

CASGED Community Meeting Minutes 14 February 2017, 6:30 pm

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

1. RA Dailey called meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. B Herbert led Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Guest Glenn McElroy, CPA, of McElroy & Lawry, presented a review of CASGED's 2016 finances. Balance Sheets and Profit & Loss statements were passed out to attendees, and Mr. McElroy explained them category by category. On the P&L, he pointed out CASGED's sources of income, giving special attention to the profit made from the sale of two properties (829 Suismon and 1007 High Street). He briefly reviewed Expenses, pointing out most are regular monthly items, with the exception of an annual \$2,000 donation to the Food Bank and consultants' fees, which vary by month and by special project (such as the Chestnut St. corridor).

Mr. McElroy then reviewed the Balance Sheet, pointing out in the Assets column: the hand money CASGED currently has on 14 Land Reserve properties, the properties it owns outright and the surveillance cameras it owns/operates at various locations.

Questions were asked regarding the necessity of an audit versus a financial review. Mr. McElroy explained the different costs, amount of time and levels of scrutiny provided by each type of review or audit. He noted an audit would cost \$5,000 per year audited and that CASGED's revenues are well under the threshold at which an audit is required. He said the audit is an unnecessary expense, since there has been no allegation of theft.

RA Dailey noted that in most years, most of CASGED's revenue comes from the Advisory Committee on Community Based Organizations (ACCBO) and most expenses are ACCBO-eligible, meaning that those expenditures, with their invoices and contracts, are reviewed by City Planning and subject to federal review.

RA Dailey thanked Mr. McElroy and Treasurer Paul Cerny Jr. for their work over the summer to catch up and make uniform CASGED's books. She noted that after CASGED filed for an extension last May on the undone 2015 IRS 990, Mr. McElroy had produced a corrected version of the 2015 Balance Statement, filed the 990 well before extension deadline and corrected CASGED's lapsed registration with the state Bureau of Charitable Organizations. Mr. McElroy said that along with the documents presented tonight, the new 990 for 2016 was finished and ready to file and the current year's BCO registration ready as well. The board and community members thanked him for his work. Copies of these financial documents are available at the CASGED office, and RA Dailey said the board would post the 990 on the CASGED web site.

3. Guests from Government Offices:

- a. Jamie Younger presented an update from Rep. Jake Wheatley's office. He said they are trying to get the word out that their office will help citizens with filing taxes and

rent rebate requests. Constituents can come to their office or to their mobile office sites (one was scheduled for the next day at the Federal Street library) to get immediate help. In response to an attendee's question, Mr. Younger said they would also help non-constituents with these or any other requests.

- b. Jeff Martin presented an update from Councilwoman Darlene Harris's office. He said they are in ongoing discussions with Public Works director Mike Gable about restoring the fountain at Catalano Park. B Herbert requested attention to a sewer caved in near the intersection of Haug and High streets, in the 1700 block. Paul Stalter asked J Martin about unfinished repairs to the Veterans Memorial on upper Spring Garden Ave.; he said bricks had been stacked at the site but no repair done. Attendees again requested additional trash cans for the neighborhood. J Martin said Public Works declines to provide them since residents use them for their own trash, but he said Councilwoman Harris doesn't accept this reasoning and will continue efforts to secure trash cans. An attendee mentioned new-generation cans that have sensors so that DPW only comes to empty them as alerted when full.
- c. Reps from the Mayor's office and Adopt-a-Lot program were unable to attend.

4. Guest Sarah Koenig from GTECH presented the finished walking-tour maps of both Spring Garden and East Deutschtown neighborhoods. She said GTECH produced maps for 16 of 18 North Side neighborhoods. She had visited a CASGED meeting in June to ask residents which landmarks and local highlights should be included. She passed out finished maps and provided more for the CASGED office.

She also announced that GTECH had awarded CASGED a Resilient Generation (Re-Gen) grant to make the Town Square's Food City community garden handicap accessible and to assist in planning improvements for the public green space that is currently the "Bakeyard." RA Dailey said the preliminary design and research for the grant application had come from Food City coordinator Madi Nestor. S Koenig said the Food City garden was the most beautiful community garden in Pittsburgh, and GTECH is delighted to be expanding its accessibility and use.

5. Raphael Walton presented the Public Safety Committee's report. He reminded attendees that former Zone 1 liaison Ofcr. Hodges used to advocate for anyone who could to attend the monthly North Side Public Safety meeting. The meetings are held at Manchester Citizens Council office on the first Thursday of every month. He said the CASGED committee had written a letter to thank Zone 1 officers for their diligent work in investigating the murder of John Miller on the Vinial Street city steps and its connection to a recent drug raid on Phineas Street.

R Walton said a new liaison from Zone 1, to replace Ofcr. Larry Crawford, had not yet been announced. He said registration is open for the student police academy, which meets on Mondays at 6 p.m. and provides teens with very worthwhile training in law enforcement and justice. He also said the public safety committee has already begun its prep work for next August's "National Night Out."

6. RA Dailey opened the “New Business” with a reminder about the business surveys being sent out by the newly formed Business Alliance that seeks to unite the business corridors in Troy Hill, Spring Hill, Spring Garden and E. Deutschtown, to make it easier to raise funds for business district improvements. In order to assemble a database and facilitate group endeavors, the Alliance needs to get info from local businesses. She offered survey copies and asked attendees to take one for any local business owner they know.

She announced the upcoming April election and opened the floor for nominations. This being an odd year, five seats are open. There was some disagreement on the board over which seats were open; RA Dailey said they would check board minutes again and clarify at the next meeting. Nominees put forward at the meeting are: John Klinger, Bob Herbert, Jenny Stalnaker and Mary Ann Ceislak.

A resident asked for an update on the snowflakes — the holiday lights installed in Dec. 2013 that had never worked. RA Dailey said the board was exploring its options for getting back the money CASGED paid for permits that, according to information J Klinger obtained from Duquesne Light, the supplier had never even applied for. The board will be seeking the advice of an attorney as well as input from the district attorney’s office as to the best path to pursue. One resident commented that the situation has been unresolved for a long time and it was unlikely a board of volunteers would be able to bring it to closure. Another resident commented that the community deserved to get its money back. RA Dailey said the board would pursue more information as indicated and report back at the March meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.