

MAY 2019 - MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 13, 2019

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

Members absent: Mary Jacobs

Items for Discussion/Action



President Sue Byrom let the board know that Christian Rahe, in light of new responsibilities at work, has decided it is best for him to step down as Membership Chair. Al Bunker, DRC Vice President, has agreed to take on membership duties. Dennis O'Connor, former Membership Chair, has offered to help in the transition. The board voted unanimously to confirm Al in the new position. Jan Hirlinger, who previously volunteered to serve as membership backup, will be included in the training process.

Victoria Pershick reported on her research into alternatives to MyVolunteerPage as a mechanism for responding to social invitations. She shared a summary of findings and other considerations with the board. Victoria is leaning toward EventBrite, and said it would be possible to send sample invitation to board members. Jackie Bryson suggested looking at a closed Facebook page. It was determined that Victoria, Mary Heimert, and Carol Glotfelter would work together to reach a conclusion. John Stringer mentioned that he would like to have access to the Survey Monkey survey results of membership with respect to social media.

Al reported on Clean, Green & Safe activities planned for warmer weather. We will not be official partners with the Parks Department this year, so will look for another source of mulch for the Path to the Taft.

The remainder of the meeting was given largely to a discussion of the retail situation in the Central Business District. Board members had communicated via email about the decline of business at Booksellers since other tenants moved out of the Fountain Place building. Servati's and Plaza Art have recently closed. Parking continues to be a problem for all downtown customers with the near-construction on city streets and buildings. The loss of small businesses, and what can be done to support those now struggling, is of great concern to the board. Cate Douglas reported that 3CDC is actively working to recruit tenants for Fountain Place and indeed to help all their tenants in the city. Christian noted that changes in the retail landscape are not unique to Cincinnati. It was agreed that Sue would draft a letter to the mayor, Council, and 3CDC conveying board concerns. Jackie will feature small businesses downtown in the weekly newsletter and encourage members to support them.

In a related discussion, conflicting reports about the Ambassadors program were reported. There is some sense that their presence has lessened in the CBD, though Cate pointed to a new third shift and improved salaries and benefits. Sue agreed to get in touch with David Vissman of CDC for clarification.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The board will next meet at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, June 10.