

## **NOV. 2019 – BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

**Date:** NOVEMBER 11TH 2019 @ 6:00pm

**Place:** 3B Meeting Room, Main Library



**Board members unable to attend:** Mary Jacobs, Carol Parobek, Barbara Smurda

### **Items for Discussion/Action**

**1. Board Terms** Sue Byrom distributed an up-to-date list of board members and their current assignments. A discussion of board terms ensued. The DRC constitution, as amended at the members' meeting of September 11, 2018, contains the following language with respect to terms:

*Trustees shall serve for two-year terms or until their successors are elected and qualified. No trustee shall serve for more than three consecutive two-year terms in the same capacity.*

*The officers of the organization shall consist of a President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer and who shall serve as such officers for one year or until their successors are elected and qualified. No officer shall serve in the same capacity for more than two consecutive two-year terms.*

The 9/11/18 amendment was proposed because some potential board candidates were reluctant to take on a three-year commitment to serve, as provided in the previous Constitution language. However, it became apparent that the new language about trustee service is ambiguous, seeming to indicate that board members could serve indefinitely provided that their roles within the board changed after a maximum of six years. Board members present at the 11/11/19 meeting agreed that the original intent was to cap service at a total of six years, with the understanding that a person could be re-elected to the board after a year's absence.

With respect to board officers, the reference to "two consecutive two-year terms" is also problematic, since officers are elected on an annual basis by board trustees, rather than for a two-year term.

Tim Nolan agreed to redraft the language to reflect the board's professed intent. New language will again have to be approved by the membership. Jackie Bryson suggested that board members be asked to sign a letter of intent before the beginning of each fiscal year to serve for the duration of that year, thus allowing the Nominating Committee to know for certain of vacancies that will need to be filled in the annual election.

### **2. Piatt Park Christmas decorating on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>**

Alan Bunker reported that 15 people had signed up to participate in the annual decorating, which will commence at 11:00 on 11/16. Decorations will be picked up from Cappel's, where they have been stored since last year.

3. **DRC holiday party** **Mary Heimert** reminded the Board that the holiday party is scheduled from 6:00 to 9:00 on December 9 at Prime. Nelson Castillo has promised a surprise (music?), and Mr. and Mrs. Claus have plans as well. Rick Dieringer will take photos. An invitation will be sent to DRC members next week. Members may invite guests, who will be charged an entry fee of \$20. Guests will be encouraged to become members, but may not do so during the party itself. The board approved an overall budget of \$4,000 for the event. Mary has lined up people to check in attendees and provide them with nametags. She requested that Doug Wiesman and Tim Eppstein of the Cincinnati Police Department and Stephen Leeper, Marissa Reed, Mark Antrobus, and David Vissman of 3CDC be invited as non-paying guests.

4. **DRC holiday appeal** **Mary Jacobs** was unable to be present to address this topic, but will do so at the membership meeting. **Christian Rahe** raised the issue of the heater meals purchased by DRC as last year's holiday project. He had talked with Luxfer Magtech, manufacturer of the meals. The company donated some meals last year -- some of which reached their best-by date in succeeding months and were discarded (though safe to be eaten, according to Luxfer) – and is willing to do so again if this remains a DRC project. Christian recommended, and the board agreed, to stick with Mary's plan to contribute to Activities Beyond the Classroom this year, and revisit the heater meal question at a later date.

5. **DRC member survey** **Gary Bryson** suggested that it was time to do another DRC membership survey, noting that the last had been five years ago. He volunteered to send the previous survey to board members. Christian said that the new Wild Apricot software package should lend itself handily to a survey.

6. **Wild Apricot transition** Christian expanded on the memo he had sent to board members prior to the meeting. The plan is for a small group of board members (Christian, Victoria, Jan, Jackie, and Mary H at a minimum) to work on a transition plan between now and the end of the year, and to sign up with Wild Apricot in January. Board members are encouraged to think about and communicate their needs and to try the Wild Apricot tutorial.

#### 7. **Circulation of minutes**

Sue and **Lisa Sprague** will set up a procedure whereby board and membership minutes will be made available to board members before being posted on the website.

**Next Meeting: Monday, January 13th, 2020**