

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council (SDCC)

September 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Molly Rater (President), Tracy Granneman (Vice President), Yvette Kell (Treasurer), Jim Holzer, David Mastin, JoAnna Schooler, Jeff Stokes, Arline Webb, Kathryn Bulard

Not Present: Carl Merritt, Mike Stephens, Rachelle L'Ecuyer, Tim Woodcock, Kim Freter

Visitors: Ald. Shameem Clark-Hubbard, Andy Cross, Dan Schesch

Executive Director: Michael Reid

Meeting was called to Order at 7:02 via Zoom

President Molly Rater related who the attendees and visitors were and that we had a quorum. July minutes were already approved by email after July meeting so not done tonight.

Aldermanic report: Ald. Clark-Hubbard reported that frequent vandal in neighborhood had been arrested. She encouraged all to submit a police report if any more vandalism. Special election for aldermanic board is tomorrow. Plans are being put together for the Hamilton Bridge. She had no updates on Sink hole. Dave Mastin reported that the derelict car on Hamilton was still there.

Committee Reports

Security: Grady Vaughn not present so Mike reported in his place. Crime is up 30% and car clotting is still a problem. Lindenwood college piloting a security program #check your car. Security walks starting that identify dark spots. New police captain is very engaged according to Alderman Hubbard. Arline reported that she called police about wheelchair soliciter again.

Housing and Zoning: Marv Nodiff is the new chair and he thanked Linda Cross for her 4+ years of service. Main goals of committee is to monitor properties-apartments and homes. They are also updating demographic data.

Commercial District: Rachelle will be resigning from her job in the Delmar loop and a search is underway to replace her. Her replacement will hopefully also take her place on the SDCC board. JoAnna reminded everyone about the Form-Based Code community meeting on Sept 28th. It will be on Zoom and in person at Grace Methodist Church. This is the time for resident's input and questions to be answered.

Beautification: Andy reported that two recent events were successful: Rags to Riches (32 houses + several lot vendors participated) and the concert series on September 2nd. He gave a thank you to all the volunteers and especially Phil Ludholz for barbequing all day for the concert. There is a new apartment building with 12 new residents at McPherson and Rosedale and not enough dumpsters for their trash. Mary Lou Green from Operation Brightside has provided instructive stickers to put on dumpsters and recycling bins (also available in Chinese).

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