

Minutes EVA Board Meeting
Monday, Sept. 14, 2020, 5:00-6:00 pm, via ZOOM

Attendance:

Primary Board present: Todd Hill (chair), Mark Herold (vice-chair), Jay Johnson (treasurer), Jean Welsh (secretary), Yvette Weatherly, Sarah Banick, David Payne, Cynthia Tauxe, Don Walter, Mary Eccard, Lorraine Miller; Neil Fried, Margaret Blackmon, Anne Wallace

Primary Board absent: George Bacso, Anna Robinson

Advisory Board present: Mark Goldman, Stuart Meddin, Sally Sears, Marlene Goldman,

Advisory Board absent: Clarke Weeks, Jimmy Powell, Lois Berthaume, Becky Evans, Nathan Hartman, Bill Gryboski

Interns absent: Kyla Hill, Megan Walter

Guests attending: none

1. Meeting minutes: August meeting minutes approved

2. Emory COVID campaign. David reported that Emory is seeking the support of EVA for the placement of signs in the Village to encourage the wearing of face masks on campus and in the surrounding areas. A motion was passed to allow for the placement of up to 15 signs.

3. Update on Village property. 1) Stuart reported on the status of businesses in the Village. Business is down an estimated 25%-75% what it was pre-COVID. He is in discussions with a potential renter for the Slice and Pint property. 2) The former Saba property has been rented and is currently being remodeled, reportedly for use as a Hookah bar. Questions were raised about the approval for this purpose since this would, according to Cynthia, not be allowed under the Village overlay. Mark G will follow-up with Director of Planning with the county to be clear about the plans for this property and where things are in the approval process.

4. Emory Village Banners. Jean reported that the brackets for the banners have been procured and are with the county. Once we have finalized arrangements for the necessary insurance coverage, and we have a signed agreement for the rental of the poles, they will put us on the job list to get the brackets (and the banners) hung. To ensure sufficient funding to cover the additional insurance cost, a motion was passed to increase the budget for the banners to \$6500 (from \$6000). This will provide sufficient funding for the procurement and hanging of 10 brackets, banner design, printing and hanging of the banners, pole rental costs for one year, and insurance for one year.

5. Potential for Overlay Amendment – Cynthia is forming a working group to review the Village overlay and determine what, if any, obstacles there are within it that may be compromising the potential of Village businesses to thrive and may need to be amended. Those interested in participating on this working group are asked to download and read the current zoning code for our Emory Village Overlay District (see page 56). The first meeting will be held in Nov.

- https://www.dekalbcountyga.gov/sites/default/files/user317/Article3_November2017.pdf#page=56
- and the Historic Preservation Design Guidelines for Emory village look here: <https://www.dekalbcountyga.gov/sites/default/files/user348/Emory%20Village%20Design%20Standards.pdf>

6. Open Streets. As per Don, most restaurants in the Village are participating. The use of the BP property will be requested for gymnastics. Glenn will be holding their "Trunk or Treat" up the street at their Youth Activity building. There will be "Dogs from a Distance", a virtual 5k run, an architectural tour and a bike ride, music Sat eve and a film on Sunday.

7. Website improvements- Marlene and Neil have been working on making essential upgrades to the EVA website. \$200 was approved by email vote earlier this month for this purpose. They have asked that if anyone knows how to make a QR code to please let them know. They would like to use one to facilitate information sharing about Open Streets activities. The likely need for additional funds for software upgrades, etc. was discussed.