



Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Safe Neighborhood and Crime Reduction Committee of the Southside Economic Development District

August 3, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

A meeting of the Safe Neighborhoods and Crime Reduction Committee was held on August 3, 2023, at 6 p.m. at the Marbles Recreation Center.

Present were Roosevelt Wright, Jr., chairman, and Otis Jones. Absent was Mr. Little.

Also present were: Rev. James Jackson, SEDD advisory board member; Ms. Mondrian Douglas; Donna Cathey of TBA Studios; and Tim Brandon of TBA Studios.

There was a quorum.

An invocation was given by Rev. Jackson.

The chairman asked if there was anyone present to offer any suggestions for changes to any of the areas recommended for Districts 3, 4, and 5 model neighborhoods. There was no one present.

Mr. Wright recapped the various meetings that were held in July to get input about the model neighborhoods. He said a meeting that was scheduled for the district was canceled by Councilwoman Juanita Woods because of the sickness of her mother. A meeting was held in District 4 at St. James United Methodist Church. A meeting was held at the Emily Robinson Center for District 5. A meeting was held with the NAACP on July 27, which was attended by Councilwoman Juanita Woods.

Mr. Little, SEDD president, reached out to council members Kema Dawson and Carday Mashal, but neither of them scheduled meetings or came to meetings in their districts.

The committee asked Mr. Brandon to ensure that the final plans would be clear enough for residents to understand in the model neighborhoods. He said computer models will be developed of the areas that could be projected for groups or shown on notebooks for residents. The models would show what the areas will show: neighborhoods with closed ditches, underground utilities, solar paneled housing, community politics, neighborhood parks, and solar power installations.

Mr. Brandon said his office would secure the addresses of landowners in the district and hold meetings.
will be scheduled with them to explain what is being planned.

He said the final renderings would probably be ready by mid-October.

Mr. Jones suggested that we set up meetings with pastors to ensure that they understood what was being planned.

Rev. Jackson said SEDD should consider selecting one of the three targets upon which to focus all of its efforts rather than taking small actions in all three districts. He said SEDD could choose the districts based on the interest shown by their elected representatives and leaders.

Mr. Wright noted that the SEDD grant writer is seeking a \$25 million Solar Power grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. If successful, it would cover the cost of solar power in the target neighborhoods and beyond. How much of the \$25 million we receive would depend on the number of eligible units in the plan.

On motion of Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Jones, that the neighborhood maps for Districts 3 and 5 be recommended as suggested by the SEDD committee since there were no objections or community meetings and that the district boundaries be shifted to border Texas Avenue on the North, South Second Street on the East, Parkview Drive on the east, and Winnsboro Road on the South. The motion was approved unanimously.

TBA studios will suggest the areas with boundaries that best meet the overall model neighborhood requirements.

After 44 minutes of deliberation, the meeting adjourned.