

Community Alliance of Spring Garden East Deuchtown

Minutes for Monthly Meeting of May 8, 2018, at St. Michael's Fuhr Center

1. Paul Cerny Jr. called meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. R Herbert led Pledge of Allegiance.
2. P Cerny introduced himself as the new president of the CASGED board and introduced the other new officers: Tye Silverthorne, vice president; RA Dailey, secretary; Rick Oskin, treasurer, and John Klinger, at-large exec officer.

He also introduced new board member Mark Ayoub. He called attention to portion of bylaws included on the meeting agenda re board policy in the event of a member's resignation. Since Denise Pierce resigned after the April ballot had been finalized, and since there were no runners-up at the election, the board chose a member in good standing who had expressed interest in serving. M Ayoub thanked the board and community and introduced himself as a local business owner (Keep Storage).

P Cerny also announced new members of the development committee, M Ayoub and Cindy McCauley.

3. Guests: Zone 1, Public Officials and Reps: Officer Peyton from Zone 1 reported another quiet month in our communities but urged members to increase their awareness. "Sun's out, guns out" — crime climbs in hotter months.

Jeff Martin from Councilwoman Darlene Harris's office gave an update on the effort to get the water fountain restored to Catalano Parklet. He said the city employee handling the request claims there never was a spray fountain there and will not move the request forward without photographic evidence. J Martin urged community members to comb through their photos and contact other residents to do so as well.

4. R Oskin presented the CASGED 2nd quarter Balance Statement and Profit & Loss Statement. He noted that almost \$10,000 in reimbursable expenses are on hold until CASGED's ACCBO contract is finalized by City Hall.

5. Tye Silverthorne and RA Dailey provided an update on mini-storage facility proposed by Johnson Development for the Hartman Building and Allegheny Social Hall site. They had attended the 4/12 Zoning Board hearing, along with about 10 other people from the neighborhood. CASGED's real estate attorney, from Strassburger McKenna, said a decision from the ZBA is due within 45 days but the transcript of the April hearing has not yet been provided. Once it arrives, the attorneys will prepare their "findings" — a summary of the community's position and process in considering the project.

Various members of the Development Committee are pursuing new development possibilities that might better fit the neighborhood's wishes. RADAiley reported an upcoming meeting with ACE Hotel developers.

6. RA Dailey provided an update on CASGED's Treasurer's Sale acquisitions, using the nearly-complete list on the Balance Statement, where each parcel has its own line item for Quickbooks accounting. The only properties not yet included in the financial documents are on Tell Street; they passed through the most recent T-sales and do not yet require deposit money. RA Dailey noted that redevelopment is spreading quickly north through the Spring Garden Valley, galvanized by Wigle Whiskey's new Cider House. She invited community members to think about any vacant houses or land on their streets that might be eligible for redevelopment via the T-sale.

She reported that the board and Development Committee are ready to start offering some properties to developers, as soon as the city finishes clearing the titles.

7. Committee Reports:

Food City — Madi Nestor gave an update on spring prep work at the garden and invited interested residents to consider renting a small plot. She announced that artist Oreen Cohen has almost finished a beautiful sign for the entrance, which will wrap up the work paid for by a Sprout Fund grant.

RA Dailey noted that M Nestor has won several grants for Food City, making it wheelchair accessible and enhancing its beauty and value for the neighborhood. She announced that the board named Madi CASGED's Volunteer of the Year, an award that will be presented at the annual North Side Leadership Conference dinner in June.

Public Safety — Raphael Walton presented his report from the North Side Safety Committee, including the latest progress in bringing "Shot Spotter" throughout the city. He mentioned that preparation has begun for the annual National Night Out event in August.

Joe Valorie reported a successful Earth Day clean-up, with more than 50 tires and many bags of trash retrieved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.