

6-8-2023

## Safety and Security Member meeting

Two board members were unable to attend: Steve Butz and Janice Taylor

The 5-4-2023 minutes were motioned to be approved by Jim Sahaida and seconded by Bob Dowd.

Nick Hartzler gave the following updates:

Campbell Security Group has been approved by the SBD board. In approximately a month patrols will start. There will be about 6 – 8 officers who will regularly patrol. Captain Pierre Benoist of the police Downtown district will have oversight. It may be difficult due to staffing to have 2 officers together patrolling. We will likely have 5 shifts per week during the summer time within an 8pm to 3am time slot. Patrolling will be done using a car and GPS is being set up. Nick will be the point of contact for the patrols. A written contract has not yet been signed. Several board members voiced that before patrols start we need a contract as a precaution in case of a suit. Nick said he would canvass other districts to see if they have contracts with the security company they use. The SBD does not have an attorney. If it is decided we are to have a contract the RFP could be used as a template. Regarding Park gates a presentation was made to Kim Haegele, the second in command of City of St. Louis Parks. The presentation was made at the Parks Advisory Board meeting. If approved the contractor for gates is DJM Ecological Services and they would use galvanized gates. There is optimism the City Park Department will approve the proposal which is being made by the SBD Infrastructure committee. The SBD would be responsible for the 5 Park gates and our Alderman, Anne Schweitzer, would use some of the ward capital funds to pay for a gate at the Carondelet Y which is out of the SBD area.

Speaker: Tim Scheifler speaking on camera use in the St. Louis Hills area  
Tim stated he has been the chair of the St. Louis Hills safety committee for 5 years. The safety committee developed out of the neighborhood watch that was made up of volunteers. He stated the problem with volunteers is several fold. People lose interest, have other time commitments, etc. Also he stated the problem with people is they are often not in the right place insofar as a security measure as opposed to cameras. One thing that has been a blessing is several

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years ago the price of cameras was very costly. The cost has come down significantly and the neighborhood watch looked at using reolink cameras that could be federated in a collective fashion. He stated in St. Louis Hills there are 200 blocks within 1.1 square mile. Tim developed a software program he calls AwareNet that collects information to a central camera.

Tim said after surveying 10 security companies they chose Campbell Security. Their security committee approved use of cameras. Households via word of mouth, email blasts, social media, etc. were urged to participate in the camera program with the cost of cameras being around \$160. He advised to not use battery operated cameras for a variety of reasons. They currently have 137 cameras deployed of which 100 are street facing. In the period of November to December 2022 three criminal activities were disrupted and several arrests were made. Activity they are looking to check is that which is unusual, suspicious, and criminal. He stated their goal is not arrests but to disrupt and deter. In August St. Louis Hills will be voting on whether to have an SBD. He is not confident it will pass. There is no campaign to pass it as there was in Holly Hills.

He stated for more information a person could go to [STLHills.com](http://STLHills.com) and do a drop down to the safety committee.

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Also in attendance were to visitors. At the time of public comments one of the visitors was critical of our only having one bidder for patrols. The reasons why this occurred were given to the person who spoke.

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John Cunniff made a motion to close the meeting and it was seconded by Abby Crawford.