

Minutes for CASGED Community Meeting of Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Board members in attendance: Joe Allbaugh, Mark Ayoub, Paul Cerny Jr., RA Dailey, BK Dailey, Bob Herbert, Tye Silverthorne, Joe Valorie

1. **Meeting called to order** at 6:35 p.m. B Herbert led the Pledge of Allegiance. President P Cerny welcomed residents and introduced officers from Zone 1.

2. **Public Officials**

Zone 1: There were 11 reportable incidents in our neighborhood the past month, including 9 arrests, “a very high number.” This is due to an ongoing investigation of drug activity in Northview Heights leading to arrests here of some individuals after they leave Spring Hill homes. Other incidents include 1 stolen vehicle and 1 burglary.

ShotSpotter is finally up and running; testing is planned, so residents should not necessarily be alarmed when they hear “daytime shooting.”

Police served 450 meals, citywide, on Thanksgiving Day.

Residents asked about drug activity on Hill St. (police are monitoring) and an incident on Concord (a medical call; all’s well).

City Council: Jeff Martin, for Darlene Harris, gave update on Catalano Parklet, namely that her office continues to disagree with Public Works over previous existence of drinking fountain and has therefore asked for money in next city budget to install one. She is also pursuing improvement in sidewalks south of Waltmire’s but stymied by “dead-end” status on properties: Owners are deceased, no heirs.

Residents asked again for trash cans, especially at Spring Garden ball field, and for attention to running water on SG Ave, which is icing over and hazardous. J Martin said there’s a dispute between Public Wks and PWSA as to which is responsible.

3. **Development Updates**

JDA Mini-storage Proposal: RA Dailey reported that, pursuant to October 30 conference with Judge James, JDA had just made a compromise/settlement offer to CASGED. In response to our concerns about the development’s very negative impact on any redevelopment of the Allegheny Social Hall, JDA proposed to pull back the footprint of their building from ASH by 10 ft on the west and north sides. In exchange for this, they require that CASGED agree to support whatever signage they ultimately propose. Their attorney said no other accommodation will be considered; he also stated that the signs they propose will be no larger than those indicated on the site drawings provided months ago.

RA Dailey said the board’s concerns were: two different sizes for each sign were provided on the existing site plans, neither of which conforms to code; JDA has never provided, despite repeated requests, any information on lighting of the signs and the building’s faux-window design, which would have a major impact on nearby residents; and the offered 10-foot setback will allow some air and indirect light to reach the ASH windows but does not allow for vehicle traffic. The board voted against accepting the compromise and instructed CASGED’s attorney to proceed with the appeal, which is due in mid-January.

Discussion ensued, with residents making observations on: past conflicts on the North Side re lighting/signage on commercial buildings, incl. All. Gen'l Hospital; the approach to mini-storage in other neighborhoods (e.g. Wilkins Twp., where planners required retail spaces to completely hide storage facilities); CASGED's efforts through the years to help redevelop the Social Hall (e.g. The Bridge Acoustic Music Room); and the loss of city skyline views to a few property owners on Vista, incl. CASGED.

A resident asked about CASGED's legal fees. RA Dailey replied that billing to date stood at about \$10,000, with about \$6,000 paid and an ongoing understanding with the firm (Strassburger McKenna) that some/much work would be provided pro bono.

Teutonia Mannerchor Proposal: The TM Club asked CASGED to help them acquire an empty, city-owned lot that they've long used for parking & event space. It faces East Ohio Street and lies between two empty lots they already own. The city asked for \$20,000 which the club, as a nonprofit, cannot afford. Our community group will be charged about \$2,000 plus costs; TM will pay us more than that in consideration of our help, will cover our costs, and pay rent during the time between our purchase and theirs. The board voted to assist TM in this matter.

CASGED Office: CASGED was asked to sign a new lease at the Brewery that would increase monthly rent from \$510 to \$525, with ongoing cost of \$115/month for wifi. In light of the fact that the space is used for perhaps 20 hours per month, the board has voted not to extend its lease. In the search for new offices, CASGED received and accepted an offer from St. Michael's to rent a room, with wifi, for \$150 month. Move to be executed in early January 2019.

Real Estate Request for Proposals: Tye Silverthorne said the Development Committee and board just received a draft of the RFP from our consultant last week. Goal is to finalize and publish by year's end, although holiday activities may slow the process. The RFP will be posted on CASGED's web site and on NextDoor and will be sent via email to any developer who has expressed interest in receiving it.

4. Committee Reports

Public Safety — Raphael Walton, chair, reported on the Christmas party for the North Side Safety Committee. He also provided information about the new initiative, a joint effort of Zone 1 and the Buhl Foundation, to provide new community policing for NorthView Heights, which has already been a strong success and received positive news coverage.

G3 — Joe Valorie reported on the launch of a new initiative called "Angels in the Garden" that will raise money for facade improvements to homes and businesses along Spring Garden Ave. The street has been divided into four sections, from Chestnut eastward, with two reps for each section. They've already raised \$11K to 12K. They will raise money via ioby.org and may need a fiscal conduit for receiving and dispersing funds. Volunteers are also needed.

5. New Business — Resident Dennis Lynch asked about CASGED looking into insurance for the new Constance Street playground.

A resident also asked about how to contact CASGED. Answer: phone number is on web-site ca-sged.org and messages are converted to email and dispersed to board. Meeting adjourned.