

SDCC Virtual Board Meeting Minutes May 11, 2020

Meeting commenced over Zoom at 7:05 pm

Attending

Board members: Molly Rater, Sheryl Davenport, Mickey Clark, Sharon Neumeister, JoAnna Schooler, , Mike Stephens, Dave Mastin, Mike Kaufman, Rachelle L-Ecuyer

Alderspersons: Heather Navarro, Shameem Hubbard

Guests: Allie Halbert

Community announcements: None

Aldermanic reports: Shameem reported that demolition at the Talayna's location will begin soon.

Heather Navarro reported 13,000 more Covid tests have been made available. Mask-wearing violations should be reported to the CSB or non-emergency police line so there is a record of the event. It is unrealistic to expect an immediate response from police since they are occupied with criminal activity. Some cell phone companies will be installing cells in our area, mostly on light poles. Verizon has been approved. There have been 100 permit requests. This should improve cell phone service in our area. There will be a community meeting regarding the Traffic survey in late July. Heather will be attending a meeting about new construction at the Talanya site and Pearl Project. This could be problematic since both are happening around the same time in close proximity.

Delmar Loop Report: Rachelle reported that the CID has been supporting Delmar businesses and has paid one month rent for 30 businesses. There is a grant program for re-start resources. Rachelle is serving on a task force with Explore St Louis to guide businesses on what is allowed when businesses reopen. The commercial districts committee has approved Chicken Out to open with a walk up window but still needs to go through the city and CRO.

April minutes: Mike Stephens made a motion to approve and Sheryl Davenport seconded. The April minutes were approved.

Financial report: Molly reported that a 16,000 Wash U payment has arrived. Karen is making entries in QuickBooks but we could use help from anyone on the board that has expertise with QuickBooks. Mickey made a motion to approve the financial report and Sheryl seconded. The motion passed.

PPP forgivable loan: The SDCC is applying for one of these loans with assistance from Kathryn at Busey Bank. Karen Kelsey has been actively working on this application.

Interim Projects:

Form based Code: The process remains on hold until late June but Pearl has agreed to provide the funding gap of approx 8,000 dollars. We do not have anything in writing yet.

Pearl Project: Progressing and contactor set to break ground in mid June. Molly was in a call with Nicole Blumner, Brandon and Jeff Tegethoff from the Pearl project about the CBA (Community Benefits Agreement). SDCC ask is 150,000. Pearl is asking for a business plan for this money and Brandon agreed to work on this.

Porchfest: Postponed until September. Income on budget increased to 5000 this year.

Annual Fundraiser: We will need a new idea this year due to Coronavirus and economic climate.

DeBaliviere Place: DP contact has Molly's contact information and has not made contact yet.

Executive Director Search: This has been on hold since March due to the Covid pandemic. The executive committee proposed a yes/no vote from members of the recruitment committee to make an offer to Mike Reid. The majority would rule. JoAnna Schooler feels that this is inconsistent with what the committee decided in a prior meeting-that the candidate would be presented to a larger group of people outside of the committee. Molly will send an email to the recruitment committee to decide on how to proceed.

Upcoming activities: None to report. Concert series TBD

Committee Reports:

Beautification Committee – April 2020 – Submitted by Andy Cross, Chair On April 25th our Blitz Day cleanup had a low turnout due to the cold and wet weather. Our alleys are much cleaner these days and it is still helpful to schedule a clean-up day like Blitz each year. We did not plan any Blitz Day projects due to the Covid 19 situation. Our 8th Annual Electronics Recycling day on Sat May 9th was very successful. Many items were dropped off at Greg Freeman Park from 9am to Noon. Neighbors thanked us for our help and for keeping the event going. The 23rd Annual Plant Day/ plant exchange, also on May 9 from 10am to Noon, had very good participation. We always have many Brightside flowers for our neighborhood planters, parks, and greenspaces at this event. Contact Andy C if you want some dianthus seedlings for your treelawn, alley garden, or other areas around your house that can be seen by the public. Brightside did not have marigolds this year due to Covid 19. All of the plant divides that were brought by neighbors found new homes. Both events on May 9th followed Covid 19 health and safety guidelines. The McPherson Community Garden is having a fantastic year so far. Participation is at a peak, the raised beds are being very well used, and the weather has given us a wonderful spring for growing plants and flowers. In addition, the blossoms and flowers in our parks and lawns have been bigger, fuller and lasted longer than ever. Wear a mask and get outside to soak in the incredible spring we are having this year.

Residential Housing and Zoning Committee – April 2020 - Submitted by Linda Cross, Chair The Residential Housing and Zoning Committee continues to meet via video conference. We are continuing to follow the Short term rental bill BB 222 which failed to pass on the last go round. Revisions are being added and the bill is being prepared for re-submission. The committee has discussed the utilization of the SDCC to keep residents informed on how to deal with the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 and how to apply for the 90-day forbearance on mortgage loan payments for homeowners and rent forbearance for tenants. The committee also discussed the opportunity for the SDCC to apply for a grant/loan under the CARES act and if the council currently has the resources to investigate and apply for a grant.

Community Development Committee – April 2020 - Submitted by Nicole Blumner, Chair No report submitted.

Commercial Districts Development Committee – April 2020 – Submitted by Rachelle L’Ecuyer, Chair The Commercial Corridors Committee reviewed and approved the conditional use permit and liquor license for Chicken Out, 6197 Delmar. They are on target to open in June.

Historic District Committee – April 2020 – Submitted by Nancy Hohmann, Chair No report submitted.

Security Committee – April 2020 – Lana Stein, Secretary No report submitted.

New Business: None

Old Business: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Molly Rater