The TIMES of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis | FREE | Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

ST ROCH SCHOOL CLOSES

By Mike Stevens and Linda Cross

As recently announced, the Archdiocese of St. Louis decided to close St. Roch School. The Catholic grade school has been operational in the neighborhood for over 100 years, and multiple generations of Skinker-DeBaliviere neighbors have attended the school. The decision was primarily driven by low enrollment numbers for next year, which dipped to eighty-one students. No one is faulting any parent who decided to transfer or not re-enroll. The negative impact created by the Archdiocese's decision to close the Parish last May, despite our valid appeal, was ultimately too much to overcome.

Per a lease agreement with the Archdiocese, the St. Roch Parish will be allowed to keep any proceeds from the sale or lease of the buildings on the two parcels of land that the contain the school and church. The parish council is studying the most effective use of the school buildings and how to maximize value to benefit the Parish. It is important to remember that the school decision does not impact the Parish. The closure appeal is alive and active at the Vatican. The Parish has continuing obligations and expenses and needs continuing support. If you haven't attended Mass lately or walked by the church at mass time, you are in for a treat. Our mass attendance has skyrocketed since Father Frank Reale took over and electrified the congregation. Come join us.

photo by Andy Cross

St. Roch School

VOLUNTEERS MULCH SKINKER BOULEVARD

Paul Kurtz, Mary Lou Green, Margaret Welch, Nicole Blumner, Jason Yi, Jennifer Dewar. Not pictured-Jeff Stokes and Warren Rosenblum.
Team mulched the young trees along Skinker from Delmar to Forest Park Parkway as well as mulched and weeded the lot on Westminster. Thanks for their hard work and to the City for providing the mulch.

Introducing a new Washington University Liason for Skinker-Debaliviere

Carynn (Kay-Rin) Smith, Associate Director, Programming and Campus Vibrancy for Campus Life, Washington University in St. Louis

Love to Write? Any Suggestions for a an Article for the Times?

This publication is written by volunteers 5 times a year. It's a great way to get involved and give back to our community. We'd love to hear your suggestions for content and consider your articles.

Please email lcross@sdtimes.org with your thoughts and articles.

BE INFORMED, BE INVOLVED, VOTE:

August 6, 2024 PRIMARY ELECTION

Primary Election - (Federal Election)

IMPORTANT DATES

06/25/24: Application-based absentee voting (both by mail and in-person) begins.

07/10/24: Last day to register to vote in this election.

07/23/24: No excuse needed absentee voting begins.

07/24/24: Last day to request an application-based absentee ballot by mail.

08/05/24: Last day to vote absentee in person (both types).

08/06/24: Election day. All mail-in ballots must be received by 7 PM. All in-person voters must be in line to vote by 7 PM.

YOU CAN REVIEW ALL CANDIDATES AT :

https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/board-election-commissioners/documents/upload/List-of-Candidates-Rev-3-26-24-1.pdf

Editor's Notes

By Linda Cross

Our neighborhood is definitely showing it's best colors. Trees are flowering and popping some green leaves and crocuses and tulips have bloomed. The weather has absolutely cooperated to keep those blooms on the magnolias and redbud trees. This, however, has been juxtaposed with history-changing activities in the neighborhood. The archdiocese has decided to close St. Roch School – an enduring institution for over 100 years. This was a devastating blow. It's not just that I will miss the children playing outside my window while I am working at home, but the families of the 81 displaced children will now spend time at other locations for sports, activities, and church services rather than our neighborhood. In addition, families with small children may not move into our neighborhood. I know personally of a family with three small children that was looking at a home in our neighborhood, but with the threat of the St. Roch School closure, they chose another neighborhood. In addition, we have more and more non-owner-occupied homes that are being leased out and Washington University has purchased nine more buildings and lots on Delmar in addition to several multi-family units that they own in the neighborhood. The fabric of our neighborhood is changing. Keep in mind that Washinton University is a good neighbor. The apartment building next to my home used to be a crack-house and is now Wash U student housing- safe and secure with nice landscaping. What we need to acknowledge is that change happens. How do we respond to it? The beauty of our neighborhood has been its diversity, its proximity to Delmar and Forest Park, and its incredible informed and active neighbors. We need to celebrate and nurture those characteristics that make this neighborhood great while embracing the best of a forward-looking community - sustainability, walkability, diversity, and activity.

Guidelines for Submitting Copy

The Times welcomes unsolicited articles and letters. Because of the small size and volunteer nature of the writing staff, the quality and range of the *Times* has always depended in large part on submissions from non-staff area residents.

The writer is responsible for the accuracy of the data, including times, dates, location, and particularly the spelling of names. The editor retains the right to omit or alter any material. Opinions expressed in Commentaries are the opinion of the author.

Deadline for next issue: May 15, 2024
for our summer issue. Please send copy
by e-mail to Linda Cross, lcross@sdtimes.org.

