



## **General Membership Meeting Minutes November 10, 2014**

1. The meeting was called to order. The Central Library provided an update on the many activities happening at the Library, which are free and open to the public.
2. Sandy Colvin from the Neighborhood Stabilization Office updated everyone on what they offer to city neighborhoods. They can help with problem properties and Citizens' Service Bureau requests among many other things.
3. Michelle Forgach updated everyone on the activities of the Membership Committee. It was reported that DNA has over 180 members, and they are actively recruiting "building captains" to help increase awareness of DNA.
4. Bryan King, DNA's Treasurer, updated everyone on the current status of DNA's finances. DNA received a \$500 donation from Downtown STL Inc. a few months ago, which has been used to purchase the printing of DNA flyers. Jared Opsal spoke about the possibility of implementing membership dues similar to what other neighborhood associations have in the city as a way to fund these types of operating costs. Jared also mentioned the possibility of hosting a fundraiser to pay for future DNA projects.
5. Jared Opsal spoke about the implementation of the Neighborhood Ownership Model in downtown. DNA was informed that it will take 4-6 weeks to receive trainings from the Circuit Attorney's Office and the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department to receive their official support. Joan Hoff updated everyone on her court advocacy work including lending downtown's voice to the 25-year sentencing of a multiple offender who committed at least one crime downtown. Jared Opsal also recognized that every alderperson for

downtown was in attendance for the meeting and their input and support will be crucial for this project and others.

6. Kim Barrington updated everyone on the proposed dog park project for the former Cupples 7 Building. Support petitions were made available to members. Kim also mentioned inroads made with the property owners surrounding the proposed location, and she explained the importance a project like this has in community building.

7. Daniel Flynn updated everyone on the current status of the New Life Evangelistic Center (NLEC) proceedings in the Board of Public Service. The ruling to potentially close NLEC has been delayed indefinitely, and each party has been instructed to attempt to negotiate a compromise. It is unclear at this time when a resolution will be made in this matter, but it was made clear that the petitioners will make a good faith gesture to negotiate with NLEC.

8. Jared Opsal updated everyone on the proposed temporary emergency overnight shelter in the building located at 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Dr. Martin Luther King Dr. The project for this location did not materialize, and they now intend to implement this concept at a church located in north city. There is a request from Winter Outreach for more volunteers from downtown to help in the effort. They were instructed to contact DNA to be placed in contact with Winter Outreach.

9. Jared Opsal explained that DNA Board elections will be held at the Annual Membership Meeting on January 12. There will be 7 open seats and 4 current board members plan to run for reelection. People may vote in person or designate someone as their proxy to vote for them.

10. Jared Opsal explained the idea behind a proposed amendment to the bylaws and explained that we intended to vote on the amendment at the conclusion of the meeting, and it was suggested by the membership to delay the vote until a later date in order to give them more time to review the proposed changes. The board agreed, and the bylaws amendment will be voted on before the Annual Meeting in January.

11. After a brief recess a few people spoke about how they appreciated the alderpersons attending and the direction DNA is going. Also, a member mentioned how she is a part of an event called "The Walk", which is a bar crawl

that occurs downtown on the second Wednesday of each month from October to April. The meeting was then officially closed.