

October 2020 – MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

Date: October 13, 2020 @ 6:00pm

Place: Virtual via Zoom by Esther Wing,
Corresponding Secretary

New Member: Carolyn Martinez

President Alan Bunker welcomed the group and the new member and called the meeting to order at 6:02.



Monthly reports:

Captain Doug Wiesman of the Cincinnati Police Department gave an update on crime statistics. After a bad time in early summer, the cooling-off period he spoke of last month continues. Violent crime was down 58% and property crime down 50% in September compared with a rolling three-year average. Two assaults involving guns were reported in early October; no one was seriously hurt. Doug said that the Regional Enforcement Narcotics Unit had made one arrest and served eight warrants that led to others taken into custody and the seizure of 9.5 kilos of fentanyl, 15 guns, and cash. Doug drew members' attention to the City Council Law and Public Safety Committee's liquor hearing on October 27 at 9:00 in Council Chambers. The subject is three bars (Main Event, Chalet, and PRVLGD) which have been the focus of many complaints. Doug will testify at the hearing, but explained that hearing from city residents is critical. Doug announced that the city is considering a proposal to make the Banks, broadly interpreted (Taylor-Southgate Bridge to the west side of Paul Brown Stadium and 2nd Street to Mehring Way) a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area, wherein drinks may be purchased to go. Finally, Doug advised a member on how to proceed with a theft complaint.

Nicole Smith of GeneroCity reported that outreach staff logged 167 encounters with 129 clients in September, resulting in referrals to a variety of social services including housing, the jobs van, and substance abuse services. She explained that outreach staff is on the streets daily, and advised residents who become aware of a particular problem or a person in need of help to call the Ambassador Hotline (513-623-6429).

Cate Douglas and **Marissa Reed** of 3CDC provided an update on Ambassador activities. Leaf clearing continues and training on new equipment in preparation for winter weather has begun. Ambassadors are on duty in all downtown zones in two shifts. They concentrate on hot spots, currently the Banks, Court Street, Government Center, and Piatt Park. Work on greening projects at Mehring and Pete Rose and on 2nd and 3rd Streets is underway. Plans for holiday activities at Fountain Square are under discussion. The ice rink will open in November (reservations required to control crowd size), and bumper cars will be an added attraction.

Old Business

Approval of previous meeting's minutes – Tricia Lynn's motion to approve the minutes was seconded by Roz Florez and approved unanimously.

New Business

2021 DRC Budget – Alan Bunker on October 11 sent members a copy of Treasurer Tricia Lynn’s 2021 budget prepared for submission to the city’s Neighborhood Services Program (NSP). He announced a change arising from the previous night’s DRC Board meeting, specifically that an additional \$987 was being added to the budget request to match the limit allowed by the city. The additional sum will be divided equally among the Community Service/Improvement programs for which funding is sought. These are downtown planting and beautification, the public library summer program, Activities Beyond Classrooms for Cincinnati Public Schools, ArtWorks, and GeneroCity. Alan asked for a motion to approve the revised budget request. Tim Nolan so moved, seconded by Jackie Bryson, and approval was unanimously voted.

Community Benefit Request – This is a project proposal for the 2022-23 budget year to be submitted to the city under the Community Benefit Request Program. Known as the Path Improvement Project, the proposal concerns the walkway (locally known as the Path to the Taft) between the Taft Museum of Art and E. Pete Rose Way and beyond to the Purple People bridge. The proposal seeks funding to address the route’s perceived deficiencies (such as insufficient illumination, no pedestrian-friendly means to cross Third Street at the path’s north end, and a lack of pedestrian-level signage at the Path’s ends to inform users about its length, direction or connections). Alan asked for a motion to approve the submission of the request. Lisa Sprague so moved, Jackie Bryson seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Announcements

Board member Esther Wing has agreed to serve as interim Vice President through March 2021.

Alan will be sending information to members about DRC’s partnership with 3CDC’s Queen City Gift Card program in an 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. A list of participating businesses will be provided.

Because the prospects for gathering safely and mingling socially by the holiday season do not appear bright, DRC’s annual holiday party will not be held this December.

DRC’s annual decoration of Piatt Park will take place November 14. Members are asked to let Alan know in advance if they are able to participate.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 10, 2020, 6:00 p.m., (Location TBA)