The TIMES of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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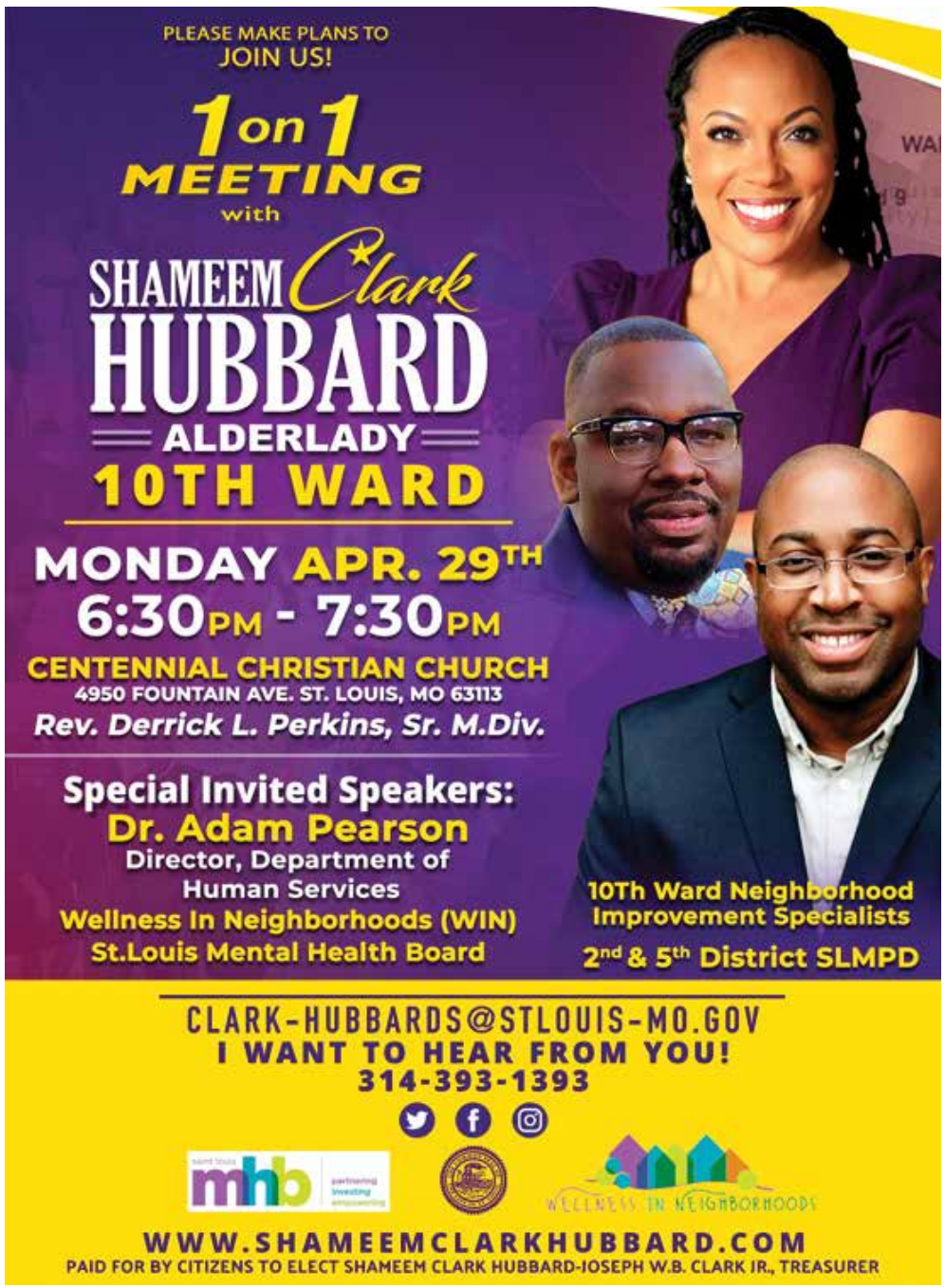
Readers are welcome to send us e-mail or letters commenting on any of our content. Send to lcross@sdtimes.org.

FREE MULCH:

Thanks to the efforts of parishioners Andy Cross and Bob Dowgwillo, the City's Division of Forestry has delivered mulch for just this purpose. The mulch is located on the 6100 Block of Pershing and is free for the taking. Please help yourself.



I am so excited about the journey we are on in The 10th Ward! Our ward is made up of 8 amazing neighborhoods and my campaign slogan was "8 neighborhoods plus you and me = The POWER of 10" I continue to be excited about this opportunity to serve down at the St.Louis City Board of Alderman to advocate on behalf of our constituents and deliver resources back to our communities. We create a 1on1 space every last Monday of the month to fellowship with neighbors from across the entire ward in efforts to move our neighborhoods forward. This month we will meet on Monday April 29, 2024, 6:30pm-7:30pm at Centennial Christian Church,4950 Fountain Ave, 63113. Our invited speaker will be Dr.Pearson, Director of Human Services for the City of St.Louis as well as our 10Th Ward Neighborhood Improvement Specialists and representatives from our 5th and 2nd District St.louis Metropolitan Police Department. Please remember you never have to wait for a meeting to reach out to your AlderLady! I can be reached directly on my cellphone at 3143931393, via email at clark-hubbards@stlouis-mo.gov, or on my social media platforms or shameemclarkhubbard.com

BeBlessed, Shameem

News of Neighbors

Dan and Molly Rater

Dan and Molly Rater of Kingsbury Place, are going on a Caribbean cruise in May to celebrate theirr 30th wedding anniversary. One of the stops is the Island of Dominica where Molly was a Peace Corps volunteer 1991-92 and Dan visited her there. They are hoping to get a private driver to take them back to the village where Molly was stationed. Dominica was stricken with a major hurricane several years ago so will be interesting to see how things are now...

