

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council (SDCC)

May 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Molly Rater (President), Tracy Granneman (Vice President), Kim Freter, Jim Holzer, Yvette Kell, Rachelle L'Ecuyer, David Mastin, JoAnna Schooler, Jeff Stokes, Tim Woodcock, Arline Webb, Kathryn Bulard, Marnita Spight

Not Present: Andrew Cawood, Carl Merritt, Mike Stephens

Visitors: Ald. Shameem Clark-Hubbard, Ald. Mike Gras, Chiemic Johnson (NIS), June Vaughn, Grady Vaughn, Steve Condrin (Wash U), Mary Campbell, (Wash U), Kevin Koen, Andy Cross

Executive Director: Michael Reid

Meeting was called to Order at 7:05 via Zoom

President Molly Rater related who the attendees and visitors were and that we had a quorum. The agenda was approved.

Mike Reid reviewed the SDCC goals

Mike Reid introduced the new 28th Ward Alderman Mike Gras. Ald. Gras did not have a report prepared but said that he had heard what a great neighborhood SD was. He will be a temporary alderman since after redistricting we will be in the 10th ward. Alderman Clark-Hubbard will be running in the 10th ward. He has met with the SDCC housing committee and will help out where he can. He said that he was available for questions and gave his contact information: grasm@stlouis-mo.gov, 314-497-8373, mike4@stl.com

Ald. Clark-Hubbard reported that the aldermanic redistricting maps have been made public and will go into effect next year. Bills have been proposed to make encampments illegal. She encouraged us to vote for our local state senators and US senator in upcoming elections. She is available for questions and gave her contact information as she does at every meeting.

March 2022 board meeting minutes were approved after a few minutes to review. Molly added that an addendum to the minutes will be posted with the email vote results re: The motion to reject Dan Schesch's donation of the lot at 6100 McPherson. She also reported that a guest at our board meetings, June Vaughn, is posting board meeting notes in the SD Times. Molly will let the SD Time editor know that these must be posted with a disclaimer that they are not official board meeting minutes. Those are posted on the SDCC website after being approved by the board.

Committee Reports were distributed to the Board by email before this meeting. Mike reported that this would be the new format. Reports should be reviewed before the meeting with only questions or clarifications addressed during the actual meeting.

Andy Cross verbally reported on upcoming Planting/Electronic Recycling day and expressed that he needed neighbors to help with selling tickets for the Breakfast garden tour.

Treasurer's Report – Marnita Spight has resigned from the Treasurer's position due to personal reasons and we are seeking someone for that position. Mike went over the financials in general. We should be receiving a 5000 dollar grant from CARES funds. Some large contributions including 16,000 dollars from Wash U are still coming. He is hoping Porchfest will bring in additional fundraising revenue when it returns to the fall. We already have 6000 dollars in sponsorships. Dave Mastin expressed concern about the budget deficit but Yvette Kells said that we were on target for the first quarter of the year. The air conditioner is getting fixed this weekend. The treasurer's report was approved

Executive Director's Report – ED Mike Reid reported that he has applied for The City of St Louis Small Business Grant Fund (\$5000) and that he is busy working on Porchfest. It should be our largest fundraising event of the year and we hope to surpass last year's income.

Demolition of Delmar Property. Rachelle reported that there were two joint meetings. One was on April 5th with the Historic Committee and the chairs of the commercial Districts committees, Community Development and Historic District with Wash U presenting the information. The second joint meeting was May 3rd with the Commercial Districts Committee and the Community Development Committee with Wash U again presenting the information. The committees supported the demolition permit. Reps from Wash U Real Estate were present to explain the demolition of the property due to safety concerns. Mary Campbell reported that the spirit of the building will be preserved and architectural treasures preserved. Steve Condryn shared photos of the property. He reported that the 6032-6040 Delmar property was purchased in January 2020. KPFF recommended demolishing the building due to safety concerns and the entrance was blocked off a month later. Process was then delayed by Covid restrictions. Squatters on the property have been a concern. There are no plans for the property at this time. Immediately after demolition the 2 story underground space will be filled and fenced off. Dave Mastin, board member, architect and former neighbor concurred with the safety concerns about the property. His company has looked at the property in the past. Some guests wanted to express opinions/questions and had concern that there had not been enough notice about the demolition. Mike said our board meeting was not the correct forum for community questions and comments. Kim Freter added that this should have happened at the committee level and meetings are open to the public. There will still be steps required with the city so there is still opportunity for community input. Tracy Granneman expressed that voices should be heard and Exec committee had received emails prior to the meeting. Kim Freter made a motion for the SDCC to support the demolition. Dave Mastin, Rachelle L'Ecuyer and Joanna Schooler abstained from this vote. Rater, Webb, Woodcock, Stokes, Spight, Bulard, Freter, Granneman, Holzer and Kells voted in support of the motion. The motion carried.

New Business: Molly reported that the Exec committee was planning a board retreat to refresh the Strategic plan. Mike will send out a doodle poll to assess availability.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Minutes submitted by Molly Rater