

Proposed Dunwoody Forest Neighborhood Association FAQ's

1. Is this Association going to tell me what I can and can't do to my lawn or my house?

No. The Dunwoody Forest Neighborhood Association (DFNA) is not designed to dictate beautification standards to homes, lawns, mailboxes, etc. Many residents enjoy the freedoms of not being shackled to an association that spells out every last manner in which your home and lawn must conform. The DFNA will not tread on these freedoms.

2. Don't we already have a neighborhood association?

No. Dunwoody Forest has only had a loose structure of organization since its inception. Up until recently, this structure has served well as the primary roles have been to gather up contact information, notify neighbors of important news, and assist in organizing social events. This job has been completed by many individuals over the years on a volunteer basis; however, there are no elected positions, this loose structure is not a legally recognized entity, and it is ill-equipped to manage the more complex issues currently facing our community.

3. I still really don't like the concept of an Association. Do I have to be a part of this if I don't want to?

No. Membership in the DFNA will be entirely voluntary. If you don't support this effort, you do not have to join. It is completely up to you.

4. Associations have dues. Won't this cost me a small fortune if I want to join?

No. The DFNA will only have minimal annual dues in order to cover insurance costs and paperwork filing fees. We anticipate annual dues to be on the order of \$30. This cost is kept low in part because the DFNA will not be in the business of dictating how your home and lawn should look, and we do not have a community park or pool that must be maintained.

5. Why exactly do we need an Association?

A more formal structure. Until recently, our loose structure in the neighborhood has worked fairly well for the neighborhood. Times have now changed with the current in-fill development in the neighborhood, the "Revive 285" campaign going on through GDOT, school redistricting, major development changes slated for the community (e.g., Fischer Mansion, the Great Gatsby property soon to come down, the major redevelopment at Donaldson and Ashford Dunwoody, etc.), new land use plans from Dekalb County, annexation efforts from the existing City of Chamblee, and proposed incorporation of the City of Dunwoody. Any one of these issues would have substantial consequences on our broader community and, in turn, on our neighborhood.

A stronger voice in community affairs. Having a legally recognized association provides a stronger and more coherent voice for our neighborhood in these broader community affairs. Representatives of DFNA could speak on behalf of its members at County meetings and would carry more weight and substance than a single individual. Additionally, having a formal association would provide voting rights to the Ashford Alliance Community Association (AACA) an active and politically recognized group of neighborhoods in our community that has succeeded in making a difference for the betterment of our community.

Distribution of leadership. The DFNA would provide a recognized structure of officers that would distribute authorities and powers over several individuals to provide a checks-and-balances system that would eliminate consolidation of power to one individual.

Better neighborhood communications. Additionally, the DFNA would be required to hold regular meetings for which residents can attend. The information discussed in these meetings as well as other information would be communicated to the neighborhood through more formal channels including meeting minutes, emails, and a web site.

Organization of neighborhood social events. The DFNA would also act as a mechanism for assisting to organize neighborhood social events including Christmas parties, block parties, Halloween parties, etc.

6. Where are we in this process? How can I help?

We are in the formation stages of the DFNA. Draft by-laws (attached) have been created that detail the structure and operations of the association. Following neighborhood discussion and input, these by-laws can be modified and finalized. We would then file papers to make this a legally recognized structure, and hold a meeting to elect your officials. From this point, the DFNA would be there to act as your voice in the community at large, provide an opportunity for you to have a vote and say in what happens in your neighborhood, and get us together to better manage the complex and exciting issues that face our rapidly changing community.

You can help by becoming involved and lending your voice to this process. The first meeting to discuss these by laws is slated for June 26, 2007. Please have read the by-laws and attend this meeting with your questions and suggestions.