

LOCUST CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

Minutes of the Meeting of March 9, 2022

Board of Commissioners Present:

Michael Beckermann
Karen Drake
John Hayden
Ken Nuernberger
Jennifer Pruehsner

Others Present:

Yulonda Carter
Jeanette Bax-Kurtz
Dr. Cheryl Watkins
Eulonda Nevels
Aimee Frey
Lillie Harvey
Nicole Lewis
Officer James Harris III
James Buchanan
Aimee Frey
Kimberly Beck
Natasia Nedrick
Teresa Hargrow-Simmons
Victor Washington
William Zorn

The regular meeting of the Locust Central Business District (“LBD”) was duly noticed and held on Wednesday, March 9 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 4:32 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 9, 2022 which were provided to each Commissioner prior to the meeting.

Motion 3-22-01. Upon motion of Ms. Pruehsner, seconded by Mr. Beckermann, the Board approved the minutes of the February 9, 2022 annual meeting with Commissioners Beckermann, Drake, Hayden, Nuernberger and Pruehsner voting in favor.

Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Nuernberger and Ms. Bax-Kurtz provided the Board with updated financial information. Mr. Nuernberger indicated that current assets are approximately \$366,000. He requested Mr. Zorn to check with the City for additional available funds which are estimated to be approximately \$100,000. Mr. Nuernberger reviewed the February bills. Ms. Bax-Kurtz reviewed the budget to actual for the past two months and indicated that the LBD is pretty much right on budget. She also noted that the parking lot is at break even.

New Business

Mr. Hayden welcomed and introduced Dr. Cheryl Watkins the CEO of St. Louis YWCA. Dr. Watkins indicated that YWCA is one of the top 25 non-profit organizations in the region. She highlighted their Head Start program in the City and St. Louis County, their Women's Services and the facility and services provided at the Phyllis Wheatley branch which is located in the LBD. She also introduced the YWCA staff/team including Eulonda Nevels, director of facilities and Aimee Frey, annual giving/special events. Ms. Frey described a sexual assault nursing event/exam/training that the YWCA is hosting as well as similar police officer training. They also offer low-income apartments for women in the adjacent Phyllis Wheatley Apartments. Dr. Watkins indicated she would love to collaborate with the LBD and looks forward to hosting the LBD at the Phyllis Wheatley facility when the current renovations are completed.

Mr. Hayden welcomed Mr. James Buchanan from the City of St. Louis SLDC. Mr. Buchanan indicated that there is a major restructuring at SLDC and that funding for public improvement projects is being made available. He indicated that SLDC intends to do a public improvement project for each business district. He noted that lighting projects or other such improvements are good candidates. Discussion ensued regarding no littering signage, greater police presence, tree planting, sidewalks, and other potential improvement projects. Mr. Buchanan suggested that the Commissioners make a wish list of potential projects.

Mr. Hayden introduced Kimberly Beck, executive director of The Salvation Army's Midtown Service and Treatment Center. Ms. Beck and Ms. Natasia Nedrick of Central Baptist Church indicated that their institutions together are hosting a Family Fest on April 16th from Garrison to TE Huntley on Washington Ave. There will be a family fun zone, a bounce house, mental health services, home buying information, financial literacy, legal services and much more. She hopes that the LBD and business in the area will participate. Ms. Pruehsner indicated that information on the festival can be added to the LBD website. Mr. Hayden agreed. Ms. Beck indicated that the flyer is currently being finalized and that she will share it as soon as it is available.

Committee Reports

Security

Mr. Beckermann indicated that it has been fairly quiet in the District aside from the usual car break-ins. He noted that all of the security cameras in the District are working, including a couple which were replaced, with the exception of one at Olive and Leffingwell.

Officer James Harris III introduced himself at the community outreach officer of the 4th District and on behalf of Gold Shield Security. He provided a crime report which included one burglary from a mail room, eight larcenies from cars, one building break in and an incident of residential packages being stolen. He indicated that more officers are available for secondary security, and that the mobile camera sky cop units are available to be located by request. He indicated that nine sky cop units are available, so requests to locate them in particular areas are being met fairly quickly.

Marketing

Mr. Hayden noted that no representatives from Elasticity are present.

New Business - continued

Ms. Hayden indicated that vendors' responses to the LBD Requests for Proposals are due back on April 8th.

Mr. Hayden indicated that New Life Landscaping has submitted proposals to trim trees in the District for \$2,000 and the dig up and replace dead shrubs on the LBD parking lot with new shrubs for \$1,496.82. Mr. Washington indicated the proposal included trimming of a majority of the 49 trees on Locust a few more on Olive and Washington. The proposals were shared with the Commissioners. Discussion ensued.

Motion 3-22-02. Upon motion of Ms. Pruehsner, seconded by Mr. Nuernberger, the Board approved the two landscaping proposals from New Life Landscaping with Commissioners Beckermann, Drake, Hayden, Nuernberger and Pruehsner voting in favor.

Mr. Hayden indicated that there are additional charges associated with the holiday decorations to discuss. Mr. Washington indicated there was an extra day of rental fees for the scissor lift. Mr. Hayden indicated there is some confusion regarding the billing for the holiday decorations and the contract amount for the hanging and taking down of the decorations. Discussion ensued. Ms. Carter will circulate copies of the contract and invoices for the holiday decorations for review before the next meeting.

There being no additional business to discuss, Mr. Hayden called for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Drake moved to adjourn, Mr. Beckermann seconded the motion and the Commissioners unanimously approved adjournment of the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

Secretary, Board of Commissioners