.

Kim Grier from the Georgia Department of Human Resources and Debra Furtado from Senior Connections will be speaking to the group.

Debra Furtado with Senior Connections

Senior Connections has been around for 40 years. It is the largest home and community based nonprofit provider in Georgia. In addition to serving DeKalb County, it also serves Cobb, Gwinnett and several other counties. It serves these counties by:

- 1) Providing meals to people and organizations. They are looking for volunteers to cook and deliver meals.
- 2) In home care: Home repair, house work, etc.
- 3) DeKalb Senior Centers. There are 4 centers. Several new centers are being built including the North DeKalb Center in Chamblee.

Debra talked about the benefits of volunteering. Georgia is the 7th worst state for senior hunger and volunteering with Senior Connections can help prevent that.

Kim Grier with Georgia Department of Human Resources (State unit on aging)

Kim is a livable communities specialist. A livable community looks at how can someone stay in their home and continue to stay there forever as they age. This is the Village Concept: Aging in Place. It started 15 years ago in Boston.

Villages are grass roots membership organization where people can age in place in their community for \$200-\$1200/year. Members pay for services and the fee varies at each village. DECA could build its own village nonprofit or work with Senior Connections. Athens has a village with 200 members. Most villages have 200-300 members.

A highly vetted list of service providers for village members is key. Transportation appears to be the number one need of older adults.

Business Meeting

- 1) Nikki asked Todd (nominee for DECA Treasurer) to give the Treasurer's Report, but he was not prepared to do so. Lynda did not bring the report with her. Nikki stated we have over \$5000 in funds. **NOTE:** We actually had \$4584.40 as of the end of 2012.
- 2) Nikki introduced the current Board members at the meeting and had them stand up. She also noted Board members not in attendance. She thanked everyone for their service in 2012. She asked Jordan to run the Election part of the meeting.
- 3) Jordan asked Donna to give the Nominating Committee Report. Donna read the list of nominated officers and neighborhood reps for the new Board:

Executive Committee:

President:	VACANT
Vice President:	VACANT
Secretary:	Jordan Fox
Treasurer:	Todd Price

Neighborhood Representatives:

Wakefield Forest West:	Gary Conner
Wakefield Forest North:	Bob Bryant
Wakefield Forest South:	Cathy Farquharson
Wakefield Forest East:	Donna Dravis
Tanglewood Circle:	Blanche Collins
Dresden Square:	Kyles Eaves
Frontier Woods:	Marty Johnson
Laventure Forest:	Adrian Valladares
Appling Heights Rep:	Agnes Nelson
Whispering Hills Rep:	Stephanie Walters
Marlin Acres:	Susan Jackson

The floor was opened for any nominations for any board positions. John Stabler nominated Julia Sellers of Clairmont Terrace for Vice President. Nikki pointed out that Clairmont Terrace is not a DECA member neighborhood and Julia is not a member of DECA so she can't be nominated for VP. There were no other nominations. Jordan took a verbal vote for each candidate one at a time since they were all unopposed. Each candidate was elected by acclamation.

Nikki reminded members that they could still become President or Vice President later on if they choose. Todd asked what the responsibilities were for each position and Nikki read their duties as stated in the bylaws. She announced that Susan Jackson of Marlin Acres has agreed to serve as Membership Committee Chair until we have a new VP. When asked, Jordan noted that the board has the power to appoint a President or Vice President. He also said that he has agreed to chair Board and Quarterly meetings until a President and/or Vice President is appointed. Other Board members will help him take minutes so he can chair meetings.

DECA Forum

- 1) Nikki gave an update on Chamblee annexation. Chamblee officials still want to annex our area. She is working with State Reps to create a new bill to get Chamblee annexation back on the ballot. She has personally agreed to chair a "Chamblee Yes" group to try to get annexation to pass next time. It was

discussed that the reason annexation failed last time was that many did not know what they were voting on and that they had only seen “Chamblee No” flyers.

- 2) Nikki and Pat attended a meeting about a Community Improvement District (CID) in Chamblee and surrounding area. The CID would bring many benefits to our area including better landscaping of the I-85 interchanges from Clairmont Road to Chamblee-Tucker Road. Businesses would be self-taxed and those taxes would pay for these improvements.
- 3) Nikki says there are no new updates regarding Late Night Establishments.
- 4) Jordan said that the PR Committee needs volunteers to help with the DECAzette. A new copy editor is needed. We also need help getting DECAzettes from the printer to the neighborhood reps. Most importantly, we need someone to manage ads. DECAzettes only come out 4 times a year, so none of these volunteer opportunities require a big time commitment.
- 5) Judy Brooks has a printout of 2012 real estate activity for the DECA area and info about animal rescue.
- 6) Lori Muskat from Clairmont North spoke about the Atlanta Gas Light (AGL) project between Clairmont North, Tanglewood Circle and Shalimar Drive. A gas regulator is being built there as part of the Eastside Pipeline. Problem is it will be in PDK’s flight path and if a plane crashed there it could be catastrophic.

AGL had poor communication with residents and was unaware that the gas regulator would be in a flight path. Lori believes this may have been purposely hidden from us. The audience suggested she contact State Reps and the Georgia Public Service Commission for help. Elected officials including State Rep Mary Margaret Oliver, Commissioner Kathie Gannon and others have already been notified.

- 7) Judy Brooks and Nikki talked about the importance of properly disposing of FOG (Fats, Oil and Grease).
- 8) There was a speaker who volunteered with “Adopt a Stream.”
- 9) Sheila Rotter announced the new recycling schedule. It differs by neighborhood.

Nikki adjourned the meeting at 8:38 p.m.