

January 24, 2002

DECA Quarterly Meeting Minutes

- The meeting was held at Dresden Elementary School.
- President's opening comments (Wayne Daniel):
 - Welcomed neighbors and visitors (John Stamos, Betty Phillips, Hawthorne Civic Association, Ken Sidwell, local real-estate agent, and Nikki Van der Grinten, visitor from a neighboring community).
 - Thanked Debra White (Dresden Principal) and the faculty/staff for our meeting place.
 - Refreshments are thanks to Rich Zelnick.
 - Thanked all the 2000 DECA Officers and BOD.
 - Presented an award (w/Sheila Rotter) to Cheryl Von Soosten for all the hard work and effort she has put into DECA during her two years as DECA President.
- Minutes from the October 18th meeting were approved.
- Ms. Guthrie (Dresden Assistant Principal):
 - Welcomed everyone to the school and said Dresden Elementary is Atlanta's Best Kept Secret.
 - Thanked the substitute teachers (Mr. Goldberg, Ms. Powell) and Dawn Hamer, a former Dresden teacher.
 - Dresden is an America's Choice school (Debra White is currently at a national conference in CA, representing Dresden).
 - They are looking for volunteers to help with a survey and Career Awareness Day (March 6th from 8:00 – 10:30 am). Please call the school to volunteer.
- Treasurer's report (Sheila Rotter): the current balance is \$1944.44; \$1813.00 carry-over from last year; we have 45 paid members (at the start of the meeting).
- Membership report (Mary Johnson and Sam Powell): The committee and members are attempting to contact every home w/the goal of 50% membership; Mary developed a DECA brochure; Sam developed maps of all the neighborhoods.
- Historian report (Sheila Rotter): We need people to delve into the history of the area, but most resources are only available during the day (business hours). If you'd like to volunteer, contact Sheila.
- PDK Watch Report (Ron Dennis): Next meeting is Thursday, February 21st at 7:30 pm at the Clairmont Baptist Church to discuss the Airport Compatibility Overlay District (ACOD).
- Yard of the Month Report (Leslie Freymann): We judged Frontier Woods for February and gave the winner the yard sign and Honorable Mentions received a certificate; if you would like to nominate a yard or volunteer as a judge, please contact Leslie.
- Nominating Committee (Jeff Weeks and Liz Rouse): They need more volunteers and someone to assume the leadership role; contact Jeff if you would like to volunteer.
- Neighborhood Reports:
 - Appling Heights – Jim Dorsey thanked whoever got the truck on Appling Drive moved. ** Note: cars in the yard off the pavement is a violation of code and can be removed by calling the code enforcement at 404-417-1240; for cars on the street, call DeKalb public safety at 404-294-2523.
 - Marlin Acres – Becky Norris reported that all is quiet.
 - Michele's Court – Shirley Hammond reported a burglary.

- No reports from the other neighborhoods.
- Business meeting adjourned; guest speaker began presentation.

Keith Melton, Vice President of Development for the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce
International Corridor and Village – Transforming Buford Highway

- The Chamber of Commerce is working to develop a plan for “improving and remaking Buford Highway “ (8 miles corridor).
- Have specific commitments from leaders (DeKalb CEO, Board of Commissioners, Chamber of Commerce, Public Works, Doraville/Chamblee Mayors.
- Buford Highway is the “most dangerous street in Georgia” w/15 fatalities in 3 years.
- Developed stakeholders group w/ 30 plus members.
 - Will advocate for pedestrian improvements, re-development initiative and tools, smart growth, and re-new corridor; seek consensus on boulevard re-design.
 - Want 6-foot sidewalks on both sides and to decrease signage/utility clutter.
- North Druid Hills and I-285 areas are the only places w/real traffic problems; all other areas were over-engineered for in case of an I-85 shutdown.
- Current sign ordinances are very permissive and there is no enforcement; we need signage standards and design guidelines and a rewrite of the current sign ordinances.
- A Position Paper is currently underway; they are numerous funding sources (large grants, foundations, businesses); this is a 3-year program.
- CEO, Vernon Jones, supports the initiative and will request local law for use of the Redevelopment Powers Law in the 2002 legislative package.
- DeKalb is ready to designate Buford Highway as a “revitalization corridor.”
- Tax Allocation Districts in select areas – it is not a new tax levy; it is for Brownfield clean-ups and developments; utility relocation and streetscapes infrastructure, mixed use developments and parking, affordable housing, local matches for grants; can attract quality redevelopment to the area.
- Advocating for \$20 million project re-do, have \$1.3 million committed (for 6’ sidewalks and pedestrian islands at crossings from Chamblee Tucker to Gwinnett line.
- The Georgia DOT has the final say as to what can be put in.
- Advocating for \$8 million for Phase two (8’ sidewalks on both sides and pedestrian islands, street-scapes and left turn medians, from city limits to Chamblee-Tucker Road).
- Public works dig in 2004 may bring 7’ water line in the middle of Buford Highway and that would create an opportune time to add/re-do sidewalks.
- It is too expensive to bury the power lines because all the local businesses would have to be connected underground to the main lines; a more feasible option is to move all the lines to one side of the road.
- Buford Highway is designed for 65-75 mph traffic, but the speed limit is 35 mph.
- Slogan: Keep Kids Alive! Drive 35!
- DOT has never been in favor of bike lines; they have agreed to 14 pedestrian refugee islands in Doraville.
- Transit-oriented development: proposed mixed-use development near Doraville Marta station, bought 200 homes North of the airport, not now likely that a golf course will be built; FAA decided that all commercial properties could stay; project also includes development of

Brown-fields in Chamblee and Doraville, 100 plus acres of projects (gym and swimming pool, community meeting space, etc...).

- Little known fact: CDC started in Chamblee.
- CDC is adding 500,000 plus of new office space and parking (\$300 million capital program); currently brings 2,000 plus employees to the International Corridor; Environmental Sciences is on Buford Highway and there's a good likelihood that sidewalks will be built in front of CDC.
- Keith is not asking for money from DECA; he is asking that we become interested in the project and support the work.
- We should to talk to other civic associations and spread the word about the project to help increase community support of the issue.
- For more information, contact:
 - Keith Melton, Vice President of Development, DeKalb Chamber of Commerce
 - 750 Commerce Drive # 201 Decatur, GA 30030
 - 404-378-8000 ext 229
 - kmelton@macoc.com; www.dekalbchamber.org

Meeting Adjourned.

If any additions or corrections need to be made to these minutes, please call Leslie Freymann at 678-547-0350 or email lfreymann@mindspring.com.