

CASGED Community Meeting Minutes — October 11, 2016 6:30 pm

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

1. RA Dailey convened meeting at 6:35 p.m. B Herbert led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Guests from Public Offices
 - a. Jeff Martin attended on behalf of Councilwoman Harris, who was injured in a recent fall and is recovering. He delivered her annual Halloween gift of snack crackers. He updated residents on efforts to get Public Works to repair the damaged Veterans monument on Spring Garden Ave. He asked whether the AC unit at 1416 Spring Garden continued to be a noise problem; no recent complaints. He asked whether 1214 Voskamp had been boarded up, as Mrs. Harris had requested; yes. A resident asked if there was any progress on gaining control of 1214, a good, large brick house, and specifically if the city is exploring conservatorship. J Martin said yes, that is already on the table.
 - b. Officer Wright delivered most recent statistics from Zone 1 and took questions from residents, in particular concerning drug activity and disruptive behavior at city steps on Voskamp.
 - c. Corey Buckner spoke on behalf of the Mayor's Office. Two residents asked him to address a problem with sewer rats seen in/around a building at 1201 Tell St. Another person mentioned a problem with the sewer ine in the 2300 block of Spring Garden. Mr. Buckner said he would work with PWSA on both issues.
3. Guest Adam Longwill of MetaMesh, a non-profit wireless network provide, made a presentation on his organization's goals and activities. MetaMesh is a tech startup based in Allentown that is building wireless networks in the Hill District, Millvale and Point Breeze. They want to expand into the North Side. Some for-profit companies do this work but leave after a couple of years; MetaMesh is a permanent and provides participants with basic skills to make the system sustainable. It costs between \$10,000 and \$20,000 for 10 to 20 routers, requiring anywhere from 8 to 18 months to develop and implement.

Residents asked what about ideal locations and costs. A Longwill said about 20 ft off the ground, facing the street, with power and, preferably, Internet service. He said there is no monthly cost to someone providing a router site. He said CASGED would need to work with MetaMesh as a partner to make the system work.

4. President's Report: RA Dailey reported that CASGED had sold 1007 High Street, the first property brought through the Treasurer's Sale process. She also notified residents that November's meeting would be pushed back a week, to the 15th, since Nov. 8 is election day and St. Michael's is a polling place.

5. Treasurer's Report: P Cerny Jr. presented a Profit & Loss Statement to the community summarizing CASGED's financial activities in the year to date and showing a healthy cash-flow.

6. Sara Thompson of Pashek Associates led residents in a half-hour brainstorming session to advance design ideas for the Town Square green space at Tripoli and Chestnut Streets. Residents divided up around five tables to consider options for activities and amenities at the site and to rank them in order of preference. After 20 minutes or so, she had a representative from each table report their results to the whole community. She gathered the five worksheets and will collate results to provide an overview/report for CASGED.

7. Residents' questions and announcements: Leeann Younger announced a "Pumpkin Party & Olympics" at Cityview Church on October 30 at 1 p.m. All community kids are welcome.

Isaac Falvey shared a report from his participation in the recent "Blight Bootcamp," outlining new tools (such as conservatorship) the URA and city have to tackle vacant and blighted properties.

8. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.