

DUTCHTOWN COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES
DATE: January 27, 2026

Attendance:

Directors Present: Caya Aufiero, Dainielle Fox (via Teams), Michael Powers, Fadumo Hassan, Ann Smart (via Teams), Dwayne Nelson

Directors Absent: none

Guests: Nate Lindsay, Carrie Lindsay, Karisa Gilman-Hernandez, Rob Carlson, Brian Cheli, Alicia Hernandez, Dylan Coughlan, Terry Coleman, Jennifer Summers, Kyle Brant, Brother El, Darius Redmund, Tabatha Kittrell (note taker)

Call to Order:

Chair Caya Aufiero called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM and announced a quorum was present. Tabatha Kittrell took notes.

Chair provided context for attendees:

1. DTCID is a membership-based, property-owner-funded Community Improvement District focused on community safety, economic vitality, and cleanliness/beautification within the CID footprint.
2. Chair acknowledged many attendees were present regarding the petition to not renew Flock ALPR cameras and clarified:
 - o Public comment period was extended for this meeting.
 - o No vote or decision related to the petition would occur at this meeting.
 - o Board intent was to listen, receive feedback, and ask clarifying questions.
 - o Community members were encouraged to attend the Quarterly Safety Meeting on February 5 (5:30–7:30 PM at the NIC) for deeper discussion of Connected Dutchtown safety programming and governance.
 - o Chair invited participation in a Neighborhood Advisory Committee / Safety & Security Committee structure.

Public Comments:

1. Eric Liu – Written comment in support of the Flock Cameras was read into the record describing how Flock cameras were used to recover a stolen vehicle.
2. Jennifer Summers – Merchant on Meramec expressed support for the camera network as a practical tool; emphasized safeguards and local oversight; cautioned against removing without having an alternative for the business district and their customers.
3. Brother El – Supported cameras network as recourse rather than prevention; shared hit-and-run experience where footage helped identify vehicle; asked whether alternative vendors to Flock Safety could be considered.
4. Brian Cheli – Spoke about broader philosophies of community safety, emphasizing relationship-building; expressed support for people-centered approaches, including the Kwema badge program; did not raise specific operational or policy recommendations.
5. Kyle Lubart-Brant – Raised ethical concerns regarding Flock Safety, including data governance and corporate practices, and questioned financial support of the company.

6. Alicia – Bevo resident and Executive Director at MICA; expressed concern about government data aggregation, Flock’s relationships with law enforcement, and impacts of traffic stops on immigration enforcement.
7. Andy Fair – Participated in the original Flock vetting committee and the petition opposing the contract; expressed concerns about trustworthiness; suggested canceling the contract as a values-based decision and potentially reallocating resources (e.g., street plowing).
8. Nate Lindsay – Clarified comments were not an attack on the CID; emphasized the national context and encouraged the CID to take a visible, values-based stance.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

Michael moved to approve previous meeting minutes. Dwayne seconded. Motion passed.

Secretary’s Report: Ann Smart

1. Request for a Letter of Support from Missourians for Responsible Transportation. Other community orgs have signed on.
 - a. Board to review and decide next month; requestor indicated the timeline works.

Treasurer’s report.

1. Balance sheet to be posted in Teams.
2. Audit update
 - a. All FEW audit documents submitted.
 - b. Audit underway; Board expressed commitment to transparency.

Program Reports

Safety Update – John Chen

1. Connected Dutchtown overview and 2026 framing emphasizing:
 - a. Community-controlled, incident-based, and not law enforcement.
 - b. “People + Place” approach: community connection programs (including Kwema smart badge) plus camera network layers:
 - i. Resident/business AI cameras
 - ii. Flock ALPR camera facts
 - iii. Camera registry/partnerships
2. Operational highlights shared:
 - a. Ticketing and incident portal development (digital infrastructure to standardize request handling).
 - b. Data points cited for recent quarters: volume of footage requests, average response time, portion of successful footage retrieval, and request sources (neighbors/businesses vs. detectives).
3. 2026 proposals included:
 - a. Reframing safety to include rights, psychological safety, protection for vulnerable groups, and quality-of-life uses (illegal dumping, traffic safety, vacant buildings).
 - b. Volunteer-driven, time-bound committees and project work.
 - c. Participation invitations: Camera Network Advisory Committee, Street Smarts education efforts, quality-of-life projects, and other volunteer roles.

