

Date: June 8, 2020 @ 6:00 pm

Place: Virtual via Zoom



President Alan Bunker called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm.

Items for Discussion/Action:

1. **Approval of previous meeting's minutes** – Tricia Lynn made a motion to approve the minutes, Mary Jacobs seconded, and all approved.
2. **Wild Apricot Update** – Victoria Pershick raised a question that had arisen in earlier emails, as to the integration of an option to pay dues via PayPal. Wild Apricot has its own online payment mechanism, Affinipay, and would levy a 20% surcharge to accept PayPal payments. John Stringer suggested keeping PayPal as an interim option for members, but not linking it to Wild Apricot.

Victoria then raised the question of when to “cut the cord” with Better Impact and transition fully to Wild Apricot. A consensus emerged that it would be prudent to have a period of overlap – perhaps a month or two -- to ensure that we have transferred all vital information. As the Better Impact renewal date is June 30, a prorated month-to-month renewal would be ideal. Whether this is possible remains to be determined. It was agreed that the Information & Technology committee would meet to resolve the question, inviting Better Impact’s Carol Glotfelter to join them.

Membership records, both current and archived, have already been successfully transferred to Wild Apricot. Jan explained that she had not yet archived business members who have not renewed, given all the uncertainties of this spring in the Queen City. John observed that some business members are considerably behind their scheduled renewal dates. Jan will review.

Mary Heimert requested that social-event history be transferred as well. Jackie Bryson reminded the group that the newsletter has never been part of Better Impact, and can proceed as is until a convenient time to transfer it to Wild Apricot.

Some board members said that they had not received the invitation to register as members via Wild Apricot; Victoria agreed to send it to all again.

3. **Board Orientation Item** – Alan waived this agenda item in the interests of time; it will be added to next month’s meeting agenda.
4. **Reports of Committees/Duties -**

- A. Finance - Tricia Lynn reported that her committee will consist of John Stringer, Teri Boland, Jackie Bryson, and Hank Davis. The group will meet next week, and plans on a tutorial from John about IIN and NSP financing.
- B. Membership – Jan Hirlinger said that she had not approached people to serve on her committee, and was hoping for volunteers. Teri Boland volunteered on the spot; others are welcome. Jan said that she hoped to identify someone as a designated successor as Membership Chair, so that training could begin. She stressed that Wild Apricot would reduce the time burden of membership monitoring and processing. Jackie raised the issue of recruiting younger DRC members, and hoped that Hank would lead the effort. He agreed.
- C. Information & Technology – Victoria reiterated that the committee’s agenda at this point is the Wild Apricot conversion. She also voiced a hope of leveraging Facebook as a means of interfacing with new (and particularly younger) members. Christian Rahe cautioned that popular social media platforms extend beyond Facebook, and that keeping up with all of them could be a time-consuming job. The committee will address this issue in conjunction with new-member recruitment.
- D. Social - Mary Heimert reported that David Ostrander and Mary Jacobs would form her committee, potentially along with a couple of non-board members. She said that the outlook for social events remains murky in light of COVID-19, though a couple of venues are lined up to host when the time comes. The holiday party at Prime is booked for Monday, December 7.
- E. Outreach - Mary Jacobs reminded the group that she represents DRC on the CINCY CENSUS 2020 Committee. She said that Cincinnati Public Schools is still trying to figure out what will be happening in the fall. Activities Beyond Classrooms (ABC), which DRC has been supporting does not yet know where their areas of greatest need will be. Mary will keep in touch with ABC and will advise the Board as priorities emerge.

Alan mentioned that DRC’s regular provision of treat baskets to the police and fire departments and Ambassadors need someone to supervise them. Esther Wing said that she had taken a basket to the Ambassadors at Mary’s request. John suggested that La Soupe could serve as a source; that organization has begun producing lunch packages (soup, sandwich, desert) for \$5 apiece. While this is more than normally budgeted, the Board felt that, in view of all that has been going on in the city lately, this would be a reasonable way to proceed. Jackie volunteered to work with John and with police and fire contacts to make arrangements.

- F. Clean, Green & Safe – Alan noted that he had sent his report to the Board via email.
- G. Speaker Coordinator – Cate Douglas said that, pending knowledge of when we will be able to hold meetings again, she had no update on potential speakers.

5. **DRC Role in Gifts Cards** – John made a proposal whereby DRC members could agree to purchase 3CDC Queen City gift cards for a specified amount (say, \$20, \$30, \$50); members would mail checks to DRC, which would add an additional amount (perhaps 30%) and then make the aggregate card purchase from 3CDC. A maximum level of DRC contribution would need to be set. At last count, 66 downtown businesses participate in the gift card program. Jackie suggested that she could encourage others to sign up. Tricia requested John to put together a proposal with specified expenditure numbers for consideration by the Finance Committee. He agreed to do so, with the idea that the proposal (as approved by the Finance Committee) would then be presented for Board approval at the July meeting.

6. **Announcements**

A. Alan announced that Board member Barbara Smurda had moved away from Cincinnati. She wrote a note of resignation from the Board to Sue Byrom. Barbara's now-unfilled term expires in April 2021.

B. Cate requested Board approval of a proposal by 3CDC for funding streetscape improvements on Court Street. 3CDC will contribute \$2.3 million, Kroger \$500,000, the state of Ohio \$2 million, and \$4 million is to be requested in TIF funds from the city. Because City Council plans a July hiatus, the application must be given to that body in time for it to act by the end of June. Much discussion ensued. John declared that, without more detailed information, DRC should not act. He said that neighborhood council endorsement, not merely support, was required for Council to act. While the Court Street project is 3CDC's top priority, DRC is not in a position to determine whether this is the only or even best use of TIF funds. Likely there will be competing proposals. Cate agreed to furnish detailed information to Board members, and the Board agreed to hold another Zoom meeting at 6 pm on June 22 to vote on this matter.

At 7:25, Esther made a motion to adjourn, Jackie seconded, and all approved.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, July 13, 2020, at 6:00 pm, (Location TBA).