

Cherokee Street CID Public Meeting Minutes
January 15th, 2026 at 5:30 PM
at The Golden Record, 2720 Cherokee St.

Board Members In Attendance: Ley Woods, Kaveh Razani, Will Liebermann, Kristin Dennis, Adria Webb, Harrison Lyndsey, Jill Aboussie

Board Members Absent: Jason Deem, Sarah Fisher

Others in Attendance: Alderperson Sonnier (7-ward), Lisa Otka (SLDC), Karisa Gilman-Hernandez (Dutchtown South Community Corp.), Alica Hernandez (M.I.C.A. Project), Carlette Smith (Dutchtown Coalition for Youth), Jane K. (Benton Park West Neighborhood Association), Ashley Johnson, Henry Brown (Cherokee Street CID), John Joern (Cherokee Street Foundation)

1. **Call to Order:** L. Woods called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.
2. **Meeting Minutes:** No meeting minutes to approve.
3. **Brief Announcements from Public Officials:**
 - a. Alderperson Sonnier gave several legislative updates on Area 7 Planning, Gravois Corridor, the Minority Business Entrepreneurship Program. Concerning safety and security, Alderperson Sonnier recapped the meeting she attended with the Cherokee Street CID Board of Directors, Captain Dickerson, and Places for People. She noted the community should call the police if it's an unsafe situation. Calls for service are prioritized by threat level. She is also working on more holistic options to address public safety so that the police is not the only choice, noting that the City Problem Property Unit just hired 3 new social workers.
 - b. L. Otka gave an update on Metro Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) efforts. Due to the expensive cost of building a light rail line, the City and Bi-State are shifting to BRT. The City is currently updating the Land Use Plan, now is the time to give input. LRA has allocated funds to help stabilize properties.
 - c. Jane K. noted that the Benton Park West Neighborhood Association meetings are held once a month, every 3rd Thursday. At the upcoming meet, they're getting an updated presentation of the BRT efforts, and they're looking for people to join their committees.
 - d. C. Smith Introduced the Dutchtown Coalition for Youth. Their goal is to provide support for youth and wrap-around services to keep crime down. They offer free mental health training.
4. **Letters of Support Requests:** No Requests
5. **Main Topics:**

- a. H. Brown introduced himself as the new Executive Director for the Cherokee Street CID. A. Johnson introduced herself as the new Business Development Specialist for the Cherokee Street CID. She noted that the CID will be revamping the Committees, and asked people to share their contact information if they're interested in joining a committee.
 - b. J. Joern gave an update on the CID events. February 7th will be the annual Brass Band Blowout and Mardi Gras Crawl. There will be free music and a great dance party. He encouraged the public to reach out if they had any questions about the upcoming Cinco de Mayo event or ideas about summer events.
- 6. Community Announcements:**
- a. K. Gilman-Hernandez noted that the Dutchtown South Community Corporation is looking for people to join the Development Review Committee and review development plans.
 - b. A. Hernandez introduced the Workplace Preparedness Program. The program is designed to teach people how to protect the workplace from federal enforcement and ICE.
- 7. Adjournment:** meeting adjourned at 6:17 PM