

MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING MINUTES - OCT. 2019

Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

Date: OCTOBER 15th, 2019 @ 6:00pm

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

Welcome: Sue Byrom, President

New Members

Kurt & Donna Schuler

Robin Little & Matt Bedell

Frank & Phyllis Rinaldi



Monthly Reports

Officer Tim Eppstein of the Cincinnati Police Department reviewed crime statistics, noting that there had been a spike in burglaries, but said that arrests had been made. Compared with the three-year moving average, violent crimes are down 5% and property crimes down 22%.

Captain Doug Wiesman talked about BLINK, which drew somewhere between 1.0 and 1.5 million people to Downtown and resulted in no serious incidents of any kind. (The audience clapped.) Wiesman thanked the Sheriff's deputies who assisted the CPD in crowd and traffic control. He announced that there would be a meeting of BLINK organizers, the CPD, and others on November 1 to review learnings from the festival.

Marisa Reed spoke for the Downtown Ambassadors. She reported on landscaping and maintenance activities, including the painting of heavily-graffittied Pendery Alley and a landscape/cleaning joint effort by 3CDC and Keep Cincinnati Beautiful to prepare the city for BLINK. Ambassadors were on duty during the festival. There is still an Ambassador detail assigned to Piatt Park, and plans to improve park lighting are proceeding.

DRC Reports

Mary Heimert announced the evening's social at the Backstage Event Center, 625 Walnut Street, and previewed other upcoming socials. The members-only holiday party at Prime is scheduled for December 9.

Sue called for a motion to approve the September minutes; a motion was proposed by Mary Jacobs, seconded by Jackie Bryson, and approved by all.

DRC Treasurer **John Stringer** explained the 2020 Neighborhood Support Program (NSP) budget due to be submitted to the City. It will provide funds for programs in membership development, community improvement, and community service, to a total of \$6,078. Gary Bryson moved that the budget be approved, Tim Nolan seconded, and approval was granted by a counted vote of 60 ayes, no nays, no abstentions.

Alan Bunker announced that the annual decorating of Piatt Park would take place from 11:00-1:00 on November 16th and invited members to sign up to participate.

Sue reminded members that there would be no meeting in December.

Speakers:

Eric Greenberg of Neyer Holdings Corporation described his firm's 6th Street Exchange project, incorporating buildings at 126 and 130 E. 6th Street, as well as the Gano Power Building. Neyer purchased the properties in 2016, enabled in part by historic tax credits. Total project cost is estimated at \$14 million. 126 E. 6th will be apartments; 130 will include office space and a yet-to-be-finalized commercial enterprise on the ground level.

Marissa Pherson, Recruiting Assistant with the U.S. Census Bureau, talked about the importance of the 2020 census. Mandated by the Constitution, the decennial census provides the basis for determining the number of seats states have in the U.S. House of Representative and for various federal funding allocations. Each household will be invited to respond to a census questionnaire by mail, on the phone, or, for the first time, online. The Census Bureau is actively recruiting part-time, paid census takers to follow up with residents who have not responded on their own. Training will be provided. Those interested are directed to the website www.2020census.gov/jobs.

Announcements:

Shirley Joyce invited DRC members to tour the Federal Reserve Bank of Cincinnati (150 E. 4th Street) at 12:45 on November 20th. She provided a sign-up sheet, which will be available at the November DRC meeting as well.

Scott Skebach of the DownTowne Listening Room invited members to a special concert featuring musicians Rob Harris, Marcia Ramirez, and Mike Waldron on Saturday night at the Covenant First Presbyterian Church at 717 Elm Street.

David Siders of the Library gave a summary of the Facilities Master Plan that will be finalized in December and serve to guide renovation efforts over the next decade. One feature is a redesign of the Library's Vine Street frontage.

Chris Smith, also of the Library, invited members to a talk on submarines in World Wars I and II at the Library at 1:00 on November 16th and to a genealogy-based after-hours lock-in networking opportunity at the Library the evening of October 19.

Ally Dirigo invited questions about the new Kroger on the Rhine supermarket.

Mary Jacobs announced that DRC's chosen holiday charity would be in support of Activities Beyond the Classroom (ABC), an organization that provides after-school activities to Cincinnati Public School students, at no charge to the students. Specifically, holiday donations will be given to an art program including both visual arts and music at Taft Elementary School. The school plans an exhibition and performance to which DRC members

will be invited. Volunteer opportunities will also be available. Members are asked to consider making a contribution.

Alison Farringer, a PhD student at UC, invited members to complete a survey related to a program being tested for the treatment and legal processing of people accused of crimes that may be attributed to their opioid addiction.

Hank Sykes invited members to attend a lecture he will be giving on Lost and Found Theaters of the Queen City on November 6 at 7:00 at the Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 12th at 6 pm at the Library.