

FEBRUARY 2020 – BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

Date: FEBRUARY 10TH 2020 @ 6:00pm

Place: 3B Meeting Room, Main Library

Board members unable to attend:

Gary Bryson, Jackie Bryson, Sue Byrom, Cate Douglas, Mary Heimert, Mary Jacobs, Christian Rahe



Items for Discussion/Action

1. Team CRE8 presentation

At last month's board meeting, Sue Byrom talked about a group called Team CRE8, made up of Mason school students working on a project to solve a problem in a public space as part of a competition sponsored by Lego League Robotics. The team's focus is Piatt Park and they are seeking support for their ideas. The suggestion was made that the group make a presentation to the board. At this month's meeting two students, accompanied by two coaches, appeared to present their project. Their overall goal is to make residents and visitors feel safer and more comfortable in the park by replacing currently observed negative behaviors (drug sales and use, loitering, smoking, etc.) with more positive activities through the use of engagement with technology. The students brought a scale model of their park plan and explained it to the board. They envision the area between Vine and Race streets divided into zones aimed at kids, teens, and fitness, with a fenced area for dogs. The park would incorporate Social Engagement Edutainment Kiosks (SEEKs), each offering an array of information and activities. CRE8 has applied for a patent on these kiosks. Funding is estimated at \$150,000 per kiosk, including ongoing maintenance. The team has approached 3CDC to discuss funding, and coach Pallavi reported that 3CDC has indicated a willingness to consider incorporating SEEK features in their existing plans for wayfinding kiosks in the city. Team CRE8 is hoping for a letter of support from DRC to use in ongoing discussions; their brochure already includes testimonials from organizations such as the park board and the police department. The board agreed to consider writing such a letter. Team CRE8, meanwhile, will be representing the state of Ohio at the international level of the Lego League competition.

2. Wild Apricot update

Victoria Pershick reported that all is ready to proceed with Wild Apricot testing/implementation. Membership information will be the first priority. All agreed that it was time to set firm dates for the transition process, especially since the Better Impact contract has an April 30 end date. Jan Hirlinger again said that she is ready to go, but emphasized that she cannot undertake the technical side of the process. There was consensus that a plan be developed in time to be voted on at the March meeting.

3. Nominating Committee

Alan Bunker said that the Nominating Committee had identified several potential board candidates; the next step is to secure commitments from these individuals. A slate will be delivered to the Recording Secretary in early March.

4. Membership

Jan Hirlinger reported that DRC now has 335 members, 102 of them added in the last year. She requested help with the busy sign-in table at meetings; Barbara Smurda volunteered to help, as did Esther Wing. Jan said she has been working on updating membership records, including archiving business members who have not responded to the full series of membership renewal notices. Jan urged board members to make an effort to mingle with new members at DRC socials.

5. Other items

Tim Nolan asked for advice on reporting to the city a phenomenon he has noticed in evening walks, banks of streetlights apparently being switched off. John Stringer suggested going through the Neighborhood Projects Suggestions program.

John let the group know that he would write NSP checks for GeneroCity 513, ABC, ArtWorks, and the library. We have \$1,000 available to dedicate to planters, locations still to be determined.

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

Next Meeting: Monday, March 9th, 2020