

# **DECA Quarterly Meeting**

## **Dresden Elementary School**

**January 22, 2009**

**7:00 P.M.**

7:05 P.M. President John Martin called the meeting to order.

John introduced our guests:

4 police officers including Al Fowler and Daryl Yarbrow

Marie Corrigan of Sophia Academy

Tom Hogan – Chamblee City Councilman

Jill Chambers – House of Representatives

Marie Corrigan gave a synopsis of Sophia Academy and answered questions from the DECA members. She stated that the school has been in business for 10 years and they are now located at 2880 Dresden Drive. They are a non-denominational school.

A question came from a DECA member regarding if they are cutting down trees and she stated that they have not had to cut down any trees even with all of the remodeling and expansion work that has been done at the school.

Maria invited anyone that would like to visit the school to come over any time.

John then proceeded with the President's report which is basically the same as was in the last DECAzette. A successful National Night Out, the membership is increasing and he also wanted to thank the DECA board members for their support during 2008.

Ron Dennis, President of PDK Watch also stated he had a report in the last DECAzette. (Copies available)

A DECA member asked him about the lawsuit pending regarding the citizens challenging PDK regarding having airplanes over 66,000 pounds flying into and out of PDK. The lawsuit is still pending.

A DECA member asked a question stating: In light of the airplane accident in New York with birds causing the accident, what does PDK have in order to distract the birds. A DECA member stated that PDK has a sort of "gun" that they fire that distracts the birds. Not sure if there is any other way to get rid of the birds in that area.

A DECA member asked if there was anything being done regarding security at PDK for people coming and going from the airport. As of now there is no particular security when people fly in and out of PDK

### Treasurer's Report – Dan Harris

There is \$1,727.13 in the bank and the biggest expense throughout 2009 will be the DECAzette. There is a detailed report in the last DECAzette.

John then presented the nominations for the DECA board for 2009 as follows:

President	Judy Brooks
Vice President	Nikki Vandergrinten
Treasurer	Dan Harris
Secretary	Marty Berning

He also presented the nominations for the neighborhood reps for 2009 as follows:

Appling Heights	Patrick Brown
Beverly Hills/Woods	Melissa Slaughter & Vanessa Platt
Dresen Square	Salvatore Ferrara
Frontier Woods	Marty Johnson
LaVenture Forest	Kathryn Buckley
Marlin Acres	Michael Besal
Wakefield Forest	Irene Carter, Judy Brooks, Lynda Matthews
Whispering Hills	Lynn Gatlin

John then asked for any nominations from the floor – there were none. A motion was made to accept the slate of officers and reps, the motion was seconded and the motion passed.

### NEW BUSINESS

Neighborhood Watch:

ICP Officer, Daryl Yarrbro, gave a report on crime in the neighborhood. They had the police RV sitting in front of the Motel 6 and next to the Waffle House and this did deter crimes. They have also been able to arrest several prostitutes who have been walking the area near Meadowood. Officer Yarrbro and various vigilant neighbors were involved in removing graffiti from Chicken Plaza. “No loitering signs” implemented at Chevron have been effective. Abandoned vehicle was removed. It's very important for everyone to keep their doors locked. “criminals will take the path of least resistance.

Melissa Slaughter stressed importance of more than one person calling and writing to city officials, demanding help and action.

A 3 step guideline for addressing crime in light of Wakefield Forest was offered:

1. call 911
2. write down all details of subjects.
3. call neighborhood watch captain

Crimetrac-new web based system to keep an eye on crime in the area can be found at [www.crimemapping.com/map/ga/dekalbcounty](http://www.crimemapping.com/map/ga/dekalbcounty), or on [dekalbpolice.com](http://dekalbpolice.com). He stated that the new CEO, Burrell Ellis, has scheduled several meetings in schools and churches and Daryl encouraged the DECA membership to attend one of these meetings to learn what Mr. Ellis goals are for 2009 for Dekalb County.

## TABASCO

Ursula and Beth then presented information regarding TABASCO and the Shallowford corridor.

The following is a list of assets and challenges that was discussed to give the DECA members an idea of things that TABASCO is facing in cleaning up that area.

### ASSETS:

- Area under high power lines can be used for windmills, solar, public walkways or greenspace
- Access/location – inside perimeter, convenient to I-85 and I-285
- Sidewalks
- St. Pius School, Sophia Academy
- North Fork Peachtree Creek restricts development
- Amount of greenspace, including Mary Scott Nature Preserve
- Proximity to Mercer University
- Close to 2 MARTA stations

### CHALLENGES:

- Area under high power lines running across private property
- No bike lanes
- PDK airport
- Traffic flow, Dresden & Chamblee-Tucker
- Lack of feeling of safety to be a pedestrian near cheap hotels & apartments
- Prostitutes & johns
- Aging apartments
- Low community participation
- Being in multiple jurisdictions
- Would like a neighborhood center to have: Walmart, more restaurants, Starbucks, larger grocery selection, drug store, local pub

The TABASCO folks will be working with these throughout the year.

John then welcomed our guest speaker for the evening – JEFF RADER who is a Dekalb County Commissioner, representing the majority of DECA's geographical area.. Jeff spoke for a few minutes and then opened up the floor for discussion from the DECA members.

JEFF RADER:

- “bad development can be detrimental to everyone”
- there is now greater potential for St. Pius to get involved in zoning issues
- Crimetrac now on Dekalb police website.
- public safety facility is maxed out.
- Someone mentioned that they would like to be able to bring their dog to Dresden Park.
- Chamblee has adopted a green building code.
- “A BIG PRIORITY OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IS CODE ENFORCEMENT” –we’ll see... (received thunderous applause)
- for business owners mentioned that in the new City of Sandy Springs, if no business license, you are not allowed to rent your property.
- Nikki mentioned that rentals around here have too many cars.
- Homes are used as rooming houses, and not for intended single family.
- 4 week response time for code enforcement is unacceptable.

With regard to Whispering Hills it was mentioned:

- immigrants don’t know when trash day is and what code is
- neighbors have watched the neighborhood worsen.
- there needs to be an educational process for awareness for illegals and immigrants.
- duplexes are now used as tri and quadplexes.

SOLUTIONS:

- code sweep- Melissa Slaughter said it does work( ex: duplexes on Shallowford)
- Nikki said that each rep. Should identify rentals in neighborhood.
- Jeff Rader is trying to establish a 2am curfew in unincorporated Dekalb.
- Lynn Gatlin is working on creating a bilingual letter to give residents on Whispering Hills to make known the rules and regulations.

Everyone thanked and applauded ex President John Martin for a year of service.

Yeah JOHN!