

October 2020 – MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

Date: October 12, 2020 @ 6:00pm

Place: Virtual via Zoom by Esther Wing,
Corresponding Secretary

Members absent: Hank Davis, Mary Heimert, Jan Hirlinger, Mary
Jacobs, Christian Rahe

Guest: Carol Glotfelter



President Alan Bunker welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 6:07pm.

Items for Presentation, Discussion or Action:

- 1. Approval of previous meeting's minutes** – Tim Nolan’s motion to approve the minutes was seconded by Teri Boland and approved unanimously.
- 2. Review/approval of Treasurer's report** – There being no questions about the report previously sent out by Treasurer Tricia Lynn, Jackie Bryson moved and Esther Wing seconded a motion to approve it, which passed unanimously.

3. Reports of Committees:

A. Finance – Alan had earlier sent to Board member the 2021 Neighborhood Support Program (NSP) Budget Request prepared by Tricia. John Stringer noted that \$987 was left in essence “lying on the table,” i.e., that we were not requesting the full NSP allocation we could be entitled to. He suggested adding LaSoupe’s Community Kitchen program as an additional Community Service/Improvement program in our request. Tricia thought it would be more appropriate to discuss additional program proposals in a more structured manner rather than add one at the last minute. After discussion, and John’s clarification that monies could be moved from one Community Service/Improvement program to another without approval from the city, it was agreed that Tricia would divide the additional available amount among the programs already listed in the budget request. Following this revision and the completion of the EEO form, and the expected approval by members at the October 13 meeting, Tricia will sign the request, arrange for Alan and Lisa to do likewise, and submit the document to the city.

B. Membership – In membership chair Jan Hirlinger’s absence, Membership Committee member Carol Glotfelter brought the group up to date on plans to revitalize DRC business membership. These include:

- Offering a more prominent role in the DRC newsletter
- Suspending the member-only discount program at member businesses, which has not been effectively operational since about 2011

- Appointing a business membership chair
- Stressing the opportunity for business members to make two-minute speeches during the announcements period of membership meetings, perhaps on a rotating basis
- Striving to hold DRC social events at member establishments, with a concomitant effort to use this as a business recruiting tool (such recruiting being a task for the business membership chair rather than the social chair).

C. Information & Technology - Victoria Pershick announced that the IT Committee will meet the first Thursday of each month. Topics under discussion include the DRC Facebook page and membership/business cards. Wild Apricot use continues to go smoothly. With respect to Zoom, Victoria mentioned that she had to work out a glitch with appointing a backup host who is also an administrator. Discussion revealed that Esther is paying for the Zoom account that we use; a consensus quickly emerged that DRC should take over this expense.

D. Social – Teri Boland, standing in for the absent Mary Heimert, reported that Mary has talked to people at Palm Court about a possible social on November 5. Teri was planning to meet with people at Prime later in the week to discuss the holiday party, specifically in regard to social distancing and alternatives to the traditional buffet. This led to discussion of whether we should have the party at all this year in light of COVID and associated restrictions on mingling. A suggestion was made to postpone until spring, when we could be outside; specific plans can be considered later. John moved that we cancel the December event, Tricia seconded, and all approved.

E. Clean, Green & Safe - Alan moved approval of the Community Budget Request for the Path Improvement Project, which he had previously circulated. It concerns improvements to the Path to the Taft, which DRC has been looking after for some time now under Alan's leadership. Approval was unanimous.

F. Speaker Coordinator – Cate Douglas noted that she had asked Nicole Smith, a 3CDC/GeneroCity outreach coordinator, to speak at the members' meeting. Esther suggested that we try to restore the Fire Department to the monthly report rota.

4. New Business

A. Board/Officer Vacancy – Esther agreed to serve as the interim Vice President for the remainder of John Stringer's uncompleted term (through March 31, 2021).

B. John and Jackie reviewed the **DRC-Queen City Gift Card initiative to support local businesses**. DRC residential members will have the opportunity to purchase such a gift card (up to \$50), redeemable at participating businesses. DRC will pay the associated fees and add a bonus amount to each card purchased. Alan will notify members this week and they will have until October 30 to make a purchase. Cate will work with QCGC participating businesses to make them aware of the program.

- C. **Privacy Policy** – Victoria had emailed the draft policy to Board members on October 10. Tim subsequently signaled his legal approval. Discussion focused on only one clause: “When you attend an event, there’s a possibility your photo will be taken and shared on our site, or other media. If you do not want this, you must contact us and let us know.” On the grounds that the second sentence seemed to obligate the DRC to identify and remove photos of anyone who objected – a potentially quite cumbersome process – Lisa moved that the sentence be stricken. Esther seconded, and all agreed.
- D. **Liquor Permit Announcements/Responses** – Alan clarified that requests from the police for comments on liquor permit applications are sent to DRC, but that DRC does not respond as an organization. Rather, Alan shares the police memos with DRC members, who are welcome to comment as individuals.
- E. **Dues Increase** – A dues increase is scheduled to take effect in 2021. Alan asked for suggestions on a rationale to communicate to members, beyond the facts that no one is sure when the last increase occurred and the amount of the increase is \$5.00. Suggestions included the upgrading of our technology and a higher level of support for community programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 9, 2020, 6:00 p.m., (Location TBA)