

SEPTEMBER 2017 – MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING – MINUTES

Downtown

Residence Council, Inc.

Date: September 12, 2017 @ 6:00pm

Place: Public Library, 800 Vine Street, 3rd Floor, Tower Room

Welcome: Gary Bryson

Introduction of New Members – Gary Bryson

Adam Coffey
Anna Stokes
Bill Haubner
Donna Harris
Eric & Tina Ernst



Monthly Reports:

Cincinnati Police Department – Captain Mike Neville

Piatt Park – challenge (public park where people can assemble) suggest we come up with ideas to improve the area

Octoberfest is Sept. 15-17

Oct. 8th Captain Neville's daughter singing at 1pm for Bengals

5th & Walnut – worked with store on corner and noticeable improvements regarding issues and panhandling

Meters collects donations – working

Fire Department – n/a

Ambassadors – Chico Lockhart (works daytime)/Derrick Chance (works evening)

www.blockbyblock.com

44 individuals have been housed

Sept. 28, homeless count (includes OTR)/40 people sleeping on 3rd

72 hours to be removed from underpass

Sarah Sundrup, General Manager to assist Zak Finch, Operations Manager, Ambassador

Services

Speakers:

Rich Walburg, Managing Partner, Agar – the Story of Blink \$3.4M

Oct. 12-15, 7pm Light & Art start at the Banks to OTR, similar to Lumenocity

Free and Open to the public, except for event at Washington Park – 20 City blocks of live entertainment and world class art

4 Zones: The Banks, Central Business District, Findley Market, & Washington Park

1 hr. kickoff parade (Washington Park)

Collaboration of Art Works, Brave Berlin and others, privately funded

Streetcar option to see the sites, but best to walk (suggests doing one zone per day)

Need Volunteers for at least 1 shifts per night

Get the word out – share and invite friends and family

www.blinkcincinnati.com/

David Siders, Library Manager – Community Conversation about Piatt Park – 2nd oldest park in Cincy

Collaboration with the Kettering Foundation (Kim) to tackle community issues.

It's an exercise in democracy, everyone has a voice and seek common ground together

Pros/Cons – concerns/comments:

- Concerns about large groups of people congregating/need to feel safer
- In the past, there were more activities in the park (acoustic groups) – people gathered for other reasons than handing out. Now it's being used for smoking weed, etc. Feel need more positive activities to discourage negative activity.
- Feeling Piatt Park is neglected by police, maintenance, etc.
- Electricity has been repaired but not turned on yet
- Geography is so different than the other parks, designed more for sedentary activity.

- Need regular scheduled activities
- Feel there isn't a good consensus of the people who use the park to voice their opinion
- Work & live CBD, there has been a major change in the park and what it's being used for. People are concerned due to fights and over-doses and other illegal transactions going on.
- Gathering place for churches who bring food and other donations; issue they don't clean up afterwards. Feel the police can be more prescriptive of how the park should be left after the events.
- We shouldn't judge people who use it. We should focus on the space and giving it the attention it deserves.
- Enhance the area with plants and lighting and encourage positive activities.
- Solutions: panhandling and littering (Ambassadors), police are for emergencies; utilize citizens on patrol, new initiative: night hawk (big spot lot)
- Understand that some problems are toxic and never go away
- Negative activities shifted from Washington Park to Piatt Park
- Park re-opened 1988/donated 1817 by owners – 200 years old
- Library and park lot of bad activity – need to get more businesses involved – music concerts, etc.
- Court Street project may be able to expand to Piatt Park area
- Close off streets when having events to expand area
- Invite food trucks on one day per week to encourage businesses and employees to frequent the park
- Shared purpose or course of action
- Early 90's – street festival – mini taste of Cincy – rented chairs – received help from Cincinnati Parks Assn.
- Encourage DRC to adopt the park and coordinate activities
- Consider needs of the park and incorporate into the DRC budget for future
- Decorate the park – Sat. Nov. 18th 11am–1pm, people at the church donate cocoa, **need volunteers to sign-up**
- Planning a forum in near future for General Public; stakeholders, etc. – date to be determined

Old Business – n/a

New Business

- Approval of **August 2017** Minutes
 - 1st Kurt Grossman 2nd Chris Smith All approved
- Adopt-A-School (Ginnie S.)
 - Rothenberg Elementary School
 - Special requests and supplies donated
 - Need volunteers more info to come in the DRC newsletter
- Hamilton Co program to increase naloxone supply www.wcpo.com/news/local-news/hamilton-county/cincinnati/pilot-program-to-increase-naloxone-supply-in-hamilton-county

Reports:

Events Coordinator – Brigid Almaguer

DRC Social after meeting: Jekyll on Fountain Square 7:00 pm – 9 pm (Happy Hour extended until 9 pm)

Sept. 19 (Tues.) DRC Social at Igby's 6th Street – 7 pm

Clean, Green and Safe – Al Bunker (notes attached)

Treasurer Report – John Stringer

(Treasury report will be update at next Member Meeting; beginning Balance for August \$14,506.97)
(Detailed copy available upon request)

President's report – Gary Bryson – n/a

Announcements (All non-political items are welcome)

- No update on the Dennison Hotel at this time, tied up in litigations
- Membership cards available – see Melissa Ullman
- Concerns regarding the closing of the north section of the Library (original cost to build \$30M – plan to sell to 3CDC for \$8.5M
 - DRC is planning a session to discuss this situation further – special call meeting TBD
- Coupons available for Soto Salon
- Riverside Food Tours (3 hrs.) – Mike
- Ollie class for Seniors <http://www.uc.edu/ce/olli.html>
- October 7th (11a–3p)– Ancestry 3rd floor main library

- Sept. 19, Memorial Hall – Preservation information

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: Tuesday, **October 10**, 2017