

MARCH 2021– MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

Date: March 9, 2021 @ 6:00pm

Place: Virtual via Zoom by Esther Wing, Interim Vice President and Corresponding Secretary

New Members: Elizabeth and John LaCause
Rebel Mettle Brewery



President Alan Bunker welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 6:04.

Monthly reports:

Captain Doug Wiesman of the Cincinnati Police Department reported on discussions he has been having with city and county officials in connection with a possible bid by Cincinnati to hold the 2026 World Cup. He announced that the city's first Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) would open at the Banks on March 25. Patrons will be permitted to purchase a stamped cup and beverages to fill it and to carry it with them in defined boundaries. Hours will be 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m., with cup sales closing at midnight. The police department plans an enhanced police presence in the area, and the Banks Community Authority has agreed to pay for additional security. Doug also reported that discussion with the bars Main Event, Chalet, and PRIVLGD about entering into Good Neighbor agreements and reducing the complaints the bars have generated is ongoing; Main Event is the only one to sign so far. Chalet's liquor license has been suspended by the state until April 5. A provision of the agreements is that the bar owners must attend community meetings, such as DRC.

Officer Tim Eppstein reported that clean-ups of homeless camps at 3rd and Monastery and Longworth Hall were interrupted by the recent snow, but are back on track. Work with a camp at 3rd and Broadway will commence next week; social workers are lined up to connect people with needed services.

Cate Douglas of 3CDC reported that Ambassadors were working on equipment maintenance, preparation for spring activities, and power washing. They will participate in the creation of Keep Cincinnati Beautiful's mural on 3rd Street. 3CDC continues to work with ODOT on plans to improve the appearance of highway approaches to the city and also with Urban Forestry on the planting of new trees. **Nicole Smith** reported working with the city health department to secure vaccines for homeless people who are eligible.

DRC Reports

Treasurer Tricia Lynn reported an opening balance of \$13,779.84 and a closing balance of \$14,255.59 for the month of February.

Jackie Bryson reminded members of the Board elections coming up in April. There are four new candidates to fill the four open seats, and 8 Board members will be running for new two-year terms. She assured members that more information, including candidate bios and procedures for virtual voting, would be coming to them soon.

Old Business

Approval of previous meeting's minutes – Alan's motion to approve the minutes was approved unanimously.

New Business

Alan reported that Kurt Grossman had been appointed by the Board to serve the remainder of Mary Jacobs's term. He also described changes to the DRC constitution in connection with the transition from three-year to two-year Board terms. Details of the changes will be circulated to membership in advance of the April meeting, at which membership approval of the new language will be sought.

Speaker

Kate Solomon, Vice President of Community Relations for FC Cincinnati and Executive Director of the FC Cincinnati Foundation, made a presentation on plans for the opening of the new West End Stadium. (Kate substituted for Cody Parsons, FC Cincinnati Chief of Staff, who was originally scheduled to speak.) Kate related that the new stadium, with a capacity of 26,000, is the largest in the country, and also has the largest number of private suites and club seats. Every seat is covered by a canopy roof, and has unimpeded sightlines and quick access to food and restrooms. Stadium operations involve 87 retained and 22 new FTE positions, plus more than 1,000 part-time jobs. Local businesses such as Rhinegeist and LaRosa's are involved in partnership roles. A Grand Opening ceremony is planned for May 1, its scope dependent on evolving COVID-related rules. The first home game will be in mid-May; exact date and visiting team yet to be finalized by MLS. FC Cincinnati's newly-established West End Pride youth soccer teams will play the first games on the new field. The opening of the team store and a construction worker appreciation tour are among other events planned for early May.

Announcements

Jackie thanked members who have contacted her to volunteer to take part in painting Keep Cincinnati Beautiful's 3rd Street mural. Work is scheduled to begin the week of March 22. Volunteer participation is slated for Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Ladders will not be required. Jackie will let people know how to sign up for specific time slots.

A delayed question was raised about the issue of noise at the new stadium, given its proximity to Music Hall. Kate had said that the structure was designed with noise abatement in mind. Certainly team management is aware of the issue. Many will be watching/listening to see how it goes. It is unclear what further action may be taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 13, 2021, 6:00 p.m. (Location TBA)