

Cathedral Square Special Business District

Regular Meeting 6:30 p.m., June 16, 2021

The Greystone - 410 North Newstead Avenue

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

Others Present: Gary Cole and Ron Hasty of GCI Security and Laura Bushey, McPherson resident, who has expressed an interest in joining the CSSBD.

Laura Bushey was welcomed to the meeting and her participation in meetings was encouraged. A brief overview of the CSSBD mission, District territory and functioning was provided by Commissioners.

Minutes were approved.

Security Report

Hasty outlined the report previously distributed via email. Theft of catalytic converters continues to be an issue within and outside the CSSBD. Also, Citywide, there are more reports of “shots fired.” Hasty said that gang activity outside the District was believed to be the cause and theorized that we have not had gang activity within the District because it is known that we have continuing security patrols.

There was a discussion of locations for the two surveillance cameras freed up by the NSI installation on the pole at 2nd Presbyterian Church. Welton agreed to check with businesses on Boyle for their willingness to place a west-facing camera on Maryland Avenue on their roof; Roth agreed to check with the nuns for their willingness to have a camera placed on their property at Westminster Place and Boyle. This camera would face south on Boyle.

Hanafi and Hoffman agreed to collaborate on updating the handout on ways residents can protect their cars and valuables from vehicular crimes.

Treasurer Report

Wall distributed the report. No unusual budget activity occurred during the period, and the District has more than adequate funds to address major budget areas planned for the year.

New Business

Hanafi reported that the eight dead ash trees on Newstead, Lindell and Boyle can be removed and their stumps ground down to grade for \$5000. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept this bid to remove dead ash trees.

Hanafi also reported that the apartment complex no longer will maintain the plantings on its side of Maryland Avenue at Taylor as it has in the past. The condo association for the building across Maryland Avenue has told Hanafi that it will take over maintenance. The general sense of the board was that we should provide reasonable funding for plants as needed.

The Taylor Park has been effectively “orphaned.” Its creators no longer will fund its maintenance, Hanafi has learned. He pointed out that it will be expensive to maintain because of the quantity of plantings and the high finish of the gazebo structure. Hanafi expects that Park maintenance likely will become a collaboration by a number of interested parties.

Re the Maryland cul de sac at Boyle, Hanafi said that five sections of modular fencing will be required to replace that destroyed by the motorist last year. The fencing will be installed after the City completes its bicycle cut-through planned for that stretch of Maryland and Boyle. Part of the City plan includes bollards that will protect both the cut-through and our new fencing. The District also will fund new plantings once the cut-through and fencing installations are completed.

Hoffman said that he would connect with the tree service firm recommended by former District arborist Alex Peraud who is moving out of the City. He will ask the firm to bid on Peraud’s last recommendation to the District and assess its interest in a continuing relationship with the District.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Arthur Hoffman, acting secretary.