

Cathedral Square Special Business District

Regular Meeting 6:30 p.m., September 15, 2021

The Greystone - 410 North Newstead Avenue

Commissioners Present: Imran Hanafi, Arthur Hoffman, Kenneth Sowell, Claudia Wall, Carolyn Welton

Commissioners Absent: Mike Roth

Others Present: Sherry Copeland and Doug Ong, both residents of Westminster Place; Gary Cole of GCI Security and Laura Bushey, McPherson resident.

Not all commissioners had had a chance to read the minutes from the August meeting so a vote on their approval was deferred.

Security Report

Cole outlined the report previously distributed via email. The report showed that car cloutings were the most frequently reported issue of the period. Car cloutings also were a big problem throughout the greater Central West End, the report showed. Also, catalytic converter thefts continue to be widely reported Citywide, Cole said.

Westminster Place residents Copeland and Ong reported incidents they had witnessed in the past month. Copeland said that a Ring camera aimed at her car set off lights after 4 a.m. She looked out her window to see two black men examining her car, seemingly unconcerned about its lights going on. Obviously, the casual attitude of the two concerned Copeland.

Commissioner Sowell said that he had witnessed a black female checking cars on Westminster Place in the early morning hours in the period.

Copeland and Ong questioned commissioners and Cole on how NSI and the CSSBD coordinated on crime prevention. Their questions led to a discussion of the history of the CSSBD leaving the NSI. The reasons for that decision several years ago included the fact that the makeup of the CSSBD differs substantially from that of other SBDs in the NSI. For example, the CSSBD has no retail or commercial constituents while other SBDs have substantial retail and commercial constituencies. The CSSBD's unique constituency includes only home owners, renters and nonprofits. This basic difference means that the CSSBD has a different focus than other NSI SBDs.

That fact coupled with the high cost of NSI affiliation brought about the decision to internalize management of security in the CSSBD rather than pay the NSI to handle management. [Revenue](#) saved by that decision has meant that more funds could be spent not only on security itself but also on other district needs such as lighting and maintenance of district assets such as fences, planted areas and trees. It also made available more funding for special projects such as traffic calming features and curb cuts for access by people using wheelchairs.

Cole described to Copeland and Ong how GCI routinely works with NSI's Jim Whyte, describing their working relationship as very good and productive.

Commissioners shared residents' frustration with crimes that seemed to bubble up and then go away for reasons unknown. In some cases in the past, a single perpetrator has been responsible for a number of crimes in the district and surrounding Central West End neighborhood. When that individual is apprehended, the wave of crimes stops.

There was general agreement that what is called for is consistent management and regular patrolling with modifications as necessary. There is no single solution or magic bullet.

Separately, Cole promised to present a proposal for the camera on Welton's house damaged in a recent storm. He cautioned that, as with other imported consumer goods, supply issues have slowed deliveries of this kind of equipment.

Treasurer Report

Wall distributed the report. The 2022 budget for the district will be prepared shortly, Wall said.

New Business

Discussion with Westminster Place residents re crime management questions consumed the evening. So new business was brought forward.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Arthur Hoffman, acting secretary.

