

CASGED Community Meeting Minutes 13 September 2016 6:30 pm

Board members present: Bob Herbert, Brenda Kay Dailey, Paul Cerny, Jr. Dennis Lynch,
Ruth Ann Dailey, Rafael Walton, Chris Rosselot, Joe Valorie

Absent: John Klinger

Attendance: 44

1. Ruth Ann Dailey called meeting to order at 6:38. Bob Herbert led community group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Guests
 - a. Councilwoman Harris' office represented by Jeff Martin
 - i. Mrs. Harris is working with Police and others to bring "Gun Shot" program to the area including Zone 1, West End, and Sheridan; currently looking for funding sources. Hope to have it up and running by beginning of 2017.
 - ii. Complaint regarding 1416 Spring Garden; neighbors concerned about noise/safety of air conditioning unit; there is no screen on it.
 - iii. Question about restoring water fountain to Catalano parklet: there is a "tug of war" between DPW and Mrs. Harris' office.
 - iv. Complaint re heroin use on city steps between Voskamp and Basin St. Drug paraphernalia littered on the steps.
 - v. Harry Armstrong reported that the Veterans' monument was vandalized and desecrated on Flag Day, June 14, 2016. Mrs. Harris's office will assist with repair.
 - vi. Vacant house at 1214 Voskamp, which was rescued from demolition by Darlene Harris and Mayor Peduto, needs to be boarded up. The city legal department is working with the owner to resolve the situation.
 - b. Zone 1
 - i. Commander Chris Ragland introduced himself; he is the newly appointed commander of Zone 1. He is from the Northside. He encouraged people to attend the Chief's Summit at Manchester Citizens Council on 6 October 2016.
 - ii. Complaint directed to Cmdr. Ragland regarding a tow truck/garage operating on Voskamp and Basin Sts. Police will look into it.
 - iii. Ofcr. Sylvester explained new statistic chart/crime report in Zone 1 and left copies.
 - iv. Question was asked about getting officers assigned to help with traffic control on East Ohio St. as construction continues. Officer Sylvester said it would be highly unlikely that could be done as construction companies make their own safety measures.
 - c. Mayor Peduto's office- Corey Buckner
 - i. Corey announced there will be a summit, "Blight Bootcamp," in October to help neighborhoods manage vacant lots, vacant homes and abandoned structures.
 - ii. Resilience Fair will be held September 14, 2016 at South Side Market House.
 - iii. PWSA is offering free kits to test lead levels in residents' water; check PWSA website for details.

3. Karla Owens presented information on the new Business Association. She will work with CASGED, Troy Hill, and Spring Hill to develop the Chestnut Street corridor to bring in businesses and traffic to the three communities. She did caution the community that development is very slow. They need the support of elected officials to sustain growth.

4. Leeann and Wayne Younger – CityView Church.

After 6 years in the neighborhood, they have bought the Limbach Center on Tripoli St. It will continue to be run as a community center. Outreach programs include Thursday dinner at 6:30 pm. open to all and Monday nights in Oct. as an outreach program for girls ages 10-16 to teach them skills needed for the job market and home life.

5. Madi Nestor – Food city community garden coordinator

- a. Madi won a \$1,000 grant from the Sprout Fund
- b. It is not too soon to sign up for garden spaces for the 2017 growing season.

6. President's Report

a. Photos of Little Free Library box, built and decorated by Pgh Public School students, one for each neighborhood due to Buhl Foundation funding; the library box must be easily accessible to the public. People can donate books and borrow books. Suggested locations: Coffee Shop on Chestnut and Spring Garden; owner Chris Waracks has agreed to provide the site; security is good on that corner—Fire Department is across the street.

Oreen Cohen suggested sites at a nearby bus stop or Food City lending library.

Suggestions open to public—let CASGED board know.

- b. Map of CASGED's Comprehensive Plan, esp. Town Square at Chestnut and Tripoli
 - i. Report culled from Sprout Fund application, November 2015, as a wish list to Sprout Fund.
 - ii. Meetings were held at Neu Kirche, led by Chris Rosselot.
 - iii. Buhl grant was to be wrapped up by June
 - iv. CASGED received a call from Darlene Harris and Neu Kirche that someone had applied to buy the Food City lots.
 - v. In June, the CASGED Board voted to acquire the sites.
 - vi. In July, the CASGED Board voted to use Buhl grant money to purchase the Food City lots. Buhl Foundation and Sprout Fund have OK'd purchase.
 - vii. CASGED voted to reestablish the Gateway Steering Committee to dig into plans for Town Square Lots.

A community member took issue with using the Buhl money for acquisition of the Food City lots. She also questioned who authorizes Lee Parker/Neu Kirche's use of CASGED land and its status as a "community stakeholder."

- c. RA Dailey ceded the floor to Tom Pierce so he could explain the changes city-wide in how community groups can control/acquire properties. With the new Land Bank, the game has changed; controlling city-owned properties has changed. No longer can our Councilwoman protect green spaces that are owned by the city and kept up by communities from outside entities purchasing the land.

Regarding the Food City lots, the unanimous Board vote to acquire the lots reflects agreement that CASGED should not invest developing land we could possibly lose to another buyer. We have to have site control to fulfill the Comprehensive Plan's guidance that this area should be a public green space.

- d. The URA-funded Master Plan was concluded in October 2013 after many months of meetings to represent what the community wanted to see develop in East Deutschtown and Spring Garden. The Gateway Project was developed through this process and CASGED won grants from various entities: \$10,000 from ColCom and \$125,000 from the Casino fund, with the \$50,000 Capital Contract with the city also available.

Ensuing questions: What are our next steps? What does PennDOT demand?

- e. In May with the post-election reorganization of the CASGED board, some paperwork was found to be in disarray or undone. I.e, the required 990 tax form had not been filed and CASGED had to request an extension. Because the 990 was not done in a timely fashion, CASGED cannot register with the state's Bureau of Charitable Organizations in time to qualify for 2017 grant cycle and will lose the opportunity for Gateway project funding.

A community member asked for an Audit/Reconciliation of the Books.

Much cross-talk ensued. Raphael Walton moved to adjourn the meeting, and Chris Waraks seconded. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8 p.m.