Claire Rater

Claire Rater of Kingsbury Place was awarded a Fulbright scholarship and will be studying in Columbia South America next year. She will be studying snake bite toxicology prevention in rural communities She is graduating from the University of Washington in May with majors in Public health and Social work.

Christian, Gretchen, Matt, Maddy, and Rachel Boxdorfer

Congratulations to Matt Boxdorfer of the 6100 block of Kingsbury on his retirement. Matt worked for 36 years in the paint industry, all with Sherwin Williams.

Do you have news to share? Please send your submissions via email with the subject line News of Neighbors to lcross@sdtimes.org. Be sure to mark it "News of Neighbors". We love to hear about neighbors accomplishments, awards, travels, weddings, anniversaries, births, and more!

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council (SDCC)

January 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Tracy Granneman (President, Rosedale), Molly Rater (Secretary, Kingsbury Square), Yvette Kell (Treasurer, Washington Heights), Jim Holzer (Rosedale),AnnaMarie Bliss (at large), JoAnna Schooler (Washington University), Tim Woodcock(Rosedale) Karen Stokes (Grace Methodist) John Wright (Parkview Agents), Linda Cross (Rosedale), Nathaniel Rivers (Washington Heights)

Not Present: Carl Merritt (Cote Brillante), Mike Stephens (Parkview), Kathryn Bulard (BuseyBank)

Visitors: Andy Cross (beautification), Marv Nodiff (HZC), NIS Sheree Hickman, Kaitlin Daniels (Dog Park), Arline Webb (neighbor), Jamie Kenyon (neighbor), Redell Hendricks (Washington University), Roger Harris (Washington Heights)

Meeting was called to Order at 7:05 by Zoom. Quorum with 9/14 board members present

JoAnna announced that Alderperson Hubbard would likely not be present due to Public Safety Forum she was participating in

Tracy announced that Kim Freter emailed her before the meeting stating that St Roch would take a pause on membership to the SDCC due to uncertain future (appeal to keep Parish open pending with Vatican) Unknown if this was her independent decision or voted on by Parish Council/School Board. Tracy will follow up with Mike Stephens for more information

Roger Harris introduced as potential new board member from Washington Heights. He lives in the 5900 block of DeGiverville. Approval was unanimous. Roger welcomed to the board Tracy reported that Terell Riggins, long time neighbor from Rosedale, expressed interest in being on the board but was not at tonight's meeting

EXECUTIVE BOARD SLATE PROPOSED AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (no other nominations)

President-Tracy Granneman

Vice President-Vacant

Treasurer-Yvette Kell

Secretary-Molly Rater

APPROVAL OF STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Security-Grady Vaughan

Financial-Yvette Kell

Historic-AnnaMarie Bliss chair and Jim Holzer co-chair

Housing and Zoning-Marv Nodiff chair and Bob Dowgwillo co-chair

Commercial Districts- Samantha Smugula chair (Tracy explained that Samantha preferred to only chair this and not serve on SDCC board). JoAnna noted that Commercial district meetings were historically co-meetings with West End Neighbors. Tracy said that this needed further clarification

Community Development-Nicole Blumner chair

APPROVAL OF AD HOC AND SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Marketing and finance-Board President

Beautification-Andy Cross

Porchfest-Jim Fuchs and Molly Rater

Dog Park-Kaitlin Daniels. Committee will do a formal presentation to board in March. Questions for Dog Park Committee should be sent to Molly to collate for Kaitlin. Tracy had some outstanding questions for Gary Boehnke (housing corp) and she will share his answers with the board

Community Engagement-June Vaughan

Financials: Yvette presented financial report and make-shift budget for 2024. She is trying to build out a new Quick Books account that is simplified and tied to our bank account. She is excluding parking lot accounts like the community gardens, dog park and FBD

Overall Revenue: 118,397.91

Overall Expenses: 107,272.66 with a few checks still to clear

John Wright said that Parkview would submit their 2023 dues

New Business: John Wright asked if anyone knew anything about issues going on with Joe's Café and no one did. Four fundraising concerts are to be held in January for much needed repairs. Tracy will discuss with Alderperson Hubbard

SDCC OFFICE IMPROVEMENT

Tracy reported that cleaning out of the office had begun and a lot of progress had been made although may not appear so. Several people responded to a survey asking for ideas about what to do with the office (Mommy and me, book clubs, children's crafts, social area). Office will now include an open meeting space with a coffee nook. Laminate flooring will be installed and a handicapped ramp will be installed.

TIMELINE FOR IMPROVEMENTS:

January: Carpet removal and office clean out

February: Interview and hire Project Manager, install new flooring and paint, buy new furniture

March: Reveal new space with an open house. Introduce new project manager. Start Friend's campaign (may be more successful if neighbors can see how their money is being spent)

Tracy explained that many papers/documents have to be gone through (some still from the 90s)

Molly suggested members of the board get together for a couple of sessions to go through papers. If several people helped could be done in two 2 hour sessions. Would be helpful to collaborate with others to see what needs to be saved and what does not.