4. Governance/privacy safeguards discussed:
 - a. No live monitoring, no predictive policing, no facial recognition.
 - b. 30-day data retention stated for ALPR data; discussion of possibly shortening retention (e.g., to 14 days).
 - c. Audit logs and internal access controls were described; organizational usage logs were summarized.
 - d. John disclosed that a prior network sharing pilot existed with Jefferson County and stated it had been removed as of January; a risk assessment was discussed.
 - e. Discussion included questions about subpoenas/vendor access and whether any federal access could occur beyond local intent; concerns were raised by attendees and board members.
5. Board discussion included:
 - a. Danielle asked if the board could explore alternative vendors.
 - b. Several guests expressed distrust in broader federal enforcement behaviors and asked the program not to rely on assumptions of lawful restraint.
 - c. John emphasized improving governance and transparency; encouraged attendance at the Feb 5 safety meeting and noted a May 9 Safety Summit date.
6. reporting.

Dutchtown Bells Holiday Light Show (project close-out) – Michael Powers

1. First year initiative with short lead time and strong support.
2. Reach: thousands watched online; conservative estimate 900-1,000 in-person visitors over six weeks.
3. Sugar & Spice Shack pop-up used donated space; independent merchant sold out of hot cocoa and cookies. Dads Cookies donated all the cookies
4. Window decorating contest:
 - a. Independent judges awarded Creative Expressions, Read-A-Book, DSCC, and others.
5. Improvements for 2026: earlier planning, heating and power logistics, expand vendor capacity, connect holiday calendar and potential “digital rewards” to drive spending

New Business:

1. Review of Community Annual Report
 - a. Mission pillars reiterated: Community Safety, Cleanliness/Beautification, Economic Vitality.
 - b. Key highlights:
 - i. Trash collection service: approximately 55,000 gallons/year collected (comparison offered: roughly half the “ketchup bottle” water tower in Collinsville).
 - ii. Infrastructure/public works: bistro sets, A-frame signs, roundabout decoration, bump-out landscaping attention, grants (e.g., Pocket Park).
 - iii. Camera registry clarified as a tool to expedite evidence collection by knowing where cameras exist without providing blanket access.
 - iv. Holiday programming: Dutchtown Bells, window dressing contest, Discover Dutchtown Adventure

2. Call for volunteers for roundabout / intersection plan
3. Snow removal
 - a. Dainielle raised concerns about snow conditions and noted snow removal was included in budget; suggested board evaluate snow removal from CID footprint
4. Kingsland Court gate repairs
 - a. Dainielle raised a previously submitted request to rebuild damaged brickwork.
 - b. One bid at \$8,903 (difficulty obtaining three bids due to tornado-related contractor demand).
 - c. Chair requested Danielle share the bid discussion indicated the request was likely doable.
5. Glitch in current DTMS record storage website means that financial records were not available. New website will host all financial records.
6. Kingsland Court vacant building
 - a. Support from the Safety Taskforce ongoing. Use learnings on this situation to try to address vacancy vandalism in other parts of the CID footprint
7. DTMS Business After-hours
 - a. Rob Carlson indicated shift from monthly to quarterly gathering; a March convening at MICA.

Announcements:

1. DTMS After Hours: Moving to Quarterly
2. Connected Dutchtown Quarterly Neighborhood Safety Meeting February 5th 5:30pm
3. Connected Dutchtown Safety Summit: May 9th

Adjournment:

Dwayne moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:22. PM. Seconded by Michael Motion unanimously carried. Next meeting: February 24, 2025 at 5:30 PM at the Neighborhood Innovation Center (NIC STL), 3207 Meramec, St. Louis, MO 63118 and online at <https://dutchtownstl.org/cidmeeting>.

Minutes submitted by Tabatha Kittrell.