

MINUTES
U City Loop Special Business District Board Meeting
University City Public Library
6701 Delmar Blvd, University City, MO 63130
Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Attending Board Members: Derek Deaver, Michael Alter, Mary Gorman, Renau Bozarth, Max Sassouni, and Mohammed Qadadeh.

Absent Board Member(s): Dan Wald

Others in Attendance: Mayor Terry Crow, Deputy City Manager Brooke Smith, City Clerk Lurette Reese, Montez Miles, Captain Dana Morley, Mike Giger, Suzanne Schoomer, Audrey Jones, Steve Condrin, Joanna Schooler, Kevin Korinek, Elizabeth Donielle, Cher Wei, David Sandel, Doug Gilbert, Allison Bozarth, Jay Trudeau, Jessie Falkner, William Tucker, Deb Henderson, Royalte Stefon, Prince Smith, Joe Edwards, and Samantha Smugala.

Call to Order: The meeting began at 9:05 a.m. with a quorum.

Public Comments: Joe Edwards recommended a change to the meeting minutes to correct a spelling error.

Cher Wei representing Corner 17 shared details about their security concerns regarding the recent car break-ins in parking lot 4 as well as their dine-dash issues. Prince Smith shared the same concerns regarding their business The Attic of Magick.

Mary Gorman reemphasized the same concerns regarding this issue. Max Sassouni stated his goal as a board member is to improve the perception of security in the Loop and make it a safer place.

Robert's Rules of Order: City Clerk Lurette Reese reviewed Robert's Rules of Order with the Loop Special Business District Board.

Approval of the Minutes: Mary Gorman made a motion to approve the December 12, 2023 LSBSD board meeting minutes. Michael Alter seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the motion to approve the December 12, 2023 LSBSD Board meeting minutes was passed.

University City Updates:

- i. **City Hall Updates** – Mayor Terry Crow shared details about the old Commerce Bank site development and shared his concerns with regards to the security issues presented during the public comments. Mayor Crow spoke about the \$10 million dollar investment that will go towards the 156 unit building on Westgate behind Ranoush. Mayor Crow gave a brief recap of the University City Council Meeting.

Deputy City Manager Brooke Smith shared details about the deadline for the EDRST applications along with the façade improvement applications.

- ii. **Security Updates** – Captain Fredrick Lemons addressed the concerns regarding the recent break-ins and additional security issues affecting the Delmar Loop and University City areas. Captain Lemons shared details on how the University City Police Department is working on combating these issues through new technology and additional strategic operations. Captain Lemons spoke with those in attendance to answer and address questions and concerns while offering additional suggestions.

Mohammed Qadadeh stated that as a restaurant owner he would like to see more officers on a regular basis to increase the police presence in the Delmar Loop and asked what it would take to achieve this goal.

Michael Alter asked if there were any additional steps that the LSBDB board could take to help resolve this issue. Captain Lemons expressed that additional discussions can be set up with the LSBDB board to actively engage with one another to address these ongoing issues.

Washington University Update – Joanna Schooler did not have any updates to share.

New Business Opening: Rhonda Taylor, owner of Hatchet Haus shared details about her axe throwing business and the axe throwing professionals they employ, along with other entertainment they will offer when they open in April at 6662 Delmar.

Trees in the Loop: David Sandel presented the LSBDB board with an initiative on the installation of new canopy trees in the Delmar Loop and how it will improve the perception, aesthetics, and quality of the area.

Chairman Derek Deaver inquired about the possible budget needed for the proposed new trees. Doug Gilbert answered with an estimation of \$300 per tree. Michael Alter recommended connecting with U City in Bloom to assist in this collaboration.

Treasurers Report: Chairman Derek Deaver estimated that \$80,000 would be going into the LSBDB Bank account later in January.

Loop Events / Marketing:

Chairman Derek Deaver spoke about the planning and budget for the upcoming Loop Ice Carnival on January 20, 2024.

Audrey Jones announced Recycle Now & Forever was the theme of the public art installation for this year's 15th Annual Mannequins in the Loop. Mrs. Jones shared the kickoff date for April 20, 2024 at Blueberry Hill with the installation date

scheduled for May 18, 2024 to which the mannequins will be on display through June 9, 2024.

Chairman Derek Deaver shared details about the Loop Wallz Mural Festival that is being curated by Peat Wollaeger, along with the artistic updates that were being coordinated in the Delmar Loop to assist the area in having it designated as an Art District in Missouri.

Old Business: Michael Alter inquired about the Loop 420 Event and the status of the planning progress. Jay Trudeau indicated that he will be going around to local businesses to speak about the event and the planning.

New Business: There was no new business to discuss.

Public Comments: Jay Trudeau inquired about who to contact regarding a damaged lamp post in front of the Emporium Smoke Shop. Chairman Derek Deaver indicated that he will contact Ameren to discuss next steps.

The LSBDB board adjourned the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

Announcements: Chairman Derek Deaver announced that the next LSBDB board meeting will be held at the University City Public Library on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. If you have any business events, sales, promotions, please email jessica@visittheloop.com to be included on the website, social media postings, and weekly email blasts.