Molly will send out some suggested dates

Tracy proposed an updated office makeover budget assuming most of labor is volunteer, taxes not included. Delay in PM hiring would lower cost

3050 dollars: Proposed technical budget to include laptops, screens for displays, ring doorbell, tech support

7360 dollars: Proposed facility budget to include laminate flooring, chairs, couch, paint, small amenities

TBD dollars: Optional items like new refrigerator and new folding

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council *continued on page 5*

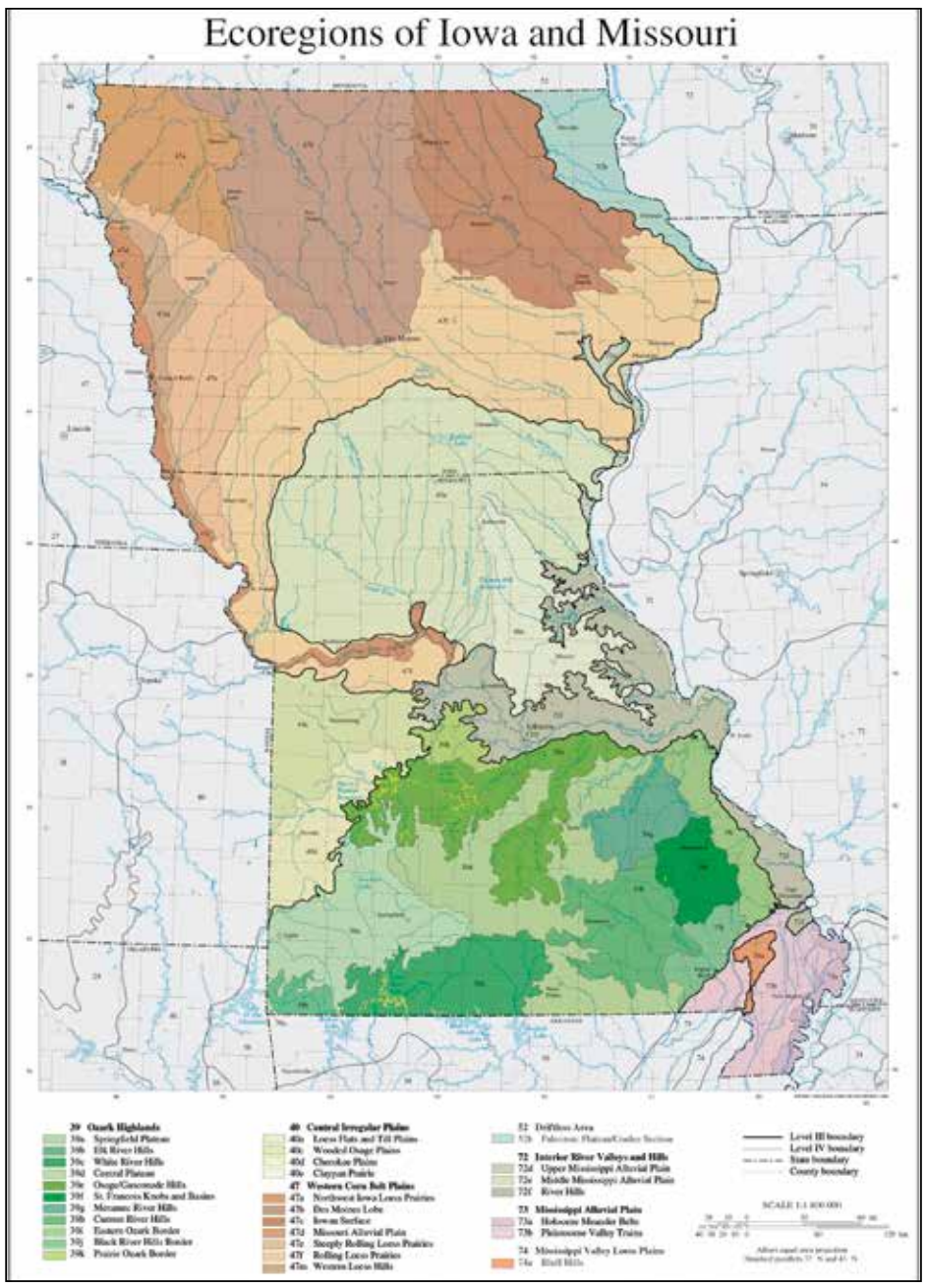
THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND
Plant for Diversity!

By Mark Banaszak

Our neighborhood recognizes the value of diversity. We know it enriches us culturally, helps us build strong ties to our community, and can spur us to civic engagement. However, city dwellers may not appreciate the benefits of biodiversity in the same way. We should appreciate it though, because it also has important benefits for us as humans.

Biodiversity is often defined as "all of the varieties" of living things and their interactions in an area, like a habitat or an ecosystem". This includes not just plants and animals, but everything that is alive, including microscopic life. Biodiversity has measurable benefits, just like human diversity. Among those benefits are increased health and food security, better water, healthier soil, and buffering from natural disasters.

There are many geographic units in which biodiversity is measured. The EPA defines the Skinker DeBaliviere and St. Louis area as within the River Hills ecoregion, which is part of the Interior Rivers and Hills region of our continent. Often plant species are taken as an indicator of biodiversity. For our region there are currently 3074 recorded plant species for example. Of these 1648 are considered native. In contrast,



there are 1264 plant species observed in St. Louis, many of which are introduced and non-native. So, St. Louis has significantly less biodiversity than our larger ecoregion, and we can help change that.

The number and variety of species in urban areas is often significantly lower than more natural areas. This has a number of causes, including increased amount of hard surfaces where plants can't grow, stronger focus on ornamental planting, reduced open water, the presence of chemicals harmful to some species, and other factors.

