

NOV 2019 - MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING MINUTES
Inc.

Downtown Residents' Council,

Date: November 12th, 2019 @ 6:00pm

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

President **Sue Byrom** called the meeting to order and welcomed new members.



New Members

Sandra Hitzler
Pamela Myers
Richard & Maureen Finn
Dan & Kim Farrish

Ken & Lisa Holloway
Jeff & Jean Haynes
Jennifer Murtland

New Business Members

Neyer Holdings
Ali D'Arrigo/ Manager, Downtown Food Hall @ Kroger

Monthly Reports

Officer **Tim Eppstein** of the Cincinnati Police Department addressed Downtown district crime statistics. Violent crimes were up slightly, due to 11 rape allegations. While some of these proved groundless, a suspect has been identified and is being sought in at least one case. Clean-up of some re-forming homeless camps, such as one at 3rd and Broadway, has been carried out. Tim described two incidents earlier in the day in which guns were seized, one during a traffic stop and one in the library.

Captain Doug Wiesman spoke of and answered questions about some specific crime incidents, including one at the Bay Horse Café and one on the Purple People Bridge. The victim in the latter case, who was held up at gunpoint, was in the meeting and described his experience. The Captain urged those going out walking to take their cell phones, which this man had not. The Captain then talked about a recent large drug seizure and arrests at the Millenium Hotel and answered a question about penalties for marijuana possession and its use by saying that it was currently a bigger crime to drink beer in the park; someone caught smoking marijuana will receive a warning and have the substance confiscated.

Marissa Reed spoke for the Downtown Ambassadors. She noted that less weeding is required this time of year, but pressure washing continued in October. 3CDC met with the Recreation Commission and lighting contractors to begin planning additional lighting for the two ends of Piatt Park. She called up outreach engagement specialist Milton Davis to address a question about the homeless population in view of the oncoming winter. He said that housing had been secured for a good proportion of that population. The City Gospel Mission emails the Ambassadors daily with a count of available beds. The men's shelter is also fairly lenient about admissions in cold weather. Both Marissa and Milton urge people to

call the Ambassadors' hot line (513-623-3429) if they see someone in need of help; the hot line is staffed from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

DRC Reports

Mary Heimert invited members to a social after the meeting at **Red Roost Tavern**, 151 W. Fifth Street in the Hyatt Regency. **David Ostrander** asked members to reserve the evening of December 9, 6:00 to 9:00, for the DRC holiday party at Prime, 580 Walnut Street. The party is free to DRC members, who must RSVP to the invitation that will be emailed next week. Members may invite guests, who will be charged an entry fee of \$20, and whose names must be submitted in advance. Payment is requested in the form of a check rather than cash or credit card. Guests will be encouraged to become members, but may not do so during the party itself.

A Treasurer's Report, submitted by **John Stringer**, showed a starting balance of \$14,882.02 at 9/30 and a closing balance \$15,106.97 at 10/31.

Old Business

Christian Rahe proposed and Mary Jacobs seconded a motion to approve the October meeting minutes, which passed unanimously.

New Business

Sue Byrom reminded members that there is no regular DRC meeting in December.

Alan Bunker invited members to take part in the annual holiday decorating of Piatt Park beginning at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 16. All participants are urged to bring their own scissors; all decorating materials will be provided.

Speakers

Thomas Gabelman, attorney for Hamilton County, addressed the group on future development plans at the Banks. He was accompanied by **Mike Smith**, CEO of Music & Event Management (MEMI) and **Kevin Speece** of GBBN Architects; both companies are involved in the planning and building of the new music venue. Gabelman talked about the whole Banks project. Estimates at the beginning of the project were that it would generate 2,000 jobs and have an economic impact of \$124 million; estimates have been revised upward to 5,000 jobs and economic impact of \$ 2.5 billion per year. Tom described the new office building that will go up at 180 Walnut. Kevin gave a presentation on the proposed music venue. Looking forward, the longtime Hilltop Concrete site, visible from the Brent Spence Bridge, will become green space. Federal funds are being sought to construct decks over Ft. Washington Way.

Miles Shuck, associate with Bird Scooters, seeks community engagement with Cincinnati residents. Bird had 400 on the streets at peak season, fewer now. The company pays the city one dollar per day per scooter, aimed at eventual funding of more bike-and-scooter lanes. Common complaints in the cities where Bird does business are riding on sidewalks, parking

carelessly, and under-age riders. While Bird will add education screens (“Do not ride on sidewalk,” “Park responsibly,” etc.) to its app, there is a limit to what the company can do to control human behavior. As audience member Chris Smith pointed out, bad behavior is seen daily on the part of bike riders and car drivers; it is not only a function of scooters.

Announcements

Shirley Joyce repeated her invitation to DRC members to tour the Federal Reserve at 12:45 on November 20, directing those interested to a sign-in sheet at the back of the room.

Chris Smith invited members to two events at the library: a program on the newspaper *The Independent Eye* at 7:00 on November 13 and one on the development of submarines at 1:00 on November 16.

Mary Jacobs reminded the group that DRC’s holiday project will be to support an art club program at Taft Elementary School, under the auspices of Activities Beyond the Classroom (ABC). Members are encouraged to make donations, which may be mailed to DRC, given to Mary, or dropped off at the holiday party. Checks should be made out to ABC.

A motion to adjourn was made by Chris Smith, seconded by Esther Wing, and approved by all at 7:10.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 14th 2020 at 6 pm