

Mid City Security District Minutes  
Board Meeting of **June 21, 2023**, 6:00 P.M.  
3803 Toulouse Street, New Orleans LA “The Cannery”

Chairwoman Wendy Laker called the meeting to order at 6:00pm with a roll call of participants which established a quorum.

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members present: Wendy Laker, David Beran, Rick LaRusso, Robert Rivard, Darby Shields, and Charley Richard. (Alvin Williams, excused absence)

Presenters: Sgt. Alfred Russell, MCSD/NOPD Full Time Coordinator; Larry Jacobi, CPA, MCSD accountant; Bobby Fishel, Scott Monistere and Korey Lewis, Sr. of Pinnacle Security.

Guests: Carmen Souhlas.

➤ BOARD MINUTES

- R. Rivard noted a correction in the draft minutes regarding H.B. 296 progress in the state legislature. W. Laker motioned for approval of the corrected 5/17/2023 minutes of the MCSD. The motion was seconded by D. Beran and approved unanimously.

➤ PRESENTATION OF THE 2022 AUDIT

- Paul Pechon from Bourgeois Bennett, Certified Public Accountants, distributed printed copies of the Financial Report for the Mid-City Security District dated December 31, 2022. The report was thoroughly reviewed and discussed. A deficiency was duly noted that public notice had not been provided for the original 2022 budget although this was corrected when an amended budget was passed. R. LaRusso moved to accept the audit report as presented. R. Rivard seconded the motion with an amendment to have a copy of the audit report sent to legal counsel noting the deficiency of public notice so that they might provide advice regarding future notices. The motion was approved unanimously.

➤ FINANCIAL REPORT

- The May 2023 Bank Statement was approved and initialed by all Board members.
- L. Jacobi requested Board approval of monthly bills (\$5,486.25 to Graphix Matter for website and media work; \$24,234.93 to Pinnacle for patrol services for 5/13/23 through 6/10/2023 periods; \$1,673.64 to Adams & Reese; \$874.26 for CPA Lawrence Jacobi; and \$6,000 to Bourgeois Bennett LLC for the 2022 audit). All checks were approved with a motion by W. Laker which was seconded by D. Beran and approved unanimously.
- L. Jacobi presented the Financial Statements. Discussed were the Profit and Loss for January through May 2023 versus same period 2022; Balance Sheet as of May 31, 2023, versus same period 2022; and Profit and Loss Budget verses Actual for January through May 2023.
- A follow up discussion was held to action taken at the May meeting regarding signatories to the MCSD Bank Account. R. Rivard amended that action to include the newest board member, Darby Shields, on the list of signatories to the account. W. Laker seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

➤ CRIME REPORT

- Sgt. Russel provided crime reports for each week since the May meeting along with details of the significant issues. Discussion followed regarding specifics within the reports. It was noted by Sgt. Russel that mental health issues were becoming more and more apparent and that the NOPD had taken note of the seriousness of the issue.

- Bobby Fishel with Pinnacle Security provided a review of monthly activities as well as a summary of patrol reports. Further discussion was held concerning various ways that reports to the Board could be generated. It was noted that there has been an average of ~55 miles of patrols per shift. Maps provided evidence of routes that were followed which covered the vast majority of the MCSD.
- COMMITTEE REPORTS
- Vehicle Report. D. Beran reported that there were five vehicles out of service (two inoperable) and 5 vehicles in service.
  - Outreach. W. Laker reported that she and Sgt Russel attended the Mid City Neighborhood meeting which was devoted to discussions concerning the Lindy Boggs facility. It was noted that there much frustration from the neighborhood concerning this blighted property and the owners hoped that this could be remedied quickly.
  - By Laws and Legislation. R. Rivard reported that the MCSD legislation, H.B. 296, had passed both the Senate and House, which was followed by the Governor's signature on June 7. It was noted that amendments had removed the section dealing with non-profits although some discussion followed concerning whether non-profits could donate. This language would now have to go on a ballot in a general election to the public.
- OLD BUSINESS
- As discussed in the May 2023 meeting, a new website had been designed which was to help with social media presence by the MCSD. Examples of responses to the site were presented. It was also noted that there was a change in the registration process for citizens to sign up which would eliminate emails being sent to all board members every time someone signed up.
  - Business cards had been designed with the MCSD phone number as well as coverage area. This project will move forward and the cards can be distributed to businesses and residents in the MCSD area.
- NEW BUSINESS
- Legal council had provided the necessary steps to get the language from HB 296 on to an election ballot. To initiate this process, a resolution by the board would have to be passed which would have to include the election date. W. Laker will move forward to secure this information and provide this to the board as soon as possible.
  - Election of officers: D. Beran moved and R. Rivard seconded that Wendy Laker be re-elected as Chair of the MCSD. W. Laker moved and R. LaRusso seconded that Alvin Williams be re-elected as Vice Chair of the MCSD. W. Laker moved and R. Rivard seconded that Charley Richard be re-elected as Secretary. W. Laker moved and D. Beran seconded that R. LaRusso be re-elected as Treasurer. All motions were approved unanimously.
  - With regard to a meeting in July, W. Laker moved that we do not have a meeting in July but that monthly invoices be paid and approved at the next meeting. R. Rivard seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.
- W. Laker asked for public input. While no public comments were received, it was noted by R. Rivard that since D. Beran would not request additional board membership, he should be thanked for his service and dedication to the MCSD. All agreed and extended their thanks as well.
- W. Laker offered a motion to adjourn at 8:00pm, which was seconded by R. LaRusso. There was no opposition.

CERTIFICATE As Secretary of the Mid-City Security District, I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes duly and legally adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Mid-City Security District, after due notice, and that said minutes have not been rescinded. WITNESS, my signature, this 16th day of August, 2023.



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Charley Richard, Secretary