What can we do to help maintain biodiversity? One of the easiest things is to monitor it. iNaturalist and Seek are simple nature observation apps for your phone. The observations you make go into a geotagged database, and can be examined by others. When your observations become reliable and focused on natural species, they can become research grade. These crowd-sourced observations help scientists measure biodiversity and species frequency over time.

You can also take an active role in encouraging wildlife in your garden. There are many books written about gardening practices that encourage wildlife, and there are some simple techniques that we can all do to help encourage and maintain biodiversity in our urban landscape. One is extending flowering seasons, by planting native plants with a variety of bloom times. Having flowers blooming at different times is beneficial for different species of plant pollinators. Consider providing bird feeders and water sources, especially in the winter months. Be aware that providing a water source requires some planning and ongoing care. Bird water sources should be in a shaded, open area so that birds can avoid predators like cats. Be prepared to add water occasionally and, once a week or so, it is a good idea to clean it with a weak vinegar solution.

Providing cover for animals is important too. Native bushes and shrubs can provide safe places for birds and animals to live, and materials for nest building and food – and if these plants are native to the region, it is even more beneficial for encouraging wildlife and supporting biodiversity. Many Missouri native plant sources have recommendations about which shrubs to choose. Some of the most beautiful and fragrant include Ninebark, Butterfly Milkweed, Red Buckeye, Silky Dogwood and Fragrant Sumac. The Missouri Grow Native website has a resource guide about plant suppliers (https://grownative.org/resource-guide/) that can help you shop for the plants you want. There are a few key points to remember about adding shrubs and bushes for wildlife; the more you put in, the more cover and food you are giving wildlife; varying blossom and fruiting times is great, because it supports wildlife over extended times and can support a higher variety of wildlfe; and finally, leaving the dead leaves under shrubs and bushes is important for wildlife too. It helps maintain soil health, provides homes for many kinds of insects that feed birds and can even provide places for amphibians to live and breed.

Finally, if you want to attract more wildlife and increase the biodiversity of your garden, aim for more sustainabile practices. Use fewer pesticides or stop using them altogether. Substitute natural for chemical fertilizers. Use mulch to prevent unwanted plants and conserve soil moisture. Mow less and mow higher. You will be surprised at the increase in wildlife diversity you will see in your garden. And that is something we all will benefit from.

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Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council *continued from page 6*

chairs

Karen Stokes asked if donated items could be accepted to offset some costs and group agreed that they could but would need to be assessed by some board members first. Tracy discouraged advertising for donations in the email blast since we are already trying to get rid of some old things. Karen has an extra refrigerator she could donate if wanted

AnnaMarie Bliss made a motion to approve spending of up to 11,000 dollars, including 2500 dollars already approved at November meeting for office improvements. Molly seconded the motion and it was approved with 1 abstention (JoAnna Schooler)

Approval of minutes: November 2023 Meeting Minutes approved

Motion to adjourn meeting made by JoAnna Schooler at 8:07 pm

Minutes submitted 1/8/2024 by Molly Rater, SDCC Board Secretary

Committee Reports:

FBD AD HOC COMMITTEE, NICOLE BLUMNER:

-we are polishing the final draft plan to send to the city of st louis planning department for review.

-we are working toward planning commission and board of alders review and approval in the coming months.

-we have been gathering information on the outcomes of the Expo, the FBD prototype project, to share with the community.

-there will be more information and communications coming as we advance this work.

-please direct any questions or comments my way.

BEAUTIFICATION, ANDY CROSS:

A neighbor on 6100 Pershing asked for a delivery of mulch and he was surprised to find a dumptruck load of mulch was delivered to his house. I moved some of that mulch to the Triangle park on Waterman/DeGiverville/ Laurel and some went to the slab on Des Peres at Kingsbury near the little library where we often get deliveries of woodchips. I plan to move more mulch there soon for SD neighbors to use.

Wintermarkt was successful. The musical performances, the crowd, and the vendors had good experience and the weather was good as well. Some vendors had very good sales. Thank you to all who volunteered.

The Martin Luther King commemoration has been on break for a few years now. It will be on Sunday Jan 14th at 3pm at St Roch Church 6052 Waterman. Along with Grace Methodist Church and New Cote Brilliante Church of God and our friends and neighbors. Please join us. It is so nice that we can have this important community event again.

HZC, MARV NODIFF

Jan 2024 SDCC's Housing & Zoning Committee (HZC) reports as follows:

1. To encourage voluntary compliance, we are preparing an SDCC notice for mailing to ca. 45 off-site landlords owning two or more rental properties in the neighborhood advising them of the city's ordinance

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council *continued on page 6*

KIDS CORNER

By Jenny Matthews

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council *continued from page 5*

limiting residential occupancy (not more than three unrelated persons). Mailing will include an info sheet prepared by Historic District Committee highlighting key points in preserving historic elements.

2. In early September 2023 HZC prepared detailed information indicating at least five unrelated persons were occupying a single-family house in violation of city occupancy ordinance and presented this info to the Building Division for enforcement and to our NIS. However, four months later, the Building Division has not conducted an inspection to determine the violation despite numerous HZC requests. A request to our alderwoman for assistance was ignored; no response. Continuing failure to enforce will encourage other landlords to disregard the city's occupancy limit.

