

APRIL 2021 – MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

Date: April 14, 2021 @ 6:00pm

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

Member absent: Cate Douglas



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

Items for Presentation, Discussion or Action:

1. **Organization of 2021 Board** – Jackie Bryson, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, presented a proposed slate of officers for the new year, as follows:

President – Alan Bunker

Vice President – Jackie Bryson

Treasurer – Tricia Lynn

Corresponding Secretary – Esther Wing

Recording Secretary – Lisa Sprague

Esther Wing moved acceptance of the slate, Kurt Grossman seconded, and all voted in favor.

2. **Orientation items** – Alan noted that he had emailed a copy of the newly revised constitution and the DRC Board Procedure and Responsibility Guide to new Board members, along with a glossary of DRC terms. On the topic of orientation, Lisa Sprague asked for guidance in how to respond to the frequent emails from Elizabeth Bartley of Invest in Neighborhoods (IIN), many requesting action on various policy issues. Alan and Tricia indicated that they were the appropriate people to respond on behalf of DRC.

3. **Review/approval of previous meeting's minutes** – Mary Heimert made a motion to approve, seconded by Jackie. Kurt abstained, having been part of the March meeting as a guest. Those Board members present at the meeting passed the motion.

4. **Review/approval of Treasurer's report** – Tricia reminded the group that her Finance Committee comprises herself, Teri Boland, Jackie, and Hank Davis. She asked for a volunteer from among the new Board members; Andrew Naab agreed to serve. Tricia said that she is setting up a Zoom account to permit payments to be made from the DRC checking account. Kurt raised a question about the status of NSP funds, which he had heard might be cut by the city. Alan explained that this did not happen for 2021 – indeed, our funding was increased slightly – but remained a possibility going forward. In light of that possibility, Tricia intends to pay out our NSP-funded commitments as soon as possible. An actual vote to approve the report did not take place; this oversight will be rectified at the May meeting.

5. Reports of Committees:

A. **Membership** – With Jan Hirlinger’s resignation, this committee will need a new chair. Jackie explained that the position’s responsibilities had been rendered far less onerous with DRC’s switch from Better Impact to Wild Apricot software; the latter generates dues notices automatically and provides for online payment. Alan noted that no new memberships were recorded for March, but that membership for the year is up.

B. **Information & Technology** – Victoria Pershick said that the committee’s activities over the last year and more had centered on the Wild Apricot transition. She has been working with Esther Wing and Jan Hirlinger and would welcome additional members. Mary inquired whether she could have access to current business membership information, which helps her when approaching businesses about hosting social events. Victoria will work with her on this.

C. **Social** – Mary reminded the group that she needs a fair amount of lead time to arrange for social events so as to ensure adequate space and staffing. Plans for such events will continue to depend on government mandates related to the permitted size of gatherings. Outdoor events may be feasible when weather permits. Jackie has been talking with the Park Board about summer events in Smale Park and on the Schmidlapp Lawn; perhaps we could coordinate with these. Mary is also looking for a volunteer to work with her on event planning.

D. **Outreach** – With the resignation of Mary Jacobs from the Board, this committee also needs a new chair.

E. **Clean, Green & Safe** - Alan had previously emailed his report on this topic; there were no questions.

F. **Young Professional Recruitment** – As has been the case all along, Christian and Hank are waiting for events to invite people to. There was some discussion of the “young professional” label, as questions have arisen with respect to the definition of both terms. Suggestions are welcome.

G. **Speaker Coordinator** – Cate Douglas has agreed to continue in this role, with Esther serving as her backup.

6. **New Business** -- Alan reiterated that volunteers to serve on committees would be much appreciated.

7. Announcements

Alan reported that he attended IIN's monthly meeting of community council presidents. A topic of discussion was the city administration's proposal of new community engagement policies and processes that would standardize and clarify the actions that the city administration will take in regard to community and economic development projects. In other words, the city wants to provide an opportunity for the public to acquire information and offer feedback on proposed projects to the city administration and to allow Council members adequate time to consider constituent feedback on proposed projects. Alan also attended a meeting of the Over-the-Rhine economic development committee, which focused on TIF funding and affordable housing. Alan closed by thanking Esther Wing for serving as interim Vice President as well as Corresponding Secretary for the last several months.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 10, 2021, 6:00 pm (Location TBA)