

JANUARY 2020 – BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

Date: JANUARY 13TH 2020 @ 6:00pm

Place: 3B Meeting Room, Main Library

Board members unable to attend:

Gary Bryson, Mary Jacobs, Carol Parobek, Barbara Smurda



Items for Discussion/Action

1. Wild Apricot update

Christian Rahe explained that he is working with Wild Apricot to understand its functionalities and to complete training before we seek to make a switch to the new platform. In discussion, board members agreed that taking an incremental approach made more sense than a wholesale switch. That is, we will work module by module, beginning with membership, followed by social RSVPs, and on from there. John Stringer suggested that some functions, such as payment options (PayPal, for example), are not time-sensitive. Jan Hirlinger signaled her readiness to begin to explore Wild Apricot's membership mechanism.

2. Clarification of Constitution regarding length of trustee and officer terms

Sue reported that the Executive Committee had met in December to review clarifying changes needed to the Constitution, as discussed at the November meeting:

Section VII, Board of Trustees, Item B:

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 terms ~~in the same capacity.~~

Section VIII, Officers, Item A:

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~~ **four consecutive one-year terms.**

The changes were approved unanimously and the President directed to present them to DRC membership for a vote.

3. Review of Board members and terms in office; formation of a nominating committee

Sue reminded the group that she and Gary Bryson will be stepping down when their terms end in April and announced that Carol Parobek had resigned. Thus there will be three openings, although it is not strictly necessary that the board operate will a full complement of 17 members. It was agreed that we would seek up to 3 new candidates, as identified by a nominating committee. Al agreed to chair this committee; John, Christian, Tim Nolan, and Jackie Bryson agreed to serve as members. A slate of candidates will be filed with the

Recording Secretary 30 days in advance of the annual meeting; information on candidates will be communicated to DRC members at least ten days in advance of that meeting.

4. Piatt Park

The board has been approached by Team CRE8, a group of students from Mason, directed to us by 3CDC and the Cincinnati Police Department. As part of a competition sponsored by Lego League Robotics, student teams are challenged to develop a plan to improve public space. CRE8's project is a redesign of Piatt Park. John suggested that we invite CRE8 representatives to make a presentation at a future board meeting.

In a separate matter related to Piatt Park, Al announced that Christmas decorations will be taken down on January 18 between 11:00 and 2:00. He indicated that he already had a sufficient number of volunteers, but that others would be welcome.

5. Update on TIFs and DRC involvement

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is a program that (in the definition provided by The Port, Cincinnati's economic development agency) allows for a future expected increase in property taxes to be used to finance the cost of improvements that will generate such increases. Organizations such as resident councils are meant to be involved in proposing and commenting on projects under consideration.

John and Al recently attended a meeting on TIF hosted by the city's Department of Community and Economic Development, in part to see how input from organizations such as DRC could be improved. TIF districts that include parts of the Central Business District also include parts of other community jurisdictions. Several major TIF projects are currently underway. It is John's conviction that DRC could bring smaller projects, such as lighting improvement, to the attention of decision-makers, and provide feedback on others being considered. He has urged DCED to be regularly represented at DRC meetings to facilitate communication.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 10th, 2020