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### Preservationists, homeowners want to save historic mansion

Buckhead residents and preservationists are working on an agreement to preserve the Randolph-Lucas House without saddling the condominium association that owns it with the responsibility for maintaining the decaying and unsafe house on Peachtree Road.

“Last week we had a room full of people who raised their hands and committed that they wanted to save the building,” NPU-B chairwoman Sally Silver said during the neighborhood’s most recent meeting. “Well the time is past to say ‘I want to save it.’ The time is now to put your money where your mouth is and make it happen.”

Erica Danylchak, executive director of the Buckhead Heritage Society, recently said the society hopes to have a memorandum of understanding signed by all interested parties. Once the agreement is official, she said, the society can accept donations for the relocation and renovation of the home.

While the interested parties agree that moving the home is the best option for everyone, questions remain as to the future use and location of the historic mansion, as well as how to cover the cost of moving it.

Silver said she’s already spoken with a number of entities that have expressed interest in providing property to host the house. All of the potential landing spots for the Randolph-Lucas House are in Buckhead, Silver said Tuesday.

However, without a definitive answer on the house’s future, she said she cannot discuss who has offered to provide land for the house, or how the house might be used.

“There’s definitely no use for it where it is now,” Silver said.

The Randolph-Lucas House was constructed in 1924 and has already been moved once to facilitate the construction of the condos at 2500 Peachtree Street. A lack of parking facilities and disrepair have made use of the building by condo owners or as a public event space unrealistic.

Hakim Hilliard, attorney for the 2500 Condominium Association, which filed to have the building demolished, said the association would be willing to contribute toward the cost of having the building moved.

“They are sensitive to the interests in preserving [the house],” Hilliard said of the Condo Association. “We all agree that the best solution is to move the home to a new location off-site.”

Hilliard said that any specifics regarding a contribution from his clients toward moving the house would be determined after more is known about the destination and total cost of the move. He said the Condo Association expected demolition of the building to cost roughly \$100,000, but would not say whether that figure was any indication of how much association members would be willing to donate. He also could not say whether donations would come directly from the Condo Association or from individual owners.

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