

MAY 2020 – DRC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

Date: May 7, 2020 @ 5:00pm

Place: Zoom virtual meeting

Members absent: Barbara Smurda

Items for Discussion/Action



1. **Approval of April 30 executive committee meeting minutes** – David Ostrander proposed and Jackie Bryson seconded a motion to approve the minutes, which passed unanimously.
2. **Members' meeting** – The annual meeting at which new trustees are elected should have taken place in April, but was precluded by order of the Governor forbidding gatherings of more than 10 people. Gary Bryson said that there is nothing in the DRC Constitution that addresses what to do if an in-person election cannot be held. John Stringer suggested that the President send an e-mail blast to all members, proposing the candidates offered by the nominating committee (Teri Boland and Hank Davis), along with their biographical information, and offering members the opportunity to make additional nominations from the (electronic) floor. Jackie urged that a firm date be established for the receipt of any replies; five days was suggested and accepted by the group. Members who are content to vote for Teri and Hank need not respond to the email. Tim Nolan cautioned that a vote conducted by an electronic process would have to be ratified by the membership in an in-person meeting at a later date. John moved that the Board adopt an email process for this Board election, Christian Rahe seconded it, and all voted to approve the motion. Mary Jacobs suggested that at some point we should update the Board procedures document to reflect and make official the process we are adopting for this election in case a similar situation should arise in the future.
3. **Membership renewals** – In view of the shutdown, Membership Chair Jan Hirlinger suspended her normal membership renewal process in mid-March. Before the April 30 Executive Committee meeting, she sought guidance on when to resume. The Executive Committee proposed a three-month extension for all members, not just those with March and April renewal dates. Jan said that she had quickly been able to build in an extension in member records. Jackie proposed and Victoria Pershick seconded a motion to apply the extension to all members; it passed unanimously. Sue agreed to a second e-mail blast to members notifying them of the extension; she also directed that this information be posted on the website and included in the newsletter.

Jan and Victoria announced that they were ready to begin the transition of membership information from Better Impact to Wild Apricot and were given the Board's

blessing to proceed. John requested that they update the Board procedures document to reflect this change.

4. **Support letter from DRC regarding Court Street and Pedestrian Task Force** – Cate Douglas requested that a letter on this topic be sent from DRC to the Mayor and members of City Council, and had previously offered suggested language to the Executive Committee. That group made some revisions and offered the new language to the Board for approval (see attachment). Lisa Sprague made a motion to approve and send the letter, John seconded, and it passed unanimously.
5. **Other business** – Jackie told the group that she would be sending an e-mail soliciting their thoughts on how DRC might support our business members as restaurants and other small businesses begin to re-open.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40.



May 1, 2020

Mayor John Cranley and Cincinnati City Council
City of Cincinnati
801 Plum Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Support for the Downtown Cincinnati Pedestrian Task Force Design Plans and Traffic Studies

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Councilmembers:

Court Street is a business district experiencing a major revitalization, with several redevelopment projects and initiatives underway or recently completed. This work complements several longstanding businesses – such as Avril Bleh Meat Market & Deli and Skyline Chili – as well as newer businesses on W. Court Street, such as Queen City Exchange and Court Street Lobster Bar.

The Downtown Cincinnati Pedestrian Task Force members and supporters are dedicated to revitalizing this important business corridor into a major destination for visitors and residents, creating opportunities for future investment, and supporting existing businesses.

The Board of the Downtown Residents' Council would like to show support for moving this work forward, in order to continue the progress and momentum building in this area of Downtown Cincinnati.

For and on Behalf of the Board

DRC President

Signature

of the Downtown Residents Council