

AUGUST 2019 - MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 13, 2019

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

Welcome: Sue Byrom, President

Monthly Reports:

Captain Doug Wiesman, Commander of the Cincinnati Police Department's Central Business District, reviewed personnel changes on his staff. He introduced **Sergeant Brian Brazil**, one of four sergeants new to the CBD. The CBD is still short of its full complement of officers. Doug reviewed crime statistics: again this month, mostly good. Burglary numbers are up thanks to a "spree" by one man, who is now in custody. Doug explained that the CBD has no undercover officers, as other districts do. He can often get help from the narcotics unit, but intervening in suspected drug trafficking on downtown streets is a challenge. Doug discussed upcoming events: My Black Family Reunion, August 15-18 and the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World summer convention, August 10-17. BLINK is on the horizon. The City plans to shut down some major streets to relieve some of the gridlock that occurred during the last BLINK, but traffic, given the 1.25 million projected attendance, may still be expected to be "a mess."

Marisa Reed from 3CDC, reported on behalf of the Ambassadors, sharing a "Stats" sheet about the group's activities. The Ambassadors have moved into new office space at 26 W. 6th Street; an open house is planned. In response to a question about litter at the Cincinnati end of the Taylor-Southgate Bridge, Marisa said that she would try to clarify cleanup responsibility with the City.

DRC Reports:

Social Chair Mary Heimert invited the group to a post-meeting social at Via Vite on Fountain Square, 2nd floor.

Hugh Koon proposed and Mary Jacobs seconded a motion to approve the July minutes, which passed unanimously.

Speakers:

Tony Ferrari, chef, restauranteur, and business owner, talked about the new restaurant he and his brother have opened in the Contemporary Arts Center. The brothers operate businesses in San Francisco; the new venture is a return to their hometown. Named for their father and their great-uncle, who owned a barbershop on Court Street, Fausto's goal is to bring a California flavor with local ingredients to Cincinnati and a full-service restaurant to the CAC. Fausto is open from 8:00 to 10:00 most days, closed Saturday and Sunday nights, and takes reservations. A 3-course tasting menu is available for \$39. Tony hopes to welcome DRC members on a regular basis.



Sally Grimes, Director of Advancement for Activities Beyond the Classroom, gave an overview of her organization's programs and thanked the DRC for a recent \$1,000 donation. ABC is an independent 501(c)(3) organization that provides extracurricular activities for Cincinnati Public School students; as Sally said, ABC "stands with" CPS, but is not legally a part of it. Program offerings include athletics, arts and language, health and wellness, and leadership and mentoring. DRC's dollars are earmarked for downtown use, specifically for tennis and soccer programs at Rothenberg Preparatory Academy on E. Clifton Avenue. ABC's long-term goal is to provide a full range of extracurricular activities to all CPS students.

Announcements:

Margaret Swallow previewed coming films at the Cincinnati World Cinema. **Emily Toby** gave information about Fuel Cincinnati, a not-for-profit incubator program making grant money (\$500 - \$2500) available to approved projects in the areas of diversity, environment, and education; involvement by young professionals in the city is a required component. Fuel Cincinnati is seeking grant applicants. **Rick Dieringer** shared findings from his research: the downtown area now has 585 condos/townhomes and 3,430 apartments, with another 1,400 units in the pipeline.

A motion to adjourn was made by Rick Dieringer and seconded by Barb Smurda ; it was approved at 7:04. The next meeting will be September 10, at 6:00 at the Main Library.