

CASGED COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 13, 2018, 6:30 p.m. at St. Michael's Church
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Board Members Present: RuthAnn Dailey, Bob Herbert, Paul Cerny, Denise Pierce, Brenda K. Dailey, Joe Valorie, Rick Oskin, John Klinger

AGENDA ITEM 1: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA ITEM 2: PUBLIC OFFICIALS/REPRESENTATIVES

a. ZONE 1 Sylvester Wright/Derek Payton – Crime stats were given, and the need to be orderly in a community meeting was discussed.

b. JEFF MARTIN from Councilwoman Harris' office discussed issues with homeless persons. A landslide area that they are living at is not safe. Community members are asked to attend a coalition meeting on March 27th at 5:30 P.m.

R Walton asked re bidding for Shot Spotter; J Martin replied that the city has the contract, it is presently being expanded.

A request for a water buffalo at Catalano Parklet was made by Joe V.

In discussion of City steps from Chestnut to Vista St., it was remarked that the top is taped off but people still use them. Also asked was, what is the procedure for the DPW's correction of the concrete that's caving in there? J Martin will follow up, as he stated the landslide in the same area, as well as elsewhere, are consuming his immediate attention.

c. MAYOR'S REP Molly Onufer introduced herself and announced the City-wide Public Safety event will be on April 18, 2018. Flyers were passed out.

d. SAMANTHA AKERS for St. Rep. Jake Wheatley announced his annual Senior Fair coming on April 2, 2018. She will set up a Mobile Office again, anywhere community requests one.

e. VINCE PALLUS for Rep. Adam Ravenstahl offered to field questions. There were none.

f. RAPHAEL WALTON gave Public Safety report naming two establishments on E. Ohio St which have been shut down for drug trafficking: Amends(?) African store and Rita's Ice.

AGENDA ITEM 3 EXPLANATION OF ZONING VOTE PROCESS RE: MINI-STORAGE DEVELOPMENT AT ALLEGHENY SOCIAL HALL/HARTMANN SITE

STEPHANIE JOY EVERETT was introduced to explain the variance procedures that the Dep. Of City Planning carries out and the description of NDO variance that the mini-storage site is requesting. She described what is and is not permitted in the Madison Ave. corridor where the storage bldg. is proposed, and the variances for use, height and setbacks Johnson is seeking.

RA Dailey was asked about the voting process; she provided the by-laws and explained the board's outreach to the Bayer Center for Non-Profit Management to assure compliance with the by-laws regarding voter eligibility, specifically "member" vs. "member in good standing."

Bailey Gaffney of Johnson Development asked to again present their drawings, though scheduled to present at the April meeting. She was asked if they have a hearing date. She responded: APRIL 12, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. at 200 Ross St. She asked Stephanie who will be overseeing the hearing; answer: Jack Miller will be.

Jason Wrona, attorney for Johnson Dev., asked for clarification of the CASGED bylaws re; the words 'of an election.' Also, the principle of attendance of "good standing" was asked to be clarified.

RA Dailey explained that CASGED's bylaws and practices regarding votes came directly from its experience with the proposed demolition of the Workingman's Savings Bank. Early on the bylaws required attendance at 5 meetings per year in order to vote, but it was felt that was too demanding and lowered to 3. But scores of people turned out to vote on the Bank's fate who had not attended any other meetings for calm discussion of the pros and cons. CASGED seeks to avoid factionalism and to achieve consensus by having open meetings and an informed membership. Thus the constant emphasis on meeting attendance, sign-in sheets and this five-meeting process to explore the storage facility.

J Wrona remarked that it feels as though there is a suppression of representation on this vote. "For the record I want it entered that I oppose this vote."

The ballot was explained to make it clear that "No" means a vote against the Use of the site as a storage facility, "Yes" means a vote for a storage facility.

It was asked if the zoning board has been at the site? Stephanie answered no. Voting ensued. The Kaffeehaus manager Chris Waraks suggested a box and petition be at the coffee shop for anyone who is unable to vote tonight.

AGENDA ITEM 5 (out of proposed order): CHATHAM UNIVERSITY STUDENTS PRESENTATION ON 901 CHESTNUT ST. –CHRIS WARAKS introduced two female students from Chatham U. on a Sustainability Project. They fielded ideas and questions from the community on what folks might envision for the warehouse-type structure running along Suismon St.

AGENDA ITEM 4: BOARD ELECTIONS NEXT MONTH-NOMINATIONS RA Dailey asked for nominations from the floor for board seats. Raphael Walton's seat was recently filled by Rick Oskin, but its term is expiring. R Walton nominated R Oskin who agreed to run, J Valorie agreed to run, P Cerny agreed to run. R Herbert nominated RA Dailey. From the floor, a young man nominated Tye Silverthorne and Andy Reamer nominated Kathy Whitney.

AGENDA ITEM 6: NEW BUSINESS: The House Tour update was that a trolley has been rented to transport participants and will be provided on June 16, 2018. Destination points will be spread through Troy Hill, Spring Garden and E. Deutschtown. A question about touring gardens was asked and RuthAnn asked if Food City community garden will be involved? Madison Nestor indicated it will not be available. She did inform the community that the mini flyers, courtesy of Jenny Lou Stalnaker describe what the garden is/is not. She encouraged persons to sign up by email or phone for the 16 plots still available.

At 8:40 p.m. Paul Cerny carried the voting results to Ruth Ann. Tye Silverthorne announced the results were: (27) no and (16) yes votes. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.