

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council (SDCC)

September 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Tracy Granneman (President, Rosedale), Molly Rater (Secretary, Kingsbury Square), Yvette Kell (Treasurer, Washington Heights), Jim Holzer (Rosedale), Linda Cross (Rosedale), AnnaMarie Bliss (at large), JoAnna Schooler (Washington University), Tim Woodcock (Rosedale), Mike Stephens (Parkview), Nathaniel Rivers (Washington Heights)

Not Present: Carl Merritt (Cote Brillante), Kim Freter (St Roch), Kathryn Bulard (Busey Bank), Jeff Stokes (Grace Methodist), John Wright (Parkview Agents)

Visitors: Ald. Shameem Clark-Hubbard, Andy Cross (beautification), Sheree Hickman (NIS), Samantha Smugila (Delmar Loop), Captain Marks, Kevin Koenig, Sarah Christman, Paris Von Me restaurant owners

Executive Director: Michael Reid

Meeting was called to Order at 7:00 in person. Quorum with 10/15 board members present

Introductions

Approval of July minutes tabled since we did not have copies of minutes available

Public Comment:

Presentation was given by Paris Bahn Mi restaurant owners. This is a Vietnamese restaurant that will not be serving alcohol. They will be having indoor and outdoor seating. Normally this would go through the Commercial Districts first but they have not met and we did not want to hold up their process. Questions asked by board members were answered by the restaurant owners. Mike Stephens made a motion to approve a letter of support for the restaurant and Yvette Kell seconded. No one was in opposition and the motion carried.

Captain Christi Marks, District 5 Commander, discussed her top priorities for our area which are reducing gunfire and car break-ins. Questions from board were answered. JoAnna Schooler expressed concerns re: Un-housed population in neighborhood. Captain Marks encouraged us to use our Alderperson as a resource and Captain Lowe who does Crisis Intervention. Captain Marks provided her email address and encouraged us to contact her with concerns:

CMMARKS@SLMPD.ORG

Financials: Treasurer Yvette Kell suggested two motions:

Combine Debit and Operating Accounts for simplicity and easier tracking on Quickbooks. This would be the account for daily business and bill paying. Brandon Sterling will be removed from Debit Account since he is no longer employed with us. Motion presented by Linda Cross and Mike Stephens seconded and the motion carried unopposed.

Second motion suggested by Yvette Kell was to merge the West End Arts (WAC) account (dormant for last 9 years) into the SDCC savings account. There is approximately 20,000 dollars in the WAC account which would bring our operating savings account up to 83,000. Andy Cross expressed that the people that developed the WAC fund would be upset to learn that the funds that were meant for artistic projects were being merged into the general operating fund. Board members discussed and opinions were generally that if the account had been dormant for this long it would be OK to move. Molly confirmed that recently received RAC grant funds were not restricted and could be used for general operating expenses and the WAC money could be dedicated to artistic projects like the concert series and Wintermarkt. Molly also communicated that the council was in a different place than it was 9 years ago with lack of CDA funding and current budget deficit. Motion was made by Mike Stephens to table the motion until the end of the calendar year so those involved with the WAC fund could hear this information. Jim Holzer seconded the motion and it carried without opposition.

Yvette reported that we need MOUs for donors to SDCC and will be working on this with Mike Reid. Linda Cross would like a MOU for the gardens. Yvette also expressed concerns about having money in “parking lot accounts” like the dog park because they are still on our books. Tracy wants our October meeting to focus on financials.

Aldermanic Report:

Shameem reported that the Aldermanic board will be back in session this Friday. She had no new reports on BB 43 or 44. She would like Evan Wilder of the Zoning Committee to talk to us.

Board members AnnaMarie and Mike Stephens expressed dissatisfaction with how the Cell Tower approval process went.

New Business: Neighbor Sarah Christman expressed concern about developer Brent Cowin. At our last meeting he reported that he was maintaining the vacant lot next to her property. She said this was not true and she and her husband have maintained that lot for years. She has alerted our Alderman and has written to City Hall. His application to buy the lot is in process according to Shameem.

Porchfest: Molly reported that the event was this Sunday September 17th and volunteers needed. Tracy expressed that it was a duty of every board member to volunteer.

Rain date for Rags to Riches is tentatively planned for Saturday October 14th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

Minutes submitted by Board Secretary Molly Rater 9/13/2023