

**JANUARY 2020 - MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING MINUTES** Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

**Date:** January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @ 6:00pm

**Place:** Public Library, 800 Vine Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

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



**New Members from November & December**

Jeff & Joan Dornette

John (Dwight) Poffenberger

Signa & Mark Morgan

Mark Simon

Rick Pender & Joan Kapp

Marilyn Woods

Joan Meyer

Tina & Eric Ernst

Will Sears

Lissa & Dan Guntzelman

Lee Rasmussen & Rosalind Chaiken

Mark & Kelli Ziegler

**Business Member**

Crown Republic Gastropub

**Monthly Reports**

**Captain Doug Wiesman** briefed the group on Central Business District crime statistics. The count of Part 1 serious crimes rose from 712 in 2018 to 714 in 2019. The robbery count showed a spike of 96 percent. The aggravated assault category (which includes shootings) was logged at 16 in 2019 vs. 13 in 2018. There were six shootings in 2019, one a homicide in November. Doug directed members to the CPD website for detailed crime statistics. Doug reported that his department had been in meetings with the Park Board, 3CDC, and the library with respect to Piatt Park. He announced that the Shotspotter system was expanding into OTR and the West End, which should provide some peripheral benefit to the CBD. Shotspotter is a system of acoustic sensors and assessment software that detects and analyzes gunshots (80% of which are not otherwise reported to police).

**Marissa Reed** spoke for the Downtown Ambassadors. She drew attention to efforts that had "every leaf" off downtown streets by the end of December. Ambassadors provided security outside a number of downtown holiday parties, including DRC's. A new map of the CBD has been printed and is being distributed by the Ambassadors. A project to clear undergrowth from the area around Pete Rose Way, Mehring Way, and lower Broadway has been completed; new plantings are contemplated for spring.

Marissa invited **Jamie Barham** to talk about Generocity 513 activities. For the period June through November, there were encounters with 236 panhandlers, 216 of whom were homeless. Various subsets of this population were referred for mental health treatment, housing, shelter, primary medical care, and substance abuse and food services. Nine have moved into housing. Jamie reminded everyone that the Outreach hotline is 513-498-6192

## **Reports**

Events Committee chair **Mary Heimert** invited the group to an after-meeting social at Kroger on the Rhine Eatery, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 100 East Court Street.

**Alan Bunker** waived his usual report on the Clean Green and Safe committee meeting in the interests of time, noting that there was nothing particularly new.

## **Old Business**

Sue asked for a motion to approve the November meeting minutes; this was made by Mary Jacobs, seconded by Esther Wing, and approved by all

## **New Business**

Sue explained to the group that the Board was seeking approval of clarifying changes to DRC Constitution language governing Board and officer terms, as follows.

### **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.**

Sue moved that the changes be approved, Craig Hudson seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

Sue announced that Christmas decorations would be removed from Piatt Park on January 18 from 11:00 – 2:00; Al has indicated he has a sufficient number of volunteers, but others are welcome.

## **Speakers**

**Andria Carter**, Community Engagement Specialist with the Community Police Partnering Center, talked about the organization's mission to build safe neighborhoods and communities, developing collaborative relationships between law enforcement and residents. The CPPC was created to serve as a problem-solving entity as part the Collaborative Agreement adopted following the riots and unrest of 2001. It functions as an impartial facilitator in helping communities work together to solve problems that may be identified by either police or residents. A chief tool of the group is known as SARA: scanning, analysis, assessment, response. An important component of all their activities is the collection of concrete data related to agreed-upon problems.

**John Faherty**, Executive Director of the Mercantile Library, shared his enthusiasm for the Library's 185-year history and the resources it offers members today, including books,

programs, and reading and discussion groups. He urged DRC members who are not already members to stop in and experience the library for themselves.

### **Announcements**

Mary Swallow, volunteer with Cincinnati World Cinema, told the group about upcoming programming. Between January 31 and Feb 8, all Oscar-nominated short documentaries will be shown.

Chris Smith, reference librarian, reminded members that a genealogy workshop is held at the Public Library on the first Saturday of every month at 10:00. Reservations are not required. February 1 will be an orientation to the Genealogy and Local History department; March 7 will be a genealogical lab.

Mary Jacobs announced that \$555 had been collected in DRC's holiday appeal and donated to the arts program at Taft Elementary School through DRC's partnership with Activities Beyond the Classroom (ABC). Mary thanked members for their generosity.

Esther Wing talked about the one-stop resource center now operating at the Hamilton County Justice Center on the final Friday of each month from 10:00 – 2:00. Information and assistance with a variety of health, social, and job services is available.

Dani Shertok, DDS, let everyone know that he has opened a dental practice on Garfield Place and is welcoming new patients.

Sue Byrom announced that DRC will be seeking up to three new candidates to serve on the Board beginning in April of this year. Anyone who might be interested should contact a Board member and be prepared to provide a short bio and a statement of why he or she would like to be considered. A nominating committee will coordinate the process.

Sue made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chris Smith, and the meeting ended.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> 2020 at 6 pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Main Library**