

## **APRIL 2020 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.**

**Date: APRIL 16, 2020 @ 3:00 pm**

**Place: Current at the Banks parking lot (for social distancing reasons)**

**Members present: Sue Byrom, Alan Bunker, Gary Bryson, Lisa Sprague, John Stringer**

Sue called the meeting to order at 3:04.



### **Items for Discussion/Action**

- 1. NSP Funding** – Earlier in the week, Cincinnati City Council considered a resolution to reduce leveraged funding in response to the unexpected costs associated with the COVID-19 outbreak, summarized as follows:

SUPPORTING any and all critical and necessary actions to be taken by the City Administration in working with the City of Cincinnati's third-party service providers funded all or in part from General Fund Sources, to reduce General Fund FY 2020 funding allocations by at least twenty-five percent, and in furtherance of funding essential government services during the remainder of FY 2020.

John Stringer reported that the resolution was passed on April 15, without specific discussion of the questions raised by DRC and other organizations as to whether expenses incurred but not yet reimbursed would be included in the reduction. DRC has incurred expenses of \$5,585.71 this year under an approved NSP contract. John has been in touch with the mayor and Council members; Greg Landsman responded that he would seek clarification.

In any case, there is a "cease and desist" directive with regard to additional NSP expenditures. It appears that there will be no additional NSP funding for at least 2021.

- 2. DRC Donation for COVID-19 Relief** – On April 9, Sue asked board members for thoughts on making a donation and suggestions of organizations to receive it. Suggested were United Appeal/Greater Cincinnati Foundation, the Freestore Foodbank, the LEE initiative (a restaurant workers' relief program under the local direction of Chef Jose Salazar), and Brain Brew Whiskey (a local distillery which has turned to the production of hand sanitizer for free distribution in the Cincinnati area). \$600 was the amount initially suggested, though some argued for more.

The executive committee reviewed the possibilities, and ultimately concluded that a \$600 donation could be made now, leaving it to the full board to consider a larger donation in light of ongoing need and further research into possible recipients, as well as with the knowledge of what NSP dollars the city may release to us. Sue proposed and Lisa seconded a motion to split a \$600 donation evenly between the LEE Initiative

and Brain Brew; it passed unanimously. Sue will draft an announcement to DRC members.

John suggested that the board might solicit donations from DRC members, perhaps with a formula for matching (up to a predetermined limit) from DRC funds. John volunteered to see whether PayPal might be willing to waive their usual fees for such a purpose.

**3. Annual Meeting and Board Elections** - Holding the annual membership meeting that had to be cancelled in April remains a dubious prospect even in May. Gary urged that we find a means of holding a full board meeting via some electronic platform with the goal of devising a process for board elections without a full in-person membership meeting. Gary volunteered to research virtual options and to summon the executive committee to a trial run before trying to involve the full board.

Sue adjourned the meeting at 3:45.