SECURITY MEETING MINUTES JAN 2, 2024, GRADY VAUGHAN

Location: Zoom Attendees: Committee Members: Off. Michael Haman, SLMPD Samantha Smugala, East Loop CID Sgt. Michael Gage, WUPD Grady Vaughan, Security Committee Chair Stephanie Lewis, Delmar Main Street Arline Webb, Neighborhood Resident Other attendees: Cpt. Christi Marks, SLMPD; Marlene Mestres, Neighborhood Resident The meeting began at 5:35 PM.

1. Grady Vaughan noted that the draft meeting minutes from the last meeting were distributed to all attending committee members for comment, and the corrected minutes were uploaded to the website. It was also noted that the SDCC Office is being cleaned out and not suitable for inperson meetings so future meetings of this committee will be on Zoom until further notice.

2. 2. SLMPD Report Officer Haman attended by zoom but was unable to be heard due to his broadcast location. He forwarded the below list of Calls for Service for the neighborhood in December post meeting: Destruction of Property 1 Disturbance 16 Domestic Disturbance 5

Attempt Holdup 1 Larceny 1 Larceny from a vehicle 3 Shots Fired 2 Total 29 Total number of calls were somewhat lower for December than previous months. This is the lowest number of monthly calls in at least the last two years. The last year's summary spreadsheet has been updated and will be distributed to committee members and meeting attendees.

3. WUPD Report Sgt. Gage noted that there will be active shooter training sessions for law enforcement personnel starting around January 10th on campus and be completed prior to when students return on January 16th

4. Security Camera Discussions No discussion at this meeting.

5. St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office Report Representative was unable to attend.

6. Bi-State/MetroLink Representative was unable to attend.

7. Neighborhood Stabilization Team Report Representative was unable to attend.

8. Parkview Report Representative was unable to attend.

9. East Loop CID Report Samantha Smugala noted the following: • East Loop CID has engaged unarmed security guards in cars patrolling public parking lots Thursday through Sunday evenings for the next few weeks • The Pageant now has a security guard patrolling its parking lot during events • The Moonrise has acquired a manned lift/tower security device for its parking lot • The January 20th Ice Carnival will include Delmar Closure in U-City portion • A drone event is scheduled for a short period on January 19th which will close Skinker to traffic from Westminster Place to Vernon

10. Other Business a. Loop Trolley concern at 5800 block Delmar No update. b. Speed Humps on Laurel Need update from NIS. c. Stoplight Active/Inactive Schedules A request was made to obtain the schedules for stoplights that go into flashing mode during off hours. This request was forwarded to the NIS liaison by the committee chair. Need response.

11. Next Meeting of the SDCC Security Committee is scheduled for 5:30 PM Tuesday, February 6, 2024, on Zoom. The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 PM.

Dog Park, Kaitlin Daniels

Financials: (Since we all haven't yet sorted out the financial reporting procedures since Karen's departure,

I have to hand wave a bit on this)

Expenses: $0

Income: $797 (cash + electronic donations I know of)

Estimated Total Dog Park Funds: $16,000

Events:

The dog park committee participated in Wintermarkt and held our monthly meeting where we brought in two new volunteers.

Upcoming Efforts:

1. Increasing the response rate to our membership-interest survey: Greater publicity for this survey will give a better sense of how many members to plan for in our annual budget.

2. Reaching out to institutional donors: While we have raised enough money to begin construction (see attached), we are seeking donations to an endowment fund to ensure the dog park's longevity.

I've also put together a short state-of-the-dog-park report, which is attached here.

A Brief Report on the State of the Skinker Debaliviere Dog Park

January 2024

Why We're Doing This

A dog park will be an asset to the Skinker Debaliviere neighborhood.

1. Community: The dog park will be a meeting place where neighbors meet and work together to create a fun and safe place for their dogs to play.

2. Safety: The dog park will bring much needed foot traffic to the northern section of Des Peres, near Delmar.

3. Diversity: A major strength of our neighborhood is that it supports a diversity of residents and lifestyles. The dog park furthers that mission by making it easier for neighbors without yards or with physical impairments keep happy and healthy pets.

What We're Doing

The Dog Park Committee (DPC) has formulated a phased plan to construct and operate a cost-effective dog park at 532-526 Des Peres. The details in this report pertain only to Phase I – construction of the large dog park -- with the exception of the drawings included separately. These drawings include both the large and small dog park.

SKINKER DEBALIVIERE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SDCC)

February 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Tracy Granneman (President, Rosedale), Molly Rater (Secretary, Kingsbury Square), Yvette Kell (Treasurer, Washington Heights), Jim Holzer (Rosedale), AnnaMarie Bliss (at large), JoAnna Schooler (Washington University), Tim Woodcock (Rosedale) Karen Stokes (Grace Methodist), Nathaniel Rivers (Washington Heights), Mike Stephens (Parkview), Roger Harris (Washington Heights)

Not Present: Carl Merritt (Cote Brillante), John Wright (Parkview Agents), Kathryn Bulard (Busey Bank), Linda Cross (Rosedale)

Visitors: Marv Nodiff (HZC), NIS Sheree Hickman, Kaitlin Daniels (Dog Park), Nahuel Fefer (CDA), Marnita Spight (CDA), Collin Wettach (CDA), Pam Ollivierre (CDA), Katie Lawson (Wash U student), Nicole Blumner (Community Development), Michelle Davidson (5800 Pershing), Grady Vaughan (Security), Pascale Pochart (6100 Westminster), Gale Fitzpatrick (6100 Westminster), Mary and Bill Christman (6000 Kingsbury), Christina Kerr (6100 McPherson), Nick Stephani (6100 Washington)

