

**Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council (SDCC)**

**July 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

*Board Members Present:* Molly Rater (Secretary, Kingsbury Square), Yvette Kell (Treasurer, Washington Heights), Jim Holzer (Rosedale), Linda Cross (Rosedale), John Wright (Parkview Agents), AnnaMarie Bliss (at large) JoAnna Schooler (Washington University)

*Not Present:* Carl Merritt (Cote Brillante), Tim Woodcock (Rosedale), Mike Stephens (Parkview), Kim Freter (St Roch), Kathryn Bulard (Busey Bank) Tracy Granneman (President, Rosedale) Jeff Stokes (Grace Methodist), Nathaniel Rivers (Washington Heights)

*Visitors:* Ald. Shameem Clark-Hubbard, Grady Vaughan (Security chair), Marvin Nodiff (Zoning and housing chair), Andy Cross (beautification), Sheree Hickman (NIS), Samantha Smugila (Delmar Loop), Brent Cowin, Rachel Greathouse (New Earth Farm), Gayle Fitzpatrick (Rosedale Neighbors)

*Executive Director:* Michael Reid

**Meeting was called to Order at 7:05 in person**

Introductions

Approval of June minutes tabled since we did not have a quorum

**Public Comment:**

Rachel Greathouse from New Earth Farm Explained her composting organization. Main object is to get food waste out of landfills. You can sign up to join and pay a membership for composting. If you sign up and type in skd you get the first month free. Nearest Composting site is One Family Church (Old Tivoli).

Brent Cowin introduced himself as a developer in the area living in a home at 5959 McPherson. He has been maintaining the empty lot at 533 DesPeres next to one of his other properties. He has been offered the chance to buy the property from the city. He is seeking a letter of support from Shameem and she recommended he share some information with the board. It is an odd triangular shaped lot and he is not sure what he will do with it. He is providing security cameras in the cul-de-sac as added surveillance. As part of the work he has accessed the Sanborn Maps outlining where the Des Peres River runs in tunnels under parts of the neighborhood. He will share those maps with anyone who wants them.

## **Aldermanic Report:**

Shameem reported on some board bills

- a. **Overview of BB 43:** Sponsored by Alderwoman Clark-Hubbard, This Board Bill amends the Zoning Code of the City of St. Louis by permitting the construction and occupancy of Accessory Dwelling Units, also known as ADUs, in all zoning districts that allow residential use and the Board Bill contains a severability clause. She is working with the Zoning Committee on this <https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/city-laws/upload/legislative/boardbills/introduced/BB43%20Combined%202.pdf>
- b. **Overview of BB 81:** Introduced by Alderwoman Spencer, this Board Bill establishes a property tax deferral program for senior homeowners who meet the program participation requirements set forth in this ordinance, whereby the payment of real property taxes is deferred, while continuing to accrue subject to interest charges, as an increasing lien on the tax-deferred property until the homeowner loses eligibility to participate in the program, the property is sold, or the owner's estate is settled. Shameem does not support this.
- c. **Updates on BB 33 and BB 34** (more information below – on Short Term Rentals): Alderwoman Clark Hubbard attended the same meeting as Marvin Nodiff and Tracy Granneman. She said there were no amendments to what was presented at the meeting and it will not be worked on until September after the board's summer break.

Lot on Westminster across from Hamilton School has been condemned so City can refill. Several reported that work was already being done. Shameem will check on that tomorrow.

Water Main Break in Lucier Park has been resolved.

## **Executive Director Report:**

Mike Reid has signed contract for 14,000 dollar RAC grant. This is unrestricted money.

He has applied for a 25,000 dollar Charis Grant for Aging in Place programs

He should know about the SLACO grant (50-70,000 dollars to be a Neighborhood Technical Training Center) by the end of July

Situation of homeless man, Michael, in front of CVS is a growing concern and other homeless men have joined him. Numerous law enforcement agencies have been involved. Michael has mental illness and they have enlisted his sister to try to help him take his medications. If he does get hospitalized he often leaves prematurely against medical advice. Idea of neighborhood restraining order has been discussed.

### **In person Committee Updates:**

**Beautification:** Andy Cross reported that recent events like the Dog Show and Dog Park Yappy hour were successes. Rags to Riches will be on August 19<sup>th</sup>

**Security:** Grady Vaughan reported that there has not been a new meeting since the last meeting since the usual meeting date fell on July 4<sup>th</sup>. They will be meeting tomorrow.

**Historical district:** Anna Marie Bliss reported that the committee had approved the design for a small addition for a property at 6007 (?) Westminster. Dog Park fence is approved. The committee is working on some special initiatives like education materials about historical districts and possible workshops.

**Housing and Zoning:** Marv submitted a report electronically but wanted to highlight that Tracy had testified at Board of Alderman hearings about short term rentals.

**Community Engagement:** Molly attended the most recent meeting and reported that some attendees complained about lack of presence at the office. Idea was presented that volunteers could man the desk at the office to help out. Many questioned how that would be helpful if they were just fill-ins. There was ongoing discussion about how to engage neighbors from the east end of the neighborhood.

**Porchfest:** Molly reported that committee was working hard on event scheduled for Sunday September 16<sup>th</sup>. She encouraged everyone to help with soliciting sponsors for this fundraising event.

**Washington University:** Street work at FPP and Skinker will be starting next week. Work will be done 9-3 Monday-Friday. Effort is to reduce traffic conflicts at this intersection. First phase should be completed by the start of school. Wash U will be conducting active shooter training on July 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Commercial District:** Nicole Blumner not present but Samantha reported that there are several new businesses coming to the Loop and they are going to be setting up procedures for new businesses.

**Financial Report:** Yvette had no new report

Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm

No meeting in August

Minutes submitted by board secretary Molly Rater 7/11/2023