

SEPTEMBER 2019 - MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 10, 2019

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

Welcome: Sue Byrom, President

New Members:

Connie Armstrong

Kimberly Steefel

Jerry and Mary Wiesenhahn

George and Kathy Hurst

Kurt and Donna Shuler

Gerald Moti

Emily Throbe



Monthly Reports:

Officer Tim Eppstein of the **Cincinnati Police Department** reported on crime statistics, which again this month compare well with the five-year rolling average. Violent crime and property crime are both down. Tim explained that the police department is paying extra attention to Piatt Park, given the many complaints about harassment and violence in the area.

Captain Doug Wiesman expanded on Piatt Park efforts. He described an August shooting that followed a fight there. The Captain reported that there were two arrests during the Riverfest fireworks. He alerted members to a mass casualty drill (sponsored by Homeland Security and the fire department) scheduled for September 19, when many ambulances are to be expected in the neighborhood of the Reds stadium. He reminded the group of upcoming scheduled events: Oktoberfest Sept 20-22, with the Hudepohl 14K run on that Saturday, the Chilifest on Oct 5, and BLINK Oct 10-13.

Marisa Reed spoke on behalf of the Downtown Ambassadors. She said that Ambassadors have been focused on cleaning and maintenance tasks in the Banks area. Following up on a question from last month, Marisa said she had met with a city representative about trash under the Clay Wade Bailey and Taylor-Southgate bridges. Responsibility for a fenced area under the latter is ambiguous, but is being looked into. Ambassadors will pay attention to trash at the Ohio end of the bridge itself. Two third-shift Ambassadors have been assigned specifically to Piatt Park.

DRC Reports:

Social Chair Mary Heimert invited the group to a post-meeting social at Spoon & Cellar in the Holiday Inn at 7th and Broadway.

Rick Dieringer proposed and Mary Jacobs seconded a motion to approve the August minutes, which passed unanimously.

Speakers:

Don Heinrich Tolzmann spoke on behalf of the Roebling Bridge Committee, headquartered in Covington. The group is responsible for maintaining the flags and decorative (“necklace”) lighting on the bridge, though not involved in its structural maintenance. The bridge actually belongs to the state of Kentucky. Don announced that tours of the bridge are conducted periodically, the next scheduled for October 12. He referred DRC members to the Committee’s website, <https://roebalingbridge.org/Home/PID/931/authorid/2/AuthorName/Roebling-Bridge-Committee> and urged those interested in the bridge to get involved with the Committee’s work.

Cate Douglas, Stakeholder Services Specialist at 3CDC, gave the group a preview of this year’s BLINK festival, Oct 10-13. It will be bigger than 2017’s BLINK, with 3,000 participants signed up for the opening parade, 35+ projection mappings and lighted displays, and the addition of sites in Covington (including the Roebling Bridge). Fifteen new murals will be executed. Participating artists hail from six countries and seven U.S. cities and include 19 local artists. Highlights include an even larger Luminarium in Washington Park (the only ticketed venue in the festival) and a crowd-sourced mural at 1807 Race Street. Light-making classes for potential spectators will be offered by the Cincinnati Art Museum, the Contemporary Arts Center, the Museum Center, and the Baker Hunt Community Art Center in Covington. 3CDC will be sending out information about street closings. More detailed information is available at www.blinkcincinnati.com.

Announcements:

Martha Good described OTR tours offered by the OTR Museum - information available at www.otrmuseum.org - and urged DRC members to consider training as tour guides.

Sue Byrom told members that anyone having problems with bars and other establishments selling liquor in our area should email her through the DRC website and she will forward them to the police department. She announced that the date of the October meeting would be pushed back a week because the regularly scheduled date is Yom Kippur. She adjourned the meeting at 7:07.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 15, at 6:00 at the library.