Meeting was called to Order at 7:05 in the SDCC office. Quorum with 11/15 board members present

Katie Lawson, Wash U student and reporter, gave a quick introduction about a project she is working on for school about the SD Neighborhood. She lives on Waterman and wants to learn more about the neighborhood. She alerted us that she was recording our meeting and no one objected. Her contact information is 214-769-9446, Katielawson2020@gmail.com

ALDERMANIC REPORTS: Shameem reported that she was available for questions and would stay for the entire meeting. She is dealing with issues of derelict cars, alley clean ups. Aldermanic Board will be hosting meetings about how to best utilize Rams money. Meetings will be open to the public on Zoom.

Community Development Administration (CDA) Nahuel Fefer gave a presentation about CDA. 2024 Neighborhood Grants are being funded by HUD.

AVAILABLE FUNDS AND PRIORITIES:

HOME-ARP Permanent Supportive Housing Available funds: 9,668,557 (HOME-ARP)

Affordable Housing Production. Available funds: 6,000,000 (CDBG/

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council *continued from page 6*

HOME)

Affordable Housing Production Vacant Unit Turns. Available funds: 2,500,000

Neighborhood Plan Implementation: Available funds 1,600,000 (ECO Dev Sales Tax)

Neighborhood Capacity Building (RFP): Available funds 400,000 (Eco Dev Sales Tax)

Community Development Grants Program Administration (RFP) 500,000 (CDBG)

To qualify for healthy homes repair program and flooding recovery funding applicants must be moderate to low income (56,000 or less per year for individual and 80,000 or less for family of four) Nahuel reported that they really need contractors. They are also taking applications for a Community Advisory Committee to help with long range planning. Mike Stephens requested that Home renovations be compliant with Historic Standards.

Bill Christman Studio: Joes Café has been open for 20 years and held >1000 musical events. They have also opened their doors for numerous fund raisers for non-profits without charge. Bill and Mary Christman are seeking a letter of support from SDCC to keep Joes Café open. The hearing at the Board of Adjustments will be 2/28. This is a zoning issue since only Joes café is graded for commercial and the yard is residential. They are not seeking to make this a money making endeavor and will not seek a liquor license. Several neighbors have already written letters of support. Joes Café was closed by Bill and Mary when an inspection revealed some deficiencies. They are actively working on getting these deficiency remedied. A motion was made by Mike Stephens to write a letter of support for Joes café and Jim seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

FINANCIALS: Yvette reported that financials from 2022 and 2023 were not reconciled and she wants to hire a bookkeeper to do the reconciliation. She wants a checks and balances system for accountability. Most of the accounting cost will be up front and will lessen over time. She reported that Wintermarkt made more than expected (4500). More fundraising will be needed as well as new grant proposals for SDCC to stay financially solvent. RAC grant may be able to be renewed for 2024. She proposed the 2024 budget. Mike Stephens made a motion to approve and Nathaniel seconded. The motion passed.

Mike Stephens made a motion to approve 5000 dollars to pay for audit of 2022/2023 finances. Tracy seconded and the motion passed.

BRASAS RESTAURANT LETTER OF APPROVAL: The Commercial Districts Committee has voted to recommend that the SDCC Board provide a letter of support to the Zoning Administrator for Andrew Cisneros of Brasas. The business is set to move in to the old Herban Eatery Space at 6138 Delmar. AnnaMarie made motion to offer letter of support and Mike Stephens seconded. JoAnna Schooler abstained. The motion carried.

Housing and Zoning: Committee has made several requests for Building Division to inspect property at 6137 Westminster. There has been no inspection and instead inspector had conversation with residents. Marvin reported that he had interviewed occupants and provided names, vehicles and license numbers. Inspector said hard to prove that the residents violated the no > 3 unrelated persons living in one residence and suggested that HZC provide Birth and Marriage Certificates of occupants.

Tracy wanted to know if there was a change in policy of how inspections were done and or if this inspector did not know the policy. Tracy requested that someone from the city zoning or building division be invited so we can have a more comprehensive discussion about what seems to be the big issue - why the city is not following up on letters and suspicion of violations

Shameem will follow up with the building commissioner to see if they will speak to us and let us know.

HISTORIC COMMITTEE: AnnaMarie reported that development at 6000 Washington had many violations and requested conditions were not met. She has asked for a stop work motion but has not been

IN YOUR EAR

By Hawkeye Z. Hoerr, Commentary in the TIMES since 1980

OK, perhaps it's because we've just been hit by Daylight Savings Time and there has been a wealth of commentaries about sleep, lack thereof. Give me a break! Are we a wimp country or what? I mean, we only lose one hour in the spring; that's not even sixty-one minutes, yet writers, commentators, and bed salespeople are going crazy. It's an hour, folks, get over it. Sure, I was tired the next morning, but I'm always tired the next morning. And the fact that it was dark until after 7am caused me to be more tired. But I'm over it and so should you.

That leads me to the point of this insightful column, sleep. More specifically, how to get to sleep. Sleephealth.org says "1 in 3 adults do not get the recommended amount of uninterrupted sleep they need to protect their health." This, dear reader, is a national problem.

