

MINUTES
U City Loop Special Business District Board Meeting
University City Public Library
6701 Delmar Blvd, University City, MO 63130
Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Attending Board Members: Derek Deaver, Michael Alter, Dan Wald, and Renau Bozarth.

Absent Board Member(s): Mary Gorman, Max Sassouni, and Mohammed Qadadeh.

Others in Attendance: Deputy City Manager Brooke Smith, Montez Miles, Captain Dana Morley, Rebecca Keiber, Suzanne Schoomer, Audrey Jones, Qui Liu, Alison Bozarth, Jesse Gilbertson, Jacob Kaiser, Jerry Solovitz, John Grizzell, David Sandel, Kevin Korinek, JoAnna Schooler, Steve Condrin, Joe Edwards, and Samantha Smugala.

Call to Order: The meeting began at 9:08 a.m. with a quorum.

Public Comments: Joe Edwards shared comments on the feedback received for the St. Louis Walk of Fame booklet, the Where Magazine and the Loop Ice Carnival. Joe made mention of broken street pole and recommended public works investigate.

John Grizzell mentioned that he felt the Loop was looking a lot cleaner.

Approval of the Minutes: Dan Wald made a motion to approve the January 9, 2024 LSBSD board meeting minutes. Michael Alter seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the motion to approve the January 9, 2024 LSBSD Board meeting minutes was passed.

University City Updates:

- i. **City Hall Updates** – Deputy City Manager Brooke Smith provided a brief update along with expected timeframes on the 21 EDRST applications received with 10 of those applications being submitted by the LSBSD. Deputy City Manager Smith stated that the virtual meeting will be scheduled soon where the EDRST Board will vote on the submissions, and that a link to the meeting will be posted on the city website.
- ii. **Security Updates** – Captain Dana Morley reminded employees and customers to not leave valuables in their cars, and to not leave their cars running and unattended.

University City Library Update – Kevin Korinek spoke about the library being open now and they are offering tax help for seniors. Mr. Korinek shared details about the status of the elevator repair along with the upcoming Memorial Day Run.

Washington University Update – Joanna Schooler thanked the University City police for their partnership with the Washington University police during Mardis Gras and shared that spring break was March 10-16.

Trees in the Loop: David Sandel shared a presentation outlining the importance and value of new tree installations in the Delmar Loop. Mr. Sandel collaborated with Jesse Gilbertson, U City in Bloom, Jacob Kasier, University City Forester, and Sam Fox, Landscape Architect Student to see what it would take to generate renderings of what new trees and planters would look like in the Loop. Jesse Gilbertson talked about some of the issues facing the Loop and how to uplift and improve the look of the area with new trees, indicating over 50% of the tree wells in the Loop needed replacing. Mr. Gilbertson spoke about how U City in Bloom operates and how they can help moving forward.

David Sandel proposed budgeting \$1,000 for a conceptual rendering of new trees in the Loop. Michael Alter indicated that the LSBDB board is in full favor new trees in the Loop, and acknowledged that the LSBDB does not have specific funding for this proposal. Mr. Alter offered to fund the \$1,000 for the rendering of the new trees on behalf of Fitz's to assist with this planning.

Treasurers Report: Dan Wald shared that the LSBDB began the month with a balance of \$11,227 and ended with a balance of \$26,980.

Loop Events / Marketing: Audrey Jones shared details about the upcoming annual Mannequins Project and that people can sign up now.

Old Business: There was no old business to discuss.

New Business: Michael Alter shared some perspectives about the street closures for the events in the Delmar Loop. Mr. Alter recommended putting a temporary pause on closing the street for events for the time being, with an exception for the Loop 420 Fest. Mr. Alter would like for the LSBDB to develop a checklist of criteria that would need to be met in order to shut down the street for future events.

Dan Wald stated that he is in favor of events that require the street closures and that the LSBDB could look at closing different streets and utilize parking lot 4. Mr. Wald was concerned a motion to pause the street closures for events would send a message that the LSBDB board is not in favor of these types of events and that he believes the city enjoys them. Michael Alter agreed that street closure events are good and that the LSBDB board needs a little time to create a plan to better guide them in the future. Mr. Wald also shared his concerns on events that are focused only on local businesses, and that there could be a lot of value in bringing outside elements into the Loop that are appealing in order to attract new people to the area. Michael Alter suggested the potential for doing less events with larger budgets to allow for greater success and to attract more people when the LSBDB decides to close the streets for an event. Mr. Alter shared his concerns with local businesses that choose not to participate in the LSBDB events.

Michael Alter made a motion to postpone street closures for events after the Loop 420 Fest. Dan Wald seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the motion to approved postponing street closures for events after the Loop 420 Fest was passed.

Public Comments: There were no additional public comments.

The LSBDD board adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Announcements: Chairman Derek Deaver announced that the next LSBDD board meeting will be held at the University City Public Library on Tuesday, March 12, 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.