



General Membership Meeting Minutes January 12, 2015

1. The meeting was called to order. The vote for the potential amendment to the DNA bylaws remained open until the end of the meeting.
2. Mike Kinman from Christ Church Cathedral led a discussion about social justice in our community in the wake of the Ferguson situation. People expressed concerns about safety and a need to work together. People in the audience also spoke about a need for people from various backgrounds to speak with each other. The audience feels that the downtown community has been brought together because of these discussions. Some expressed that downtown is an extremely diverse neighborhood with both low-income housing and high-income housing.
3. Ryan McClure from CityArchRiver gave an overview of the redevelopment of the Arch Grounds. He explained that many agencies have been involved, and CAR is the organizer of them all. The Park over the highway portion is nearly complete, and it will be the new main entrance to the grounds. They are removing the garage to allow for more green space with a natural amphitheater for events. Washington Avenue parallel to the Eads Bridge will be removed to allow for more parkland. The park will be ADA compliant throughout. The designers of the Kiener Plaza redevelopment have received DNA's views along with other public comments, and they are taking them into account for the next design proposal.
4. Major Caruso gave an update to everyone on the recent shooting of a young man outside of Club Europe at 15th and Lucas Ave. The suspects are still at large, but they discovered the escape car used by the assailants after a shootout with police. He explained that cameras have been very useful in the investigation. He also explained that Downtown St. Louis Inc. (DSI) pays for the

police officer bike patrols. There was a request from the audience to receive information from DSI on the cost of those patrols as well as what other neighborhoods spend on supplemental security.

Joan Hoff gave an update on our neighborhood's court advocacy efforts. She will routinely leave court letters addressed to the judge presiding over violent crime cases at the Washington Avenue Post for people to sign. It was expressed that these signed letters make a major difference in the judge giving higher bonds and longer sentences for people accused of or found guilty of a violent offense.

5. Jeff Fister from STL Programs Inc. explained to everyone that they will be soliciting advertisements for a new downtown booklet/pamphlet. This is being done in conjunction with DNA. DNA will provide neighborhood content, and STL Programs Inc. will provide a list of local businesses in downtown as well as handle the publishing and distribution. They are anticipating printing 10,000 copies to be distributed to downtown residents, businesses, real estate agents, and property managers. It is anticipated to be completed by April, 2015.

6. Daniel Flynn gave an updated on the Board of Public Service's decision in the NLEC matter. NLEC must limit the amount of people using their facility to 32 people per night, which is what they are currently licensed to do. They must also bring their building up to code. NLEC may also apply for a new permit for more beds. NLEC may also refuse to do both, which will lead to them being shut down by the City of St. Louis. NLEC also has an option to appeal the Board's decision to a court of law.

7. It was announced by Jared Opsal that DNA will partner with the Missouri Watercolor Society for a joint fundraiser. It will be held on Saturday, March 21. More details will be announced at a later date. This will be DNA's first fundraiser.

8. Jared Opsal gave an update on the progress of the Arts Committee. They are developing new events to promote the cultural resources of downtown. Small events on Saturday mornings will be held in the Art St. Louis Gallery and the Campbell House Museum. Details will be announced in the near future.

9. Jared Opsal announced that DNA will be hosting a movie night in the Central Library on April 2, 2015 at 7pm. Members will have an opportunity to vote on

the movie they wish to watch. This will be a family-friendly event for the people of downtown. The event will be free to all attendees.

10. Josh Restivo, a parent of a student at Lafayette Preparatory Academy (LPA), and Jared Opsal explained that LPA is seeking a new building, and they may move out of downtown. Josh and Jared both expressed how important it is for a neighborhood to have a thriving school to keep and attract new residents. Everyone in attendance was asked to contact the head of LPA, Susan Marino, and let her know you support LPA staying downtown.

11. Business from the floor: Mike Powers, principal at Confluence Academy, introduced himself to the floor and said he wishes for his high school to be a great neighbor to everyone. He supplied information about the school, and he encouraged people to call him with any questions or concerns at 314-606-1255. Mike also mentioned that the recent attack on a lawyer downtown did not involve the kids at his school.

Mary Ellen Ponder, Mayor Slay's new Chief of Staff, expressed how the Mayor's Office supports downtown. They believe it is crucial to keep it safe, and they are advocating for a gun court, more officers, and a mechanism to connect surveillance cameras downtown.

Jared Opsal thanked Alderman Marlene Davis and Christine Ingrassia for attending the meeting.

12. Members were asked to leave their ballots with the person by the front door before they left. It was announced that the results will be shared via email, social media, and the website. Ballots were then counted, and the meeting was adjourned.