

LOCUST CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

Minutes of the Meeting of December 13, 2023

Board of Commissioners Present:

Michael Beckermann
Karen Drake (via Zoom)
John Hayden
Nicole Lewis
Ken Nuernberger
Jennifer Pruehsner

Others Present:

Ann Kittlaus
Yulonda Carter
Theresa Hargrow-Simmons
DeAnna Murphy
Victor Washington
Paul Henkhaus
Jeanette Bax-Kurtz
William Zorn

The regular meeting of the Locust Central Business District ("LBD") was duly noticed and held on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. via web based tele/video conference Zoom Meeting hosted from and also held in person at 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 4:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hayden called for consideration of the minutes of the November 8, 2023 regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners which were provided to each Commissioner prior to the meeting.

Motion 12-23-01. Upon motion of Mr. Beckermann, seconded by Ms. Pruehsner, the Board approved the minutes of the November 8, 2023 meeting with Commissioners Beckermann, Drake, Hayden, Lewis, Nuernberger and Pruehsner voting in favor and none opposed.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Nuernberger presented and reviewed the financial reports. Discussion ensued regarding banner costs and fees as well as cost associated with the LBD parking lot and possible addition of LED lighting to the parking lot.

Motion 12-23-02. Upon motion of Ms. Pruehsner, seconded by Mr. Beckermann, the Board approved moving forward to obtain pricing for the cost of adding LED lighting to the LBD parking lot with Commissioners Beckermann, Drake, Hayden, Lewis, Nuernberger and Pruehsner voting in favor and none opposed.

Committee Reports

Security

Mr. Beckermann indicated that there has been very little activity with continued car break-ins. He noted that crime is down in the City overall. Mr. Beckermann reported that there was no additional activity associated with Harris-Stowe University students in the LBD.

Paul Henkhaus of Gold Shield Security provided a crime report. He reiterated that there was no further issues associated with Harris-Stowe. He indicated that Gold Shield is staggering shifts. He reported one robbery near 20th and Locust resulting in a stolen car and the victim struck in the head. Two people were arrested, as the car was tracked, and there is no bond set for the two suspects. He indicated that the relationship between the SLMPD and the Circuit Attorney's Office has greatly improved since the hiring of the new Circuit Attorney. He noted five vehicle thefts with a couple of them being non-returns at Enterprise and one being a car with keys left inside. He also noted that a black Charger wanted by nine police departments was involved in a robbery outside of the LBD's boundaries.

Mr. Hayden inquired about the Real Time Crime Center cameras in the LBD and whether they recorded any of the activity. Mr. Henkaus indicated that he's not sure which cameras of the RTCC are working and noted there has been a lot of turnover at the RTCC. He suggested contacting Marcos Silva at RTCC. He also noted that the SLMPD is down 425 officers which equates to 71 down per district and 23 down per shift. Mr. Henkhaus indicated that with the improvement in morale, hopefully recruiting will also improve. Discussion ensued regarding the reduction in crime overall in the City.

Mr. Henkhaus indicated that the Tap Room is under new management, and there are continued issues with cars break-ins involving the Tap Room's patron's cars during the busy holiday season. Mr. Hayden reminded all that stakeholders should let Gold Shield know when they are having events so that Gold Shield can be sure to be aware and patrol during those times.

Director's Report

Ms. Kittlaus indicated that she has completed her first full month in role. She indicated that she met with Grand Center this morning and they were glad to see a liaison from the LBD. She has met with all of the Commissioners and many stakeholders and has begun meeting with parties outside of the LBD. Via "coffee shop diplomacy" she has met with the head of CDA regarding the Neighborhood Transformation Grant and is curious about supplemental income for additional security received by Downtown. She

indicated there is no additional tax revenue from City Park, but that the LBD can still partner with them on security and other matters. She noted that Midtown Alley is moving forward with banners, and Ms. Kittlaus encouraged them to add "powered by Locust Business District" or a similar phrase, which they have agreed to include. She indicated that she had a meeting with Alderman Rasheen Aldrich which was cancelled, but that Alderman Aldrich has agreed to come to the next LBD meeting. Alderwoman Laura Keys will also be invited to the LBD meetings. Ms. Kittlaus indicated she wants to build communications with constituents and suggested that a blog or website may be somewhat dated, but in any case wants to include businesses, people and events and share same to build community in and around the LBD. She indicated that lighting is still a priority in the LBD. She noted that the Great Rivers Greenway on 20th street though the District is coming and that she will meet with one of the Vice Presidents that she knows at Harris-Stowe in the new year. Discussion ensued.

Old Business

Victor Washington of New Life Landscaping updated the Commissioners regarding trash and beautification efforts in the District and shared additional photos with the Commissioners. Discussion of trash pickup and street sweeping ensued.

Clean Up Day

Mr. Hayden indicated that the LBD Clean Up Day in November was a great success with 16 or 17 participants including NIS Murphy and team, two residents and their kids as well as Commissioners Beckermann and Pruehsner. He suggested doing the clean-up two times per year.

New Business

Mr. Hayden indicated that the MOPERM insurance was renewed, that 15 new trash receptacles were ordered. He thanked Director Kittlaus for the great job she is doing.

Mr. Hayden requested that Ms. Bax-Kurtz send the approved LBD budget to the City.

Mr. Beckermann thanked the Commissioners for the flowers the LBD sent upon the passing of his mother.

There being no additional business to discuss, Mr. Hayden called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Nuernberger moved to adjourn, Ms. Pruehsner seconded the motion and the Commissioners unanimously approved adjournment of the meeting at 5:57 p.m.


Secretary, Board of Commissioners