June 2022 Meeting Minutes

SHAW NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
Email: snia@shawstlouis.org Website: www.shawstlouis.org

Neighborhood Meeting
June 6, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.
online via Zoom and in-person at 3901 Shaw

President's Report
- Quick welcome, lots of business today.

Treasurer's Report
- Treasurer's report will be shared with association members via email.

City Updates
- District 2 Liaison SLMPD
    - Murder on Flora
        - Suspect in custody, likely additional charges connected to robberies at Shaw Market and at least one other business.
        - Please share any surveillance footage you may have with the police department.
    - Carjacking on Botanical
        - Subject identified, picked up shortly after
    - Tip Jar Theft
        - Had hit multiple stores in neighborhood, police at meeting recommended calling 911 or non-emergency line.
        - SLMPD recommends pressing charges each time, to ensure these offenders are being held accountable
- Ald. Annie Rice
    - Masks are not being mandated, but are strongly recommended in gatherings due to increasing Covid rates. Also recommended vaccination for any residents who are eligible and have not done so.
    - Budget approval by Board of Aldermen: Budget will be finalized this month. Proposed budget cannot be increased, but items can be cut. Must be completed by end of June.
    - Sidewalk Program: 50:50 cost split with city and homeowner, program has new director.
        - Applications available here:
          https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/public-safety/neighborhood-stabilization-office/citizens-service-bureau/csb-request-submit.cfm?action=addresscheck&pbsid=355&stepnum=1
        - Sidewalk program is **different** if the sidewalk is damaged due to tree roots, these are routed to Forestry, but be aware, your tree may be cut down. Additionally, there is a tree planting program that Ald. Rice funds as much as possible.

Notetaker: Jen Tussey

- Citizen Service Bureau- handles Sidewalk Program, speed bumps, dumpster repairs, etc. Make sure to report any neighborhood issues that should be handled by City departments to the CSB. You can also contact Shaw's neighborhood improvement specialist for assistance.
    - Keith Minor 314-657-1378
- New Proposed Bill: Conversion fees for multi-unit homes when the number of units are reduced (e.g., 4-family to 2-family, 2-family to single family). Proposed bill would impose a $10,000 fee per unit reduced for anyone that is decreasing units in specific areas of the City. Fees would be deposited in a fund for work that supports affordable housing. If passed, there will be no retroactive fees, only fees charged going forward.
- Airbnb Bill: No update, but Board of Aldermen is working to define "short term rental" and create a registry of these rentals.
- 911 Call Times: City is working to create a modernized center and decrease call times. Always call regarding gun shots or other incidents that can help police identify where issue is occuring, you can also try the non-emergency number if you are having issues getting through. 314-231-1212
- Bailey's: Final hold up for opening is staffing- please apply if interested.

Community Updates

- MOBOT
    - Progress has been made on construction. Jack C Taylor Visitor Center, grand opening planned in August. Bayer Event Center, winter completion expected. They are also building a new conservatory which will have a permanent collection of Mediterranean plants. With their construction, they are seeking GOLD certificate of sustainability from Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).
    - Upcoming Events
        - Whitaker Music Fest is back- reserve tickets ahead of time, max 5000 people per event
        - Japanese Fest, Labor Day weekend
        - Best of Missouri Market, moved to the 2nd weekend in October this year (Oct 7-9). Shaw Art Fair has moved to the same weekend.
        - 10th Annual Garden Glow Nov 19 – Jan 7.
    - Pedestrian entrance on Tower Grove not open now, TBD if it will open again.
- MODOT
    - Working on a 13 Month PEL (planning and environmental linkage) study to evaluate what improvements should be made to the I-64 corridor between Kingshighway and Jefferson. There is aging infrastructure and other improvements needed.
    - There is a project website with more information: Future64.com.
    - Public meeting planned for the fall. They are looking for anyone interested in joinging the Community Advisory Group for the project. Email: ctaylor@vectorstl.com
- Salama's Convenience Store

- Conditional use hearing scheduled on July 14 to open a convenience store at 2255 S Grand. Joe Salama was in attendance at the neighborhood meeting and had attended the SNIA Board meeting held in May. He has indicated his intention to open a convenience store that would sell non-alcoholic drinks, snacks, and general household items. Mr. Salama currently operates stores in two other locations; 2819 N. Vandeventer and 2800 N. Sarah. He indicated that he wants to open the store on S. Grand due to its location and that he lives in the neighborhood.
- Attendees at meeting expressed concerns with the new store given past history of store that was operated by Mr. Salama (person seeking to open store on S. Grand) and other family members located at 3901 Shaw (now Wild Carrot). Meeting attendees discussed many Citizen Service Bureau calls to the previous store that was operated in Shaw (e.g., property maintenance code violations, food related issues, pests) and other issues. Mr. Salama indicated he operated the business on Shaw from 1992 until 2016; meeting attendees indicated this was the same time period when they experienced and reported issues with the store. Several attendees indicated that they did not want the convenience store to open on S. Grand. Some noted, for similar products being proposed for the convenience store (e.g., drinks, snacks, household items), residents could access Ruler Foods or Family Dollar across the street.
    - There was an additional comment about the state of other buildings on the same block that need attention.
- Two motions were made from two SNIA members in attendance, Gary Hosna and Wayne Failoni. One motion was for SNIA exec committee to submit a letter about the convenience store and the second was a motion for the letter to indicate that neighborhood association members are not in support of the new business on S. Grand. There were about 35 people who attended in-person; the majority raised their hands in support of these motions, two attendees indicated opposition. There were 30 attendees online via Zoom; a vote was not taken on Zoom, but at least three attendees on Zoom indicated their support of the motions.
    - SNIA exec committee will send a letter for the Conditional Use Hearing outlining concerns about the business expressed during the meeting, as well as emails that have been sent to the general SNIA email.
- It is recommended that any resident who has comments—positive or negative—about the proposed store on S. Grand submit letters, or attend, the conditional use hearing scheduled on July 14.

Announcements

- Compton Hill Water Tower
    - In 1972 Water Tower was placed on National Register of Historic Places. There has been a lot of improvements to the property since then. However, the Water Tower once again needs help with some significant improvements; estimated cost is $1.5 and $2 million.
    - The Water Tower and Park Preservation Society is seeking financial support from area residents. They are also seeking volunteers and additional board members.
    - More information about the Society is on their website: watertowerfoundation.org.
    - For anyone interested in learning more about volunteering or serving on their board, contact volunteer@watertowerfoundation.org.

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Motion to adjourn 8:55pm

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS
2022 Shaw Neighborhood Meetings: Aug 1, Oct 3, Dec 5
2022 SNIA Board Meetings: July 18, Sep 19, Nov 21
Historic Shaw Art Fair: Oct 8-9, 2022

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