

MARCH 2020 - MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Council, Inc.

Downtown Residents'

Date: March 10, 2020 @ 6:00pm

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

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

New Members

Kurt and Donna Schuler
Robin Little & Matt Bedell

Frank & Phyllis Rinaldi



Monthly Reports

Officer Tim Eppstein shared crime statistics, reporting that both violent crime and property crime were down (35% and 22% respectively) as compared to the moving three-year average.

Captain Doug Wiesman told members that it was his one-year anniversary as the Commander of the CBD. He reminded the group of upcoming events, the St. Patrick's Day parade and the Heart Mini-Marathon. He reported on a shooting that occurred at a bar called the Level on 4th Street: the victim was not badly hurt, but no one called the police. The owner has indicated that she will not be seeking a liquor license renewal in any case. Doug urged members who have issues with other bars in town to speak at the city's annual liquor hearing at 9:00 a.m. on April 13. Sue offered to pass along members' comments if people are uncomfortable with testifying in person. The police will present objections to renewals for the Main Event and PRVLGD. Doug reported that Lt. Bill Suter, who has supervised the CBD night shift, has been transferred to District 5. The CBD will not be given another lieutenant to replace him. In response to a question, Doug reiterated that the police department is limited in its ability to address the nuisance, noise, and potential risk of groups of motorcycle riders speeding and cavorting on city streets. It is possible that action can be taken, including the use of a helicopter, if the police have adequate notice that a gathering will occur.

Fire Captain George Haralamos began his report by telling members that electrical fires are all too common, and urging all to check their electrical cords and fire extinguishers. He described a new protocol for fire department rescue efforts in active shooter situations, so that EMS teams will be able to get help to victims more quickly by accompanying police officers rather than waiting for police to clear the scene. George asked for feedback from those who have signed up for Smart911; comments in reply were positive. He shared with the group the information that Fridays were the busiest day for fire department runs, with noon being the busiest time. Corresponding least busy times are Thursday and 2:00 – 3:00 in the morning. In response to a question, George indicated that 80% of runs are EMS-based. There were 33 fire-based runs in February.

Marissa Reed spoke for the Downtown Ambassadors, whom she said are beginning to work on graffiti and pressure-washing sidewalks in preparation for warm-weather events. They will be adding staff time and presence in Piatt Park, where police presence will be increased also.

3CDC is hoping to have lights installed at the ends of the park this spring. Marissa said there are 40 ambassadors at present, with hiring ongoing. Ambassadors may be identified by their bright green shirts.

Jamie Barham updated GeneroCity statistics. In the period June – February, there were encounters with 322 people. Most were connected with some type of service, including housing, mental health treatment, primary care, and Social Security. GeneroCity staff is on duty from 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. on Sunday. If a member sees a person who they think needs help, they should call the GeneroCity hotline, 513-498-6192.

Reports

Events Committee chair **Mary Heimert** invited all to a social after the meeting at **The Bar at Palm Court** in the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza, 35 West Fifth Street, 7:15-9:00 p.m. Mary thanked **Michelle Lewandowski** of the Cincinnati Symphony and **Alan and Mary Bunker** for coordinating a delightful Sunday afternoon experience including a Cincinnati Pops concert and a tour of Music Hall.

John Stringer's Treasurer's report showed a starting balance of \$11,783.32 at 1/31/20 and a closing balance of \$12,038.93 at 2/29/20.

Speakers

Cincinnati City Council member **Greg Landsman** addressed the group on the topic of ballot issue 7, sometimes billed as the "Move Forward" initiative, a tax proposal intended to provide road improvements and enhanced bus service in Hamilton County. This will be a new tax, offset in part by rescinding the 3% of the city's earnings tax that has been earmarked for transportation up to now. Issue 7 is projected to generate \$50 million for infrastructure repair (potholes, the Western Hills Viaduct, Columbia Parkway, etc.) and approximately \$100 million for improvements in bus routes and equipment. Routes to job hubs outside the city will be increased, as will circular and crosstown routes so that riders do not need to come downtown to transfer. Greg noted that lack of good public transport has been an issue in trying to attract new employers to the region.

Greg then spoke about the coronavirus epidemic, saying that Council had that day approved a \$1 million expenditure for supplies and personnel for preparedness efforts. He introduced a proposal for protocols for event cancellation and to mitigate wage loss as such cancellation becomes necessary. A coronavirus web site will debut soon

Kathy DeBrosse, Vice President of Marketing and Engagement for ArtsWave spoke about the 2020 ArtsWave Community Campaign. She reminded the audience that there is no public funding for arts programs in Cincinnati, so that ArtsWave donors are the engine of arts activity in our city. ArtsWave, which has distributed some \$340 million in grants and services over the years, views itself as the convener, planner, promoter and funder of the arts. It points to local arts as having the ability to put Cincinnati on the arts map of the country, to establish deeper community roots for those who live here, to attract and retain talent, to enliven

neighborhoods, and to fuel creativity and learning. Kathy outlined specific benefits that will be provided to donors, and urged all to donate.

Old Business

Sue asked for a motion to approve the February minutes; Craig Hudson so moved, seconded by Lisa Sprague, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Announcements

Mary Jacobs reminded the group that the U.S. Census is about to take place. Census numbers inform decisions related to federal funding, governmental representation, education, and various quality-of-life programs. Mary asked members to take posters and flyers back to their buildings for distribution, and of course to complete their own forms when they arrive

Gary Bryson announced that four tennis courts at Sawyer Point are being repurposed as pickleball courts and invited everyone to learn to play the game.

Carol Ellison told the group that Cincinnati World Cinema continues to feature a program of all the Oscar-nominated short films, both live-action and animated.

The Lloyd Library's new exhibit is *Women and Nature in the Arts, Sciences, and Letters*.

Chris Smith invited members to an author talk by Kimberly Hamlin, about her book *Free Thinker*, the story of suffrage advocate Helen Hamilton Gardener; this will take place at the Library at 2:00 p.m. on March 29. Chris also recommended the Library's current exhibit, *Genius of Liberty: The Long Struggle for Women's Equality*.

Ryan Dyson of the city's Community and Economic Development department announced that there was an RFP out for potential purchasers of a city lot at 31 Garfield Place (at Race).

Sue moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Jackie Bryson; all approved.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 14th 2020 at 6 pm, 3rd floor, Main Library