

August 2020 – MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

Date: August 10, 2020 @ 6:00 pm

Place: Virtual via Zoom, coordinated by Esther Wing

Member absent: Tricia Lynn

Guests: Captain Doug Wiesman, CPD

Adam Geller, Sarah Bedinghaus, and Katie Westbrook,
3CDC

Gio Rocco, City of Cincinnati

Carol Glotfelter, Better Impact



President Alan Bunker called the meeting to order at 6:04 and welcomed Board members and guests.

Items for Presentation, Discussion or Action:

1. **Police Report** - Captain Doug Wiesman of the CPD reviewed crime statistics. He was pleased to announce that serious crimes were down 23 percent from this time last year. However, he noted that shootings had increased: last year there had been one shooting with one victim by August 10; this year, 8 shootings with 11 victims. Another felonious assault, a stabbing, occurred the night of August 9 at the edge of Smale Park. This situation is not unique to the Central Business District, nor to Cincinnati; cities across America are facing similar problem this summer. Doug met with the City Manager and others recently to address Smale Park specifically; the Park Board is also involved in discussions. Police officers from other districts have been brought in during peak trouble hours, given that the CBD may have only one or two officers assigned to duty on a given night.

Teri Boland asked a question about a proposed Charter amendment being pushed by some in the city. It would replace the Police Department with a Public Safety Department and provides that “in time of public danger or emergency, the mayor may, with the consent of the council, take command of the Public Safety Department, maintain order and enforce the law.” The text of the amendment may be found at <https://psrecincinnati.org/amendment-language>. Doug stressed that the CPD has a long working relationship with social workers and is committed to having such professionals embedded in policy activity.

2. **Presentation by 3CDC staff on Court Street development** – Adam Geller of 3CDC followed up on a previous Court Street discussion, explaining that that City Council had asked 3CDC to combine two previously separate Court Street projects into one submission for a grant of TIF (tax increment financing) funds. The DRC Board voted in a special Board meeting in June to approve the first part of the project. Sarah Bedinghaus walked the group through what is now being added. This involves renovation of buildings at 915 Vine (formerly French Crust), 31-37 E. Court (which includes the Avril-Bleh Meat Market) and 7-11 E. Court. Avril-Bleh plans to expand its market; otherwise the buildings specified will be developed as condos.

Adam shared floor plans and artists' renderings for 3CDC's project at 5th and Vine, to be known as the Foundry. Renovation here will also involve TIF funds, but plans are not slated to be submitted to Council until November. Adam reported that 3CDC has letters of intent from two restaurants and is in discussion with other potential tenants.

Mary Heimert made a motion to support the Court Street project, Jackie Bryson seconded, and all approved. Esther Wing moved approval of the Foundry project, Lisa Sprague seconded, and all approved.

3. Approval of previous meeting's minutes – Mary Jacobs moved to approve the minutes, Mary Heimert seconded, and approval was unanimous

4. Review/Approval of Treasurer's Report – Tricia Lynn had emailed the report in advance of the meeting. John Stringer noticed that a payment recorded as being to Wild Apricot was actually made to Better Impact. Mary Heimert moved approval with that amendment, John seconded, and all approved.

5. Wild Apricot Update – Victoria Pershick reported that the transition to Wild Apricot continues to go smoothly. Better Impact is still in place through August as a backup. Victoria said that the first Wild Apricot member renewal notices were scheduled to go out August 17 (see more on this below).

6. DRC Gifts Cards Update – John will draft a letter to members describing the gift card program and encouraging members to in turn encourage downtown businesses to sign up to participate with QC gift cards. He will share this with the Board with an eye to approval in September.

7. Reports of Committees – Tricia provided the Treasurer's report prior to the meeting, as did Alan his report on Clean, Green & Safe. Jan Hirlinger reported four membership renewals. Mary Heimert again lamented the inability to organize social events, but said that several places are lined up for when congregating is again permitted. Mary Jacobs reported that the 2020 census will close September 30 rather than October 31 as originally planned. The local response rate is still disappointing. Kiosks will be set up in low-response neighborhoods and the door-knocking workforce will be beefed up. Jackie agreed to add a link to the census website to the newsletter. Cate Douglas said that her first choice for a membership meeting speaker is someone from the new Kinley hotel at 7th and Race. Esther is working on the logistics of doing a September membership meeting via Zoom.

8. New Business

A. Membership renewal/dues – This topic gave rise to a discussion of what the May vote to suspend membership renewal by three months actually meant. The minutes read as follows:

“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.”

It emerged that there was a difference of opinion as to whether the three-month extension referred to changing a member’s renewal date or simply the date at which payment was due. After discussion, Jan proposed a vote to clarify the matter. John moved that the renewal date be moved forward by three months for all members. Tim Nolan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Jan will make the necessary adjustment to member records, and renewal notices will be sent on August 17 as scheduled. It was agreed that the previously-approved change in dues rates (from \$15 to \$20 for an individual and from \$20 to \$30 for a household) would be implemented in January 2021.

- B. Establishing a committee to attract young professionals** – John moved and Jackie seconded a motion to establish such a committee, to be co-chaired by Hank Davis and Christian Rahe; all approved. It is understood that other members of this committee need not necessarily be Board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 14, 2020, 6:00 pm (Location TBA)