

MAY 2019 - MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 14, 2019

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

Welcome: Sue Byrom, President

Monthly Reports:



Officer Tim Eppstein of the Cincinnati Police Department reported that, once again, crime statistics for the Central Business District are encouragingly low, and that housing for most of the downtown homeless population has been secured. Captain Doug Wiesman talked about upcoming events, notably the filming of NBC's "American Ninja Warrior." Preparations, including the closing of 2nd Street between Elm and Walnut, will begin after the Reds game on Friday, May 17. Events begin May 23. Taste of Cincinnati is May 25-27 and the Reds are in town on the 27th, so it will be a busy weekend. Streetcar operation will not be affected. In response to a question, Captain Wiesman acknowledged that motorcycle noise on the Taylor-Southgate bridge is a problem, but explained that there is not much the police can do unless cyclists stop voluntarily when signaled to do so. Mostly they just take off, and pursuit is impractical for safety reasons. Rumble strips are viewed as likely to contribute to accidents as well as to impede snow removal.

Neither the Fire Department nor the Ambassadors were available for their usual presentations.

DRC Reports:

Mary Heimert invited the group to a social at Brick & Mortar in the Cincinnati following the meeting. Sue Byrom reported on an initiative to reposition Piatt Park as a downtown social space; yoga classes and concerts are planned for the summer months.

A motion to approve the April meeting minutes was made by Chris Smith, seconded by Mary Jacobs, and passed unanimously.

Speakers:

Theresa Tanner, Chief Administrative Officer, and Thomas Neltner, Managing Director of Enterprise Workplace Services with Fifth Third, gave a presentation on the upcoming reconfiguration and refurbishing of Fountain Square. They showed a video and walked the audience through the process and plans for Project Connect. In sum, the two existing Fifth Third buildings will be connected across the northeast corner of the square. The new space will feature a single main entrance to replace the various existing entrances. The existing stage will be demolished and a new one constructed in the southeast corner. The project is expected to be completed in 2020.

Details were reviewed in response to questions. Potbelly will move. Graeter's will expand. Chipotle, the Visitors' Center, and Rock Bottom will remain as they are, though Rock

Bottom will lose its outdoor dining patio during the construction phase. The two executives pointed out that these businesses are all Fifth Third tenants, and stressed that the company is working with all of them to minimize disruption. New signage will be installed. The indoor corridor connecting Fountain Square to Sixth Street will be spruced up, also with new signage. The video screen will stay. Seasonal skating will not be affected.

Announcements:

The TriYoga with LQ Studio on Main Street will conduct summer classes in Piatt Park. The World Cinema on Race Street will serve as a venue for the May 31 - June 15 Fringe Festival. The planned OTR Museum will offer complimentary 90-minute neighborhood tours this summer.

Following a motion made by Andy Reiss and seconded by Latanya Leary, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 11, at 6:00 p.m.