

Meeting minutes: February 9, 2023 Safety and Security Meeting

All committee members were present with the exception of Steve Butz and Mike Finney Also in attendance are ex-officio members: Chris Street and Nicholas Hartzler Also in attendance is Brooks Goedeker – SBD Chairman

Committee members introduced

Election of Officers: Bridgett Blake - Chair
Joshua Johnson - Vice Chair
Jim Sahaida - Secretary

Committee meeting schedule - We will be meeting on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7pm. Will pin down a usual meeting location.

Roles and Responsibilities: our police liaison will be Greg Venneman. He will contact and connect with St. Louis police officer P.J. Wells. Our Court tracker is Bob Dowd. Bob will track arrests and follow court cases with our making impact statements when appropriate. Bob will establish a contact person to work with.

Other Business:

Gates for Carondelet Park have been approved per the Parks Department. RFP's (request for proposals) will be sought for the cost. There will be a meeting this coming Friday with the Park Advisory Group for their approval. There are five vehicle entrances to the Park. At question is who will operate the gates once installed. Volunteers will be sought out. Cars in the Park at night are a problem. There is a limited number of Park rangers. The Park closure hours are between 10pm and 6am. The Infrastructure committee is looking at the infrastructure around the gates for added security. Down the road speed bumps will be a consideration for the Park. \$35,000 is a projected cost for the gates that includes installation. The cost would not come from the Safety and Security funds. The Infrastructure committee will have the responsibility of the RFP for the gates; Safety and Security will be responsible for security relative to the Park.

Sheriffs cost about \$45 to \$50 per hour. Some of the companies doing security are Campbell, TCF, and Hudson. As of now we have approximately \$117,000.00 of funding for Safety and Security. There were no objections to pursuing an RFP for security. Things that need to be considered are: does the security have GPS?, a phone number residents can call, specifics on how reporting is done. Other considerations are insurance, termination/renewal agreements, ability to change hours and days for coverage. There was general agreement on possible hours of patrolling from 11pm to 3am and doing this four days a week to start.

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What we are doing and should be thinking about. Networking with neighbors, block captains, communication such as a newsletter to promote safety and educating the community about safety. There was discussion about being good neighbors watching out for each other.

Cops walking the beat is not practical. Police or security needs to be mobile.

There was discussion that if nothing changes after a year a possible recourse would be to invite representatives from various City officers. If that should be the course we would need to have data to present.

A motion was made to do an RFP for security services. It was approved. There will be a special meeting of the Safety and Security committee with a quorum needed of at minimum of seven committee members. The special meeting will be on Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 7pm with the location TBD. The meeting was adjourned.