

**APRIL 2021– MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**

Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

**Date:** April 13, 2021 @ 6:00pm

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



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

**Monthly reports:**

**Captain Doug Wiesman** of the Cincinnati Police Department reported that crime is up somewhat compared to 2020 – not surprising given last year’s lockdown – but below or even with 2019, depending on category. The year’s first shooting occurred in late March outside the bar PRVLGD. Doug notified members that the CPD would be testing new shot-spotter devices in the near future; he will give us warning to expect to hear gunshots when the test is scheduled. (Yes, blanks will be fired.) The devices are clustered mostly in the northern section of the downtown district. Doug said that the inauguration of the DORA (Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area) at the Banks is going well. Business owners are very pleased. There have been some minor problems, generated for the most part by long lines and people trying to jump them. Doug reported on a recent arrest of a man at 848 Walnut on a Felony 2 charge based on selling fentanyl. Returning to the topic of PRVLGD, Doug said that he and others were prepared to make a presentation to the city recommending that the bar’s liquor license not be renewed. However, the city urged the CPD to enter into a Good Neighbor agreement instead; PRVLGD’s owner had previously chosen not to sign such an agreement, but now has done so. Doug said that, in view of tight restrictions on violations that will be tolerated, he does not expect the amity to last. In response to a question, Doug confirmed that recently reported problems with Galla Park began before the COVID lockdown and have continued since the restaurant’s re-opening, particularly in terms of liquor sales to minors. A final resolution is yet to be determined.

**Officer Tim Eppstein** reported that there has been increased incidence of thefts from autos in the southwest section of downtown. CPD has an idea of who might be responsible, and officers are working on evidence. Garage owners have also complained of homeless persons sleeping in garage stairwells in this part of the city.

**Cate Douglas** of 3CDC reported that Ambassadors are coordinating with businesses and police with respect to DORA and the additional clean-up needs it has generated. 3CDC is working with police and the Park Board on plans for summer programming in Piatt Park. **Nicole Smith** confirmed that a 5<sup>th</sup> outreach worker – a social worker – had been hired, enabling an extension of hours from 7:00 a.m to 9:00 p.m. daily. Outreach efforts are vigorous.

**DRC Report**

Treasurer Tricia Lynn reported an opening balance of \$14, 255.59 and a closing balance of \$20,178.25 for the month of March. She noted that NSP funds have been received from the city and that several disbursements remain to be made.

### **Old Business**

Mary Heimert made and Jackie Bryson seconded a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes; it was approved unanimously.

### **New Business**

1. Extending voting privileges to DRC members who do not reside within the DRC boundaries: This is a traditional motion before the annual election. Sue Byrom made the motion, seconded by Jackie Bryson. Jay Joyce raised a question about whether a vote was tied to an individual or a location, that is, for example, would the renter of a condo and the owner of that condo both be able to vote? Again, traditionally the vote has been tied to individual members, not their properties. The motion passed 38-1.

2. Proposed changes to the DRC constitution:

- A. Up until now, a DRC member could cast a maximum of 6 votes in Board elections. This year, in part because of changes made to board terms, there are 12 seats to fill. It was proposed to change Section 6, Paragraph B, to read: "Each member voting shall be permitted to vote for the number of positions to be filled or fewer candidates and candidates who shall receive the largest number of votes cast at such election, up to the number of positions being filled, shall be elected trustees for a term set forth in Article VII." Craig Hudson so moved, seconded by Mary Heimert, and the motion passed unanimously.
- B. New proposed language, again arising from changes in
- C. board terms, reads as follows: "No trustee shall serve for more than three consecutive two-year terms, except as follows: Any trustee elected to an initial three-year term prior to 2019 may serve two additional consecutive two-year terms. Any trustee appointed by the Board to fill an unexpired term of a trustee whose office has been vacated, pursuant to Paragraph C of this Article, may serve three full consecutive terms in addition to the unexpired term to which the trustee has been appointed." Christian Rahe so moved, seconded by Mary Jacobs, and the motion passed unanimously.
- D. Election of Board members: The slate offered by the Nominating Committee included four new candidates (Lorry Hartley, Joan Meyer, Andrew Naab, and Heidi Shenk) and eight returning board members seeking another term (Jackie Bryson, Mary Heimert, Tricia Lynn, David Ostrander, Victoria Pershick, Christian Rahe, Lisa Sprague, and Esther Wing). Alan asked for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, he declared nominations closed and called for a vote. Esther Wing moved acceptance of the slate, Jackie Bryson seconded, and

all approved. Kurt Grossman is also new to the Board as of this meeting, having been appointed by the Board in March to fill an unexpired term. Alan thanked departing Board members Jan Hirlinger, Mary Jacobs, and Tim Nolan.

### **Announcements**

Alan said that he had forgotten to ask Doug Wiesman to talk about an incident at the Main Event on Saturday night that was brought to his attention by a DRC member. Alan related on Doug's behalf that three CPD officers are keeping a tight watch on the bar. Members who witness disturbing behavior should contact CPD's Mike Miller or let Alan know. Sue Byrom alerted the audience to another disrupting behavior involving people gathering near the courthouse late in the evening to bid goodnight with their car horns to incarcerated loved ones.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 11, 2021, 6:00 pm (Location TBA)**