

## JUNE 2019 - MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 11, 2019

Place: Public Library, 800 Vine Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Welcome: Sue Byrom, President

### New Members:

Abby Callahan  
Tiffany Dance  
Catherine DeWeirdt  
Tim and Sue Dickens

Kevin and Sally Donovan  
Daniel Hogan  
Ali Scullion  
Elizaeth Staley



### Monthly Report:

Officer **Tim Eppstein** of the **Cincinnati Police Department** reported on crime statistics. All are below the rolling five-year average; however, a rash of seven robberies in May caused a spike in that category. Eppstein said that a mixed female/male group of young African-Americans had accosted and robbed pedestrians. These crimes have no signature location or time of day, and it is difficult for victims to identify their attackers. **Captain Doug Wiesman** was pleased to announce that two big downtown weekends (Taste of Cincinnati and the Bunbury Music Festival, with the Reds at home during both) generated no incidents at all. He thanked 3CDC for their clean-up efforts and watchful presence. The next big weekend features the Pride Parade on June 22.

First Speakers: **Marissa Reed** and **Mark Antrobus** of **3CDC** reported on developments concerning the Downtown Ambassadors. The Clean & Safe program has been brought in-house and the previous contract with Block by Block to provide these services terminated. Seventy-five percent of the staff previously employed by Block by Block has been retained by 3CDC. They have been issued new uniforms and seen both a salary increase and benefits improvements. Service hours have been extended. Outreach services are now provided by three staff from Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services, who are on duty from 7:00 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays and 10:00 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekends. 3CDC has identified “hot spots,” such as Piatt Park and the library, for intensified coverage. All calls for outreach and other Ambassador services will be funneled through the Ambassador hotline.

The Ambassadors will be located in new office space at 6<sup>th</sup> and Race as of mid-July. 3CDC is working on a plan for staff to follow in bad weather. Ambassadors have been provided with Geopal, a mobile app for field operations management.

Events and promotions, including the Christmastime Downtown Dazzle, will continue. A new initiative is the Street Stage Project (undertaken in collaboration with the Cincinnati Music Accelerator), featuring buskers performing in prescribed locations at certain hours. Stakeholder activities, including Sector meetings, will continue as previously.

A DAAP planning studio group is conducting an assessment of downtown aesthetics - sidewalk conditions, planters, etc. - contributing to visitors' (and residents') experience of downtown.

### **DRC Reports**

**Social Chair Mary Heimert** invited DRC members to a post-meeting social at Igby's on 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

Mary Jacobs proposed, and Mike Glotfelter seconded, a motion to approve the May minutes. It was passed unanimously.

**Second Speaker: Jason Barron**, Executive Director of Cincinnati Red Bike, introduced the availability of a new electronic-assist bike. As Jason explained it, you still have to pedal, but it gives you a boost, with a speed up to 17 mph. The electric model may be chosen from stands where it is available for the standard rate of \$3 for 20 minutes. Effective July 1, a day pass providing for up to two hours of cycling, will cost \$10 (compared to the current \$8 for up to one hour) and an annual pass will cost \$100, up from \$80. Overage costs, for keeping a bike for longer than two hours, will be \$5 per hour. **Note:** The longer maximum period, two hours versus one, is already in effect. **Special note for DRC members:** members who purchase an annual pass before the end of June will receive a special rate of \$75 for the year by using the promo code **DRCJUNE**.

### **Announcements:**

**Debbie Celek**, owner with her husband Steve of the Paragon Salon (West 5<sup>th</sup> Street and two other locations), described the salon's menu of spa services and offered DRC members a 15% discount for weekday appointments.

**Jackie Bryson**, speaking on behalf of the Cincinnati Visitor's Center on Fountain Square, urged members to consider volunteering at the center. New volunteers are urgently needed. Training is provided, and shifts are three hours long.

**Jackie O'Neill** let the group know that her State Farm agency is in business on Pendleton Street to help with a variety of insurance needs.

**Kathy Brinkman**, Park Place resident, alerted the group that the Cincinnati Park Board plans to cut down four mature plane trees in Lytle Park under the terms of an agreement with Western & Southern. She urged members to join her in opposing this course of action by attending a hearing on Friday, June 14, or by contacting Park Board members.

A motion to adjourn was made by Chris Smith and seconded by Jackie Bryson; it was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 7:03. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, at 6:00 p.m. at the Library.