VOTE ON BY LAWS AMENDMENTS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES SLATE OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2017-2018

Nominating Committee Chair: Roger Moss

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS
President Melinda Allen
Vice President Bob Rosenwald
Secretary Meredith Dulany
Communications Kathleen Brenneman
Treasurer Steve Brenneman

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Public Safety Chair Barry Gale
Ward Captain Chair Matthew Hallett
Membership Chair Amy Brock
Events Chair Erika Snayd
Economic Impact Chair Kenneth Zapp
Historian Kristin Lee
Holiday Tour Chair Nina Altschiller
Tourism Policy Bill Lovett
Historic Preservation Chassidy Malloy
Neighborhood Outreach Bud Rosser
DBA Representative Roger Moss
At Large Member Gale Steves
Immediate Past President Hank Reed

All DNA Members are encouraged to vote online for these Officers and Directors at SavannahDNA.org.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE DNA BY LAWS:

By Law Amendment: Increase Number of Voting Board Members

Under ARTICLE IV a change is proposed to increase the voting Board member positions from sixteen (16) to eighteen (18).

ARTICLE IV
OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
The D.N.A. shall have as its governing and executive officers, the following:
· President
· Vice President
· Secretary
· Treasurer
· Communications
The foregoing officers shall also serve as the Executive Officers of the Board of Directors of the D.N.A. They and other members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by general membership at the annual meeting. Vacancies on the Board may be filled by appointment by the existing board members. Voting Board membership shall not exceed sixteen (16) eighteen (18) persons.

By Law Amendment: Addition of Exceptions to ARTICLE IV

All officers are eligible to succeed themselves for no more than four (4) subsequent one (1) year terms so that no officer may serve more than a total of five (5) consecutive years in the same position. No Board member may serve in the same position more than (5) consecutive years. Following a one-year absence from the Board an individual is again eligible to serve on the Board for a maximum total of six (6) consecutive years. At that point a one (1) year absence from the board is again required.

EXCEPTIONS:
In the unlikely event an essential position remains unfulfilled, a Board member may continue to serve until a qualified replacement is selected by the Board. Essential positions include all five (5) Executive Officers, Holiday Tour of Homes chair, and Events Chair.

NEIGHBORS INVITED
On Wednesday, May 17 from 5:15 to 7:00 p.m., Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church, 429 Abercorn Street, Calhoun Square, invites all Historic District neighbors to a Block Party with a free supper for neighbors and docent-led tours of the newly restored 1857 Oliver Hall. Questions? Rev. Nelle Bordeaux, 232-0191

Go to SavannahDNA.org to cast your vote
The Downtown Neighborhood Association announces our community grant recipients for 2017. Proceeds from ticket sales from the Annual Holiday Tour of Homes event raise the money to fund these community grants each year.

Proposals are submitted by community organizations and ranked and voted on by DNA’s Board of Directors during the Spring.

Friends of Massie $500.00
SCMPD Explorer Post 290 $700.00
CNU Savannah & CNU 26 $1,000.00
United Ministries of Savannah: $1,000.00
Union Mission, Inc. $1,200.00
Savannah Bicycle Campaign $1,500.00
Deep Center $2,000.00
Helping Hands of Savannah $2,000.00
Horizons Savannah $2,000.00
Loop It Up Savannah Inc. $2,500.00
Savannah Tree Foundation $2,800.00
Savannah Children’s Choir $3,000.00
Urban Hope, Inc. $3,000.00
Frank Callen Boys & Girls Clubs $5,250.00

Grant awards will be distributed at the DNA’s Annual Meeting and Spring Picnic on Tuesday, May 9th.

Save the Date

Thursday, June 15th
DNA’s Inaugural Summer Social
Location: Hilton Savannah DeSoto
Time: 6 - 8 p.m.
This Spring, the Downtown Neighborhood Association (DNA) has been hard at work in line with our mission statement on many projects involving zoning and the subsequent impact on the neighborhood. Currently, the City has proposed an ordinance revision that would limit new Short Term Vacation Rentals (STVRs) to properties that are owner occupied, while grandfathering in existing rentals until the permit lapses, or the property sells. DNA has a committee working on the specifics of the ordinance with both the City of Savannah Tourism and Ambassadorship Department and representatives from the short-term vacation rental industry.

There is no question that non-owner occupied STVRs affect the essential character of the neighborhood and the stability of our community. The STVR topic is currently being discussed in communities around the world, with complaints of everything from parking, to noise, trash, offensive behavior, removal of long term rental property, and loss of community.

In the French Quarter of New Orleans and in the densely residential neighborhood south of Broad Street in Charleston, SC, STVRs are not permitted. Other cities have placed caps at 3-5% of dwelling units. Savannah must find a way to constrain the increasing number of residential properties converting to vacation rentals. The intent of zoning from its inception was to “bring community stability at a time when there is rising urbanism”. That time is now for Savannah’s fragile Landmark Historic District.

In 2014, the number of STVRs in the Landmark District was approximately 280 according to the City of Savannah’s Tourism and Ambassadorship Department. In 2017 we have reached 678 permits, and the number continues to rise with many more rentals already in the permit pipeline. The downtown neighborhood currently has Wards with more than 50% of the dwellings converted to STVRs. Jones Street, one of the most famous historic residential streets in the country, now has more than 68 STVRs. The vast number of rentals changes the neighborhood atmosphere to that of an unmonitored hotel.

The unpredictable nature of transient guest behavior should not be a continued burden on the residents of downtown Savannah. We should focus on quality of life in the historic district with everything done in moderation, including the numbers of STVRs allowed. The DNA demands the City of Savannah and the tourism industry consider the overheating impact that creeping commercialism has on the preservation of the historic neighborhood fabric. It is the position of the DNA Board of Directors that the City of Savannah address the proliferation of STVRs immediately to mitigate the adverse effects on the downtown neighborhood.

How You Can Help
Downtown residents are encouraged to support density control and tourism/residential balance by writing to the Mayor, Aldermen, and City Manager.

By implementing density controls we will both lessen the impact on the neighborhood, as well as benefit the current STVR owners by increasing demand over supply in time.

The DNA is conducting a survey and encourages member participation in this important issue. Go to SavannahDNA.org for more information on what has been proposed, and for the link to the survey and additional information.

Questions? Comments? Send email to: STVR@SavannahDNA.org

"Don’t kill the goose that lays the golden egg."
– Aesop