In fact, getting to sleep shouldn't be difficult, so what's the problem? Well, the problem, Hawkeye says, responding to his clever rhetorical question, is that society has evolved to a point where it is difficult for many folks to get a good night's sleep. Yep, count me as one.

Don't misunderstand. My term "evolution" is meant to capture how life has improved over time. I mean, where would we be without microwave ovens, digital television, and flavored pretzels? Yes, life is much better today than in the past. George Washington would surely have loved those pretzels regardless of his wooden teeth. But these major advances in the quality of our life come with a cost. The increased stress and pace of life make it much harder for many of us to get the recommended seven hours of sleep. And late night t.v. doesn't help. Between "House Hunters" and "Yellowstone Wardens," how can a guy drop off to sleep? Oh yeah, Jimmy Kimmel too.

The challenges are obvious. We're so busy that our brains are working overtime even when our bodies are supine. But we need our beauty sleep (for those of us with advanced degrees, it's our pulchritude sleep). Here then, weary reader, are Hawkeye's guaranteed tips for falling asleep. (Guaranteed means that if these don't help, Hawkeye will refund the cost of this issue of The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere.)

First, dress for the sleep role. Even though you may be most comfortable in your formal gown or tuxedo, these attires won't help you doze off. I know you'd like to sleep in them in case there's a national emergency and you need to run from the house without time to get dressed. Relax, Hazel, candidly, if there was a national emergency and you were outside in a formal or a tux, people would think you were part of the cabal. So dress for comfort. Hawkeye recommends sweats and tennis shoes (on the off chance that there is an emergency).

Second, eating too close to bedtime can make it harder to get to never-never land or, for that matter, not-likely land. Hawkeye says don't eat anything significant (that means tasty) after 11:30pm. Up until then, somniferous foods like sausage pizza, bean tacos, and enchilada ice cream will help you prepare to sleep. (Tip: If you are eating all of these in one meal, stop eating by 11:17pm.)

A friend has two cups of expresso each night at 10:00. When I asked him if this interfered with his sleep, he replied, "No, I always have trouble sleeping but the expresso keeps me more alert so I can be productive when I am not sleeping." It's hard to logic with that argue.

Third, exercise can be your friend when it's bedtime. Your body needs to exert itself enough so that sleep is welcome. Believe me, the worst thing you can do is lie in bed, semi-dormant and hope to fall asleep. I tried counting sheep, but that didn't work because I keep envisioning the January 6 insurrection and that keeps me awake.

I've also spent hours lying in bed while listening to a recording of Ronald Reagan's Memorable Speeches, but that didn't help. It's not that the Gipper's melodious words kept me awake; rather, it's anticipating the societal cost of his framing the government as our enemy. Maybe I would do better if I spent hours telling the truth in bed instead of lying? Oh wait, that doesn't fit with the idea of Reagan as a conservative despite the fact that the federal debt held by the public nearly tripled in nominal terms, from $738 billion to $2.1 trillion while he was in office. Yep, lying is better and makes it more likely that I will get re-elected.

But back to exercises, there are a few activities that beckon shut-eye. My favorite is The Frozen. Pretend you are a statue, pick a pose, and remain motionless for ten minutes. Your nostrils can move while you breathe, but that's it. Trust me, after being a still-life for ten, you'll be asleep before you know it. Another exercise that will cause you to doze off is to sit on your hands, literally. Put them under your toosh (that's a medical term) and simply s-i-t. After a while, they will get numb, your back will become sore, and sleep will be a relief. (Note: Do not do this during an important meeting.)

Finally, if Hawkeye's nostrums fail to help, if you're going to be awake longer and later than you wish, take advantage of the extra time. Get on Facebook under a false identity and disparage a political candidate or three. Watch Tik-Tok and try to figure out how the Chinese government is using this to spy on us. Or write your congressperson and ask, "What were you thinking?" Regardless of when you send that letter, it will be timely. Unfortunately.

Or worse, send Hawkeye an email. He'd love to hear your thoughts about last month's column on Prisoner Trump, or the previous months' columns about Angel Fred. In the meantime, good night!

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Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council *continued from page 7*

able to get a response from the CRO (Cultural Resources Office). She will follow up with the Building Division and copy Shameem on the email.

COMMUNITY COMMENT: Neighbor Michelle Davidson asked about speed humps on Pershing and if anything could be done about the hole in the tree lawn at 5835 Pershing. Shameem will follow up. She asked what was happening with the building across from Grace Methodist. JoAnna Schooler said this was a Wash U building and will be renovated. Michelle expressed an interest in being on the SDCC board and Tracy affirmed that she could be a member for Washington Heights.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm

Minutes submitted by Molly Rater, SDCC Board Secretary, on 2/17/2024

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE:

We had an excellent Martin Luther King commemoration on Sunday Jan 14th at St Roch church with choirs from Grace United Methodist Church, St Roch, and New Cote Brilliante Church of God. Our Keynote Speaker was Winnie Sullivan, CEO of PenUltimate Press and a neighbor of Skinker DeBaliviere. She was recruited by Mary Abkemeire of St Roch parish. Neighbor and St Roch parishioner Mary Pat O'Gorman did a wonderful job as emcee. Despite the single digital temperatures we had an impressive turnout of over 60 participants. We have not been able to do this event for about 5 years, and it had not been held at St Roch for many years. We are proud to bring it back into circulation.