

Downtown Residents Council, Inc.

July Monthly Member Meeting

July 10, 2018

Welcome -- Sue Byrom, President

New Members: David and Julie Dimuzio, Daniel Fabinski, Brian MacConnell, Greg and Melanie Meyer, Nancy Nagel, Tammy Turner-Vorbeck, Dave Vorbeck.

Monthly Reports:

Ambassadors -- The work van is now in operation. Homeless persons are picked up on a daily basis to do work for which they are paid. They are given lunch, and offered services from local agencies. So far, the response has been positive and encouraging.

Cincinnati Police Department -- Captain Neville focused his report on some of the issues dealing with the homeless encampments on 3rd Street, citing recent media reports. He explained the differences between lawful assembly, illegal public acts, as well as health and safety concerns.

A number of comments and questions on this topic extended the time for this report, and Captain Neville offered to meet at a different time and/or place to continue addressing public concerns.

Speakers:

Dion Brown, the new President of the Freedom Center, introduced himself and gave his vision for the future of the Center.

Judge Marilyn Zayas, 1st District Court of Appeals, explained the function of the 3-panel court and a general description of the hierarchy of the court system.

Old Business:

June Meeting Minutes approved Moved by Andy Reiss, seconded by Barb Smurda

New Business:

1. **Constitutional changes**: Changes to the Constitution, recommended by the Board, were presented to the members for consideration. There will be a vote at the August 14, 2018 Member Meeting. The following changes are being proposed:

VII. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

B. TERMS. Commencing April 2019, trustees shall serve for two-year terms or until their successors are elected and qualified. No trustee shall serve for more than two consecutive two-year terms in the same capacity. In order to maintain continuity on the Board of Trustees, the composition of that board shall be structured so that no more than six trustees are elected at each election

VIII. OFFICERS

A. The officers of the organization shall consist of a President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer and who shall serve as such officers until their successors are elected and qualified. No officer shall serve in the same capacity for more than two consecutive two-year terms.

2. **Position letter**: A position letter, approved by the Board, was presented to the members for approval. It reads, as follows:

The Downtown Residents Council advocates for a vibrant downtown neighborhood that is safe, clean and welcoming to all. DRC also supports organizations that provide services to our most vulnerable citizens: those in need of mental health services, homeless and those addicted to alcohol and drugs.

In the last few days many individuals have set up tents along Third Street with the intent to reside there. This is a main thoroughfare and gateway to the City. Residents have observed numerous violations of the law by these individuals including the use and sale of drugs, public

urination and defecation, open containers, trespassing and blocking the public right of way.

This illegal activity is harming the quality of life and image of the City. DRC expects the City Administration to enforce the law in our shared public space. DRC also supports referring these individuals to the numerous social agencies and services that can address their needs.

Rick Dieringer made a motion, which was seconded by Chris Smith, to authorize DRC President Sue Byrom to communicate this position to relevant city officials.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Reports:

Events Committee: Social Chair Mary Heimert announced a Celebration of the Ambassadors, to be held at The Reserve on October 10, 5-7pm. Gift cards and cash donations will be solicited and used to fund this event.

DRC's second social will be a brunch on July 28th at the Bang & Olufsen store, 6 West 4th Street, co-hosted by First Watch. More information on this can be found on the website.

Announcements: A Cincinnati Ballet representative announced upcoming events.

Submitted by: Mary Jacobs, Recording Secretary

CLEAN, GREEN AND SAFE COMMITTEE - Report for the DRC Board Meeting of July 9, 2018, by Alan Bunker, Chairperson.

June 2018 thru July 7, 2018 - On several occasions, litter was picked up and weeds were pulled along the Path. It was most recently weeded on July 7th. During the month, some bush honeysuckle shrubs were cut to the ground. Tree branches growing low over the Path were removed. Poison ivy vines were treated. Because of the frequent rains, watering the plants has not been necessary. A few perennials

transplanted this past spring are establishing themselves. The appearance of the wall is still good. Removal of bush honeysuckle shrubs and low-growing tree branches will continue in order to maintain visibility between the Path and the adjoining parking lot.

On one occasion, small bags of trash and weeds were gathered from the Purple People Bridge (PPB).