

## JULY 2019 - MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** July 8, 1029

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

**Members absent:** Gary Bryson, Jackie Bryson, Victoria Pershick, Barbara Smurda



### Items for Discussion/Action:

1. Sue Byrom introduced Marcus Coleman, Community Outreach Coordinator for Hamilton County Job and Family Services, who had requested an opportunity to address the group. Marcus described his agency's efforts to decentralize some aid services throughout the county through participation in Project LIFT. This collaborative effort will work through neighborhood groups, smaller social services agencies, and (predominantly) churches to make resources available to county residents seeking jobs. HCJFS will assist with direct aid dollars and with making connections among neighborhood groups with similar aims and those needing assistance from larger agencies. Marcus asked board members to let him know our impressions of his agency, what they are doing well, and where they might improve. He can be reached at [Marcus.Coleman@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Marcus.Coleman@jfs.ohio.gov).

2. Al Bunker gave a membership update. He thanked board members who made personal approaches to business members overdue for renewal. There is still a list of those who have not responded. Al proposed establishing a common end-of-month renewal date for business members, eliminating the need to track renewals continually through each month. Support for this was unanimous; it was further agreed that those who renew now will be credited with a year of membership looking forward rather than taking into account their original renewal date. John Stringer reiterated support for the idea of giving all members a single annual renewal date. Sue said that the executive committee would discuss and resolve the question.

3. Victoria Pershick, Social Media chair, was unable to be present to lead a discussion of website updates and adopting a new RSVP system for social events so asked consultant Carol Glotfelter to attend the meeting; Carol reported that Victoria was prepared to go forward with either Evite or Eventbrite for RSVPs. After discussion, the group concluded that Evite would best suit our needs. Esther Wing agreed to work with Victoria and Carol to move this along. Sue asked all board members to take a look at the DRC website before the next board meeting and to consider what content might be dispensed with or streamlined.

4. Treasurer John Stringer reminded the board that Neighborhood Support Program (NSP) checks had to be written and cashed by the end of August. Of DRC's total funding of \$6,085 for the year, \$3,830 has already been committed.

John pointed out that the \$600 allocated for membership education likely could not be spent by the deadline and proposed moving it to the Downtown Projects category. The group agreed that the resulting \$1,500 in that category would be divided, with \$1,000 going to ABC (see below) and \$500 to GeneroCity.

4. Mary Jacobs, Outreach chair, asked for and received board approval to partner with ABC (Activities Beyond the Classroom), which supports a range of extracurricular activities for students in the Cincinnati Public Schools, from swimming to gardening, soccer to Mandarin Chinese. Mary is impressed with their work and urged DRC support for it. ABC's director, Sally Grimes, has said that DRC can earmark its contribution for use in downtown schools. As noted above, the board agreed to make a \$1,000 contribution now - the minimum for inclusion in the organization's donor list - and to consider asking DRC members to make contributions as this year's holiday project.

5. Cate Douglas, scheduled to speak at the July 9 membership meeting about the proposed Community Entertainment District designation for the Court Street area, told the board that DRC had sent support letters for similar designations (e.g., the Banks) in the past. With approval from the Board, Sue agreed to prepare such a letter in connection with this effort.

6. A last topic was the idea of maintaining a directory of recommended services for members, especially those new to downtown. These might include tailors, shoe repair shops, hardware stores, etc. Cate suggested that we could refer member to 3CDC's Downtown Cincinnati app as a less laborious alternative.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08. Next month's meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 12, at 6:00 at the library.