

4/18/23

Members in attendance: Nicholas Hartzler Brooks Godeker Richard Hamilton
 Kay Glass Chris Street
 Brett Reinert Mechelle Minden

Meeting was called to order at 6:34.

Meeting Opening

Brett motioned to approve the minutes from March 14th. Mechelle seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously. Christi motioned to approve the minutes from April 6th. Kay seconded. Those minutes were also approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The board's treasurer gave an update on the SBD's assets. The financial statements have been posted to the SBD website.

Nick gave an overview of the city's reassessment process for real estate and how the board will need to specify a new rate for the special business district. The board unanimously agreed that the board will work to match the estimated revenues specified when the SBD was proposed, and not exceed it.

Mechelle Minden asked about the status of investing the board's revenue in treasury bonds. Nick responded that he is currently waiting on a response from the US Treasury Dept. In lieu of investing with the US Treasury Dept he is investigating other avenues of investment.

Mechelle motioned to accept the treasurer's report. Kay seconded. The treasurer's report was unanimously accepted.

Public Infrastructure Committee

Ryan Hanlon, the chair of the infrastructure committee, gave an update on that committee's work. Their focus has been the gates for Carondelet Park. The committee is currently accepting bids for their open RFP.

The infrastructure committee has split up into three teams: traffic calming and pedestrian safety, park gates, and branding and signage. The committee has also been meeting with the Carondelet Park council to coordinate their efforts. The YMCA has shown interest in coordinating with the SBD on the initiative for park gates.

Mechelle Minden on the board asked for specifics on who would open/close the park gates. City officials have commented that they would require paid security officials to open/close the gates.

The infrastructure committee is working with safety & security to understand how they can ensure the gates are opened and closed daily and meet city requirements.

The next meeting of the infrastructure committee will be 4/24.

Safety & Security Committee

Bridgett Blake, the committee's chair, gave an update on the safety & security committee. The committee postponed their April meeting to 4/20 in order to accept as many bids as possible for their open RFP in the hopes of bringing suggestions to the board in May.

Beautification and Landscaping Committee

Angie Butz, the committee's chair, gave an update on the beautification and landscaping committee. The committee has divided itself into several sub-committees. Their next meeting will also be on 4/20. Angie commented on difficulties in communicating with city organizations, and coordinating committee activities with them.

The committee intends to author an RFP for a "master design" for the entire district.

There are currently four sub-committees: mission statement, brightside, federer parkway cleanup, and communication.

Nick requested that the committee document the list of city organizations they are working with in order to share that information with other committees as well as future volunteers.

Angie gave more details on her conversations with the forestry department and that organization's preferences with planting in boulevards.

Other Business

Mechelle Minden introduced the sunshine law request procedure that would be added to the board's by-laws and describe how the SBD would handle sunshine law requests. The changes have been posted to the website. Brett motioned to approve the addition of the procedure to our by-laws. Chris seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Koran Hanks, a representative from the St. Louis neighborhood development corporation. She gave an overview of her work with that organization, which focuses on a number of communities in south city including Holly Hills. The organization focuses on economic development of St. Louis neighborhoods.

The public, as well as the board, asked Koran what her role might be in handling abandoned or otherwise derelict properties in the district boundaries. Koran requested that neighborhood residents always contact her and regardless of her ability to assist directly with the situation she would reach out to the responsible party in the city's government.

Brooks asked if the SLDC has any specific neighborhood planning efforts going on right now. Koran commented that most of the organization's planning efforts are focused on the neighborhoods surrounding the new National Geospatial Intelligence Agency development in North City.

More information on them can be found on the city's website at:
<https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/SLDC/index.cfm>

The newly elected alderwoman of the 1st ward, Anne Schweitzer, gave an update on the 1st ward. She mentioned that each of the city wards would be receiving over \$800,000 for neighborhood maintenance and improvements. She also gave an update on the lot at Holly Hills and Morganford. The building division has issued a citation for the owners of the lot to remove the parked cars within sixty days.

The Friends of Carondelet Park will host a park clean-up in celebration of Earth Day on Saturday 4/22. The group will meet at 9am at the boat house. The organization is also planning a movie night to be hosted in the park for this summer.

Anne also commented on the issue of derelict properties. The city's assessor's office takes three years to move against a property owner that is delinquent on taxes. She encouraged residents to get in contact with the city to have them cite property owners if their properties are unsafe or are violating certain city ordinances.

Monica Ferrar, who has volunteered in the past to decorate the roundabout at Grand and Holly Hills blvd, requested that the SBD provide funding for the decoration of that roundabout for 2023.

Kay motioned to approve the expense of up to \$250 for the decorating of the roundabout after approval by the beautification committee on 4/20. Brett seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Irene Dobberstein asked if the board had acquired more signs for the monthly meetings. The board did a quick poll with the residents present on whether or not more signs were needed. Residents interested in placing signs for the board meetings will get in contact with Chris and Kay to coordinate who will place the signs and where those signs will be placed.

Debbie Schoenle asked for more details on if or how ward capital might be used in coordination with SBD projects. The board commented that while those within the district are entitled to ward capital funds as ward residents, however ward capital would not be used to fund SBD specific projects. The board will work to coordinate their efforts with Alderwoman Schweitzer.

A resident asked how they can contribute ideas to SBD efforts. The board responded that emailing the SBD, or attending a committee meeting, would be the best way to provide input on any use of SBD funds.

Angie Butz commented how the police have begun clearing the park at night and suggested that the park rangers or others in the police department might be able to assist with closing the park gates.

Adjournment

Nick motioned to adjourn at 7:44pm. Kay seconded. The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.