



FOREST PARK SOUTHEAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2022 MINUTES

18 JANUARY 2022 / 6:45 PM / Zoom*

MINUTES

FPSE Neighborhood Business

- Community Updates (Dan Doelling)
 - Introduction of new Board Members:
 - President: Dan Doelling
 - VP: Michael Browning
 - Treasurer: Rachel Siegert
 - Secretary: Aaron Bisch
 - Member at Large: JC Fick
 - NYE Anti-Gunfire Campaign
 - The community agreed that this year was a quieter holiday
 - A community member suggested that the campaign be replicated for the July 4th holiday
 - New Benches, tables, and trash cans have been installed in Chouteau Park
 - A new renter toolkit is now available on the FPSENA [website](#)
- Ward 17 Updates (Alderwoman ‘Sweet-T’ Pihl)
 - Alderwoman Pihl is setting up a meeting to discuss negotiations with LUX living to redesign their access from Kingshighway
 - A community member asked about the ‘step-back’ in the building’s eastern facade design. Alderwoman Pihl did not have an update on the building design.
 - Alderwoman Pihl has requested community engagement and a design review for additional properties on Manchester.
 - Open office hours will begin next month:
 - 02/19 2:00-3:30 at Rise Coffee
 - Alderwoman Pihl proposed three ward committees and encouraged participation in each. Each committee was described as ‘grass-roots.’ It was noted that these committees are ward-wide and that updates will be posted to social media:
 1. Public Safety Committee



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- Led by Darius Young (Botanical Heights), the Public Safety Committee would be made of ward residents and focus on community safety
- Examples of committee work could include trainings to prevent theft or helping engage blocks to form block groups as a neighborhood watch
- 2. Community Engagement Committee
 - The Public Safety Committee would be made of ward residents and focus on community events
 - Examples of committee events could include porch parties or garage sales
 - A community member asked if there is funding available for events
 - The Alderperson noted that the committee is ward-wide
- 3. Marketing Committee
 - The Marketing Committee would be made of ward residents and focus on marketing
 - Alderwoman Pihl noted that her twitter account got hacked. She asked for assistance or advice from any community members who have experience with similar misfortunes.
 - A community member asked if there any other developments the community should expect community engagement on?
 - Alderwoman Pihl noted Groveland and Lux Living as the two primary projects currently in development.
- Treasurer's Report (Rachel Siegert)
 - Treasurer Siegert made a call for dues and noted that dues are 'pay what you can,' meaning there is no minimum or set due to become a voting member. It was noted that historically dues have been \$10.
 - A community member commented that dues seem similar to a 'poll tax,' which have historically heem used to disenfranchise impoverished voters.



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- Treasurer Siegert clarified that the ‘pay what you can’ model is in place to specifically resolve this concern. Any interested community member can become a voting member at virtually no cost.
- Dues are paid via the Cash app: [cash.app/\\$FPSENA](https://cash.app/$FPSENA)
- Treasurer Siegert reviewed the January budget
- Crime and Safety Report (Officer Walker)
 - Officer Walker noted seven calls last month and five reports
 - On New Year’s Eve, the neighborhood experienced eight ‘shots-fired’ calls and one report
 - In 2020 there were three calls
 - In 2021 there were eight calls
 - Overall Officer Walker noted that the neighborhood has been generally quiet this month, but reminded community members to park smart and never leave valuables in their cars. She also recommended leaving porch lights on at night and installing a video doorbell.
 - Other neighborhoods are seeing an increase in catalytic converter thefts.
 - Officer Walker can be reached at ncwalker@slmpd.org or 314-444-0107
- Park Central Development (Linda Nguyen)
 - Linda Nguyen, Park Central Development’s Coordinator of Neighborhood Initiatives and Engagement, shared information about the ‘Stay in Place’ Program, which seeks to connect residents to resources to stay in their homes
 - Residents can contact Nanyamka Brown for information about the Stay in Place Program: 314-643-8261

Guest Speaker (Cordell Whitlock)

- Cordell Whitlock represents Vector communications and is responsible for public engagement for the Steinberg Development Project



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- The Steinberg Skating Rink is a public ice-skating rink located across Kingshighway from BJC
- The 1995 Forest Park Master Plan calls for year-round use of the site
- Design team are developing concepts for presentation this summer
- To promote engagement, Cordell shared an interactive survey asking how the site might best be used year-round. The survey, located here (bit.ly/FPSE-survey), asks in what activities are preferred for year-round use
- Cordell can be reached at cwhitlock@vectorstl.com

Community Discussion (Dan Doelling)

- Dan encouraged community members to consider three questions about the future of the FPSENA in 2022 and beyond. Each question is listed below along with discussion points made by the community:
 1. If you're not attending meetings, why not? What needs to change for you to come to meetings?
 - The community agreed that time conflicts are typically the reason for non-attendance, though it was also noted that this might be true of any one night of the week
 - A community member noted that the neighborhood meeting has always been held on Tuesday evenings at 7:00
 2. What frustrates you about the Association? What have you enjoyed most?
 - A community member asked how could the meetings come to the block-level to reach everyone? They noted that 'some people on my block don't even know about it.' Finally they suggested each month's meeting be held in a different 'quadrant' of the neighborhood
 - A community member recommended shutting down streets for a meeting or block party
 - A community member commented that a 'neutral forum' (outlined in the FPSENA bylaws) implies a 'do nothing' group. They continued noting that there is a lack of incentive to participate and that the 'neutral forum' creates no use. 'It doesn't do anything' they said, 'We get



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together just to talk.’ They pleaded that the board ‘get out of the neutral’ and advocate for our neighbors to ‘get something done for us.’

- A community member noted that lawn signs placed around the neighborhood promoting meetings has been successful in the past

3. Is the Association active enough in the neighborhood? What can the Association be doing more of in the neighborhood?

- A community member said ‘We saved this organization to be able to advocate for the neighborhood.’
- A community member asked ‘Why is nothing changing?’
- A community member challenged the board fo focus on the ‘real issues’ in the community, specifically related to development and infrastructure
- A community member suggested that the board become experts on how to receive funding, help, and grants
- A community member asked ‘Where is the ward capital improvement money?’
- A community member typed in the meeting chat ‘Has anyone articulated the rationale for why FPSENA is not an advocacy group, and why it is a neutral forum? Rather than trying to force the association to take positions on controversial topics (and dividing the group), this can be the place where like minded people can meet to join forces and start their own separate advocacy groups. Example: Dog Park.’
- A community member noted that the board used to provide letters of support

*Meeting recorded in entirety via Zoom

ATTACHMENTS

Stay in Place Program Information Slide



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ADDITIONAL FOREST PARK SOUTHEAST ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS:

Grove CID : 2nd Monday of every month @ 11:00AM via Zoom*

FPSE Dev. Committee: 4th Tuesday of the month @ 5:30PM via Zoom*

FPSE Inf. Committee: 3rd Thursday of the month @ 6:00PM via Zoom*