

CASGED Community Meeting Minutes 13 December 2016 6:30 pm

Board members present: Bob Herbert, Brenda Kay Dailey, Paul Cerny, Jr. Dennis Lynch,

Ruth Ann Dailey, Rafael Walton, Joe Valorie

Absent: John Klinger , Chris Rosselot

1. Ruth Ann Dailey called meeting to order at 6:43 p.m. (Meeting's start delayed as people arrived late due to snowfall, served themselves Christmas dinner and bought raffle tickets.) Bob Herbert led community group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. John Graf from The Priory presented "The Vault," the proposed redevelopment of the Workingman's Savings Bank. It will be a dining/banquet facility occupying the first and second floors of the building. Mr. Graf said that although the building is not the work of famous Chicago architect Daniel Burnham (who designed The Pennsylvanian, among other Pittsburgh buildings), it is a beautiful example of the Beaux Arts style. Many of its details survived its use as the ARC House, an alcohol rehab/halfway house. The ARC House was essentially a dormitory built inside the old bank building, with new floors and walls built inside and above the original surfaces, thereby preserving them largely intact.

The Grafs' team will preserve and restore as much of the original bank lobby as possible. It's a two-story-high space; the second floor is really a mezzanine that overlooks the ground floor. Dining tables will fill these two floors. The third floor will be office space. J Graf displayed architects' renderings of the proposed space and use, including the beautiful city view available from the top floor offices and south-facing deck area.

He said this development will round out The Priory's offerings of event space. Since The Grand Hall accommodates almost 300 for a seated dinner and there are smaller meeting spaces for 35 or so, the Vault would provide a "medium-size space" to accommodate groups between the existing two possibilities.

The construction of the adjacent hotel is slated to begin in 2017, and J Graf said he expects The Vault to follow a similar schedule.

3. Guests

Staffer Jeff Martin represented Councilwoman Harris' office, passing out the candy canes that are her annual gift to the community meeting. Corey Buckner represented Mayor Peduto's office. Their presentations overlapped as they fielded questions from community members.

C Buckner announced that the city's "Snow Angels" program has begun again, matching volunteers with senior citizens who will need snow-shoveling services in bad weather. He distributed forms for volunteers and recipients to sign up. Attendees

asked about salt boxes that make salt for icy sidewalks available around the community; J Martin said he'd ask but thinks they have been discontinued. Residents can call 311 for areas that need plowing.

Dorothy Basel asked about getting rat traps for a problem spot on Tell Street. C Buckner said poison cannot be used, but bait boxes can be provided by the city; however, no one can get them for use on someone else's property.

Residents noted that city steps near the former Spring Garden Elementary School and from Voskamp up Troy Hill need repair and regular seasonal maintenance, as they are still in use.

A resident asked about repair of the veterans monument in the 2200 block of Spring Garden Ave. J Martin said he put it on the Public Works list two months ago. Paul Stalter said it still has not been repaired. J Martin said he would ask again.

Jean Herbert asked what can be done about wild stray cats which a neighbor feeds but which leave noxious smells and create problems around her house. C Buckner said if reported, Animal Control can pick them up and spay/neuter them, but they'll be returned to the streets because local shelters are full.

P Stalter asked how Spring Garden could get holiday decorations as nice as those in Troy Hill. City staffers said they'd make inquiries.

4. Due to a death in the family, Treasurer Paul Cerny had to leave the meeting early, so President Ruth Dailey briefly presented the year-to-date Profit & Loss statement. (See attached.)

5. Committee Reports

a. Public Safety – Denise Pierce provided a flier announcing a police appreciation event. She asked whether leftover candy canes could be taken for use at the upcoming event. Permission granted by (cheerful) voice vote.

b. Gateway Steering Committee – R Dailey said the committee met on November 30, adding engineer Jason Esser to their group. He has worked often in close collaboration with PennDot, which owns the land that forms CASGED's East Ohio/ Chestnut gateway area. He made clear and achievable recommendations on how to move forward with the Maintenance Agreement and survey requirements to satisfy PennDot.

R Dailey also reported that she and Madi Nestor, who leads the Food City community garden project, had applied for a GTECH grant for accessibility improvements to the garden and planning assistance with the entire Town Square site. Outcome to be announced by early January.

Two gift baskets with items donated by CASGED members Brenda Kay Dailey and Chris Rosselot were raffled off to close the December meeting.