

The Alliance to Improve Emory Village, Inc. – quarterly notes

EV Merchants! Everyone! AIEV needs your input

by Laretta Miller

AIEV is a “non-profit corporation to revitalize Emory Village by creating a safe, economically viable, walkable and compact mixed-use community that is compatible with and a resource to Emory University and the surrounding historic Druid Hills neighborhood.”

This is AIEV’s “mission.” The “stakeholders” are all those who benefit from Emory Village’s success – the Village property owners, business owners and managers; Emory University faculty, staff and students; Clifton Corridor organizations, and YOU, the residents of the Druid Hills neighborhood. To ensure that the outcome will meet the needs of all our stakeholders, it is important that we have widespread participation and input from a great many people. We need your ideas, perceptions and active contributions. The community involvement process began last fall with the Improve Emory Village workshops. In these workshops, participants reviewed data, identified issues, and discussed strategic alternatives for the future of the Village. That process, which resulted in the creation of the Alliance to Improve Emory Village, continues toward the next goal - the development of a Master Plan for Emory Village. The kick-off of this next phase will be after the holidays. Watch for more opportunities to contribute your ideas to the Master Plan.

One of AIEV’s ongoing activities is to involve the Emory Village merchants and property owners. This began in earnest with the first in a series of “Emory Village Rap Sessions,” planned for the third Tuesday each month at 2:00 p.m. All Emory Village business people and property owners are urged to attend. The initial session concentrated at first on presentations by the AIEV Board of Directors concerning the mission and objectives. AIEV is fortunate to have strong financial support from Emory University, the Druid Hills Civic Association, and DeKalb County government. The DeKalb Chamber of Commerce has pledged its enthusiastic backing as well. AIEV has standing committees specializing in the following broad areas – urban design, transportation/traffic calming, communications/special promotions, and land use/economic development. Thank you to the many readers who have already responded to the volunteer opportunities on the committees.

“Parking – can it be managed?”

This was the other major topic discussed at the first rap session on October 16 (and one dear to the hearts of students and residents, as well as merchants). What emerged here are some questions:

- ❖ It appears from data collected during the workshops that the main problem is inadequate management, rather than insufficient parking space, so would Village-wide parking work?

- ❖ Should designated long- and short-term parking areas be created?
- ❖ Would metered spaces be an acceptable option?
- ❖ How will we deal with violators of any new or existing parking standards? (CVS employs an off-duty police officer to patrol its parking lots. This has been quite successful on the whole; violators have been towed. Unfortunately, some offenders repeat and choose to take a chance when the officer is not visible.) The cost for smaller businesses to do this individually is prohibitive. Would Village-wide enforcement procedures work?

According to the merchants present at the meeting, the main issue seems to be that a number of cars are left for long periods in parking areas intended for customers of specific businesses. Some offenders' cars are parked in reserved spaces all day long! When customers find no place to park, they may go elsewhere. Merchants note that parking is not a big problem in the summer; this suggests that commuting students might be one source of this difficulty.

Let's hear from all Emory Village merchants!

The October session was very productive. We do need to have more merchants and Village property owners involved. If the Alliance Board of Directors hears from only a few owners and managers, input may be skewed. We hope someone speaking for every business in Emory Village will be at future sessions. Here are dates and topics for November through January - -

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| November 20 | Urban Design/Historic District Guidelines |
| December 18 | Parking and Guidelines – What next? |
| January 15 | Emory Village Master Plan |

NOTE: All rap sessions for Emory Village merchants and property owners are held on the third Tuesday of every month from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Center for International and Comparative Studies (formerly Kinko's), Room 108, 1385 Oxford Rd., in Emory Village.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Kathie Gannon, AIEV Coordinator, at 404-378-6492 or E-mail her at kgannon112@aol.com.