

LOCUST CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

Minutes of the Meeting of March 10, 2021

Board of Commissioners Present:

Michael Beckermann
Karen Drake
John Hayden
Ken Nuernberger
Jennifer Pruehsner

Others Present:

Cara Spencer
Yulonda Carter
Jeanette Bax-Kurtz
Eric Thoelke
Jim Whyte
William Zorn

The regular meeting of the Locust Central Business District (“LBD”) was duly noticed and held on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. via web based tele/video conference Zoom Meeting hosted from the Locust Business District Office located at 715 N. 21st Street, Suite A, St. Louis, Missouri 63103.

A quorum of the Board of Commissioners being present, the meeting was called to order by Mr. Hayden at 4:34 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hayden called for consideration of the minutes of the annual meeting of the Board of Commissioners held on February 10, 2021 which were provided to each Commissioner prior to the meeting.

Motion 3-21-01. Upon motion of Mr. Nuernberger, seconded by Mr. Beckermann, the Board approved the minutes of the February 10, 2021 annual meeting with Commissioners Beckermann, Hayden, Nuernberger and Pruehsner voting in favor.

Ms. Drake joined the meeting at 4:38.

New Business

Mr. Hayden indicated that City Alderwoman and City of St. Louis Mayoral Candidate Cara Spencer is in attendance at today’s meeting. He introduced Ms. Spencer and invited her to share information about herself and her candidacy for Mayor before taking any questions from the Commissioners and other attendees at today’s meeting. Ms. Spencer introduced herself and spoke of her education and work in the private sector prior to becoming Alderman of the 20th Ward in 2015. She spoke of moving the City forward, increased building and opportunities, and addressing violence with her ten point plan. She also spoke of the unprecedented opportunity in the City’s near future

with \$500 Million dollars expected in federal coronavirus relief funds. Ms. Spencer responded to questions from each of the Commissioners. Mr. Hayden thanked Alderwoman and Mayoral candidate Spencer for taking time to share with the Commissioners and answer their questions. Ms. Spencer thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to do so.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Nuernberger indicated that tax revenue was up last year. Ms. Bax-Kurtz provided the Board with updated financial information. She reviewed the budget to actual, profit and loss, balance sheet, statement of income and expenses by class, and the assets available with the Board who were provided with copies of same prior to the meeting. She indicated that the LBD should open another bank account or CD for any funds which will exceed FDIC limits in any single institution. She will be contacting banks about same and requested that the Commissioners give her the names of any banking institutions they think she should contact. She indicated that the LBD has approximately \$73,000 in the bank with about a one-month reserve and expected revenues of \$348,000 to \$349,000 for 2021.

Committee Reports

Security

Mr. Beckermann indicated that there is not much going on in the District of concern security-wise. He indicated that Paul Henkhaus of Gold Shield Security said it's quiet in the District with low crime. The Gold Shield reports have no incidents.

Mr. Thielke indicated that the intersection at Locust and Compton is very dangerous and that cars don't stop at the stop signs. He indicated one car flipped and burned at that intersection. Discussion ensued regarding general disregard of traffic laws and rules in the City especially downtown including in front of the Police Headquarters and possible ways to curb the problem. Ms. Pruehsner suggested that someone from the Streets Department be invited to attend one of the next LBD meetings to address the problem and discuss what can be done about it. Mr. Thielke thanked the Commissioners and indicated he will help in any way he can.

Marketing

Ms. Carter indicated with that the survey has been approved and a link to same will follow shortly for her to put on the LBD website. Additionally, Elasticity will send the survey link to a list they have compiled.

New Business

Mr. Hayden indicated that Jack Dempsey Needle Art at 1822 Locust is hiring and that The Hornet's Nest Café at 3135 Olive has recently opened. A discussion ensued regarding introducing the LBD to new businesses and providing information about the LBD to them as well as sharing information about new and existing businesses in the District to the businesses, residents of and visitors to the LBD.

Ms. Drake indicated that Gateway Greening is accepting letters of support regarding the community garden at T.E. Huntley and Olive. Ms. Drake indicated it is not a request for funding, but just to show support of this garden which grows food for people in the 19th Ward, provides some education regarding the benefits of fresh food, and provides a gathering place with some benches for the community. Mr. Hayden indicated a letter will be sent. Mr. Beckermann suggested information about the garden be added to the LBD website.

Mr. Nuernberger suggested a letter be sent to the Mayor's office requesting the appointment of a full slate of Commissioners to the LBD.

Ms. Pruehsner indicated there is a new Starbuck's on Jefferson which opened since the closing of the one at 6th and Olive.

Mr. Hayden indicated that the Malone building at 2656 Locust should be opening soon. Mr. Nuernberger indicated that he will get the opening information and share it at the next meeting.

There being no additional business to discuss, Mr. Hayden called for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Pruehsner moved to adjourn, Mr. Nuernberger seconded the motion and the Commissioners unanimously approved adjournment of the meeting at 6:09 p.m.


Secretary, Board of Commissioners