

MAY 2021– MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

Date: May 10, 2021 @ 6:00pm

Place: Virtual via Zoom by Tricia Lynn, Treasurer

New Members: Ed Barkley, Kathy Merchant, Ann Mooney, Deborah Dorko.



Vice President Jackie Bryson called the meeting to order at 6:03 and welcomed new members.

Monthly reports:

Captain Doug Wiesman announced that settlement agreements have been reached among the city's police and law departments, the liquor authority, and four Cincinnati bars – Main Event, Chalet, PRVLGD, and Galla Park. One of the requirements of these agreements is that a representative from each organization must attend a minimum of five DRC meetings in the coming year.

Doug reminded the group that the city had experienced double-digit dips in crime in 2020, largely because so many businesses, including bars and restaurants, were close for a long period. Compared to 2020, then, it is not a surprise that crime is up in 2021. However, when compared to 2019, violent crime is down by 7% and property crime by 16%.

Doug noted that there had been a stabbing incident at PRVLGD in the early hours of Monday morning. Two people were injured. Security video captured a man holding the weapon, a boxcutter. Unfortunately, neither of the victims wants anything to do with the police. The incident is still under investigation, and clearly represents a violation of the new settlement agreement. Further action, perhaps with a complaint at the state liquor-control level, is yet to be determined. (Doug reiterated that his planned recommendation to pull the bar's license was preempted by City Council's instruction to seek a settlement agreement.)

Doug reminded members that testing of new shot-spotter devices is coming up; the scheduled time is the evening of June 2. Contrary to what he communicated last month, live rounds will indeed be involved. This is necessary in order to test the system's ability to pinpoint actual gunfire. The test will be conducted in a location designed for safety. The SWAT team is involved in the planning.

Officer Tim Epstein reported that clean-up of a homeless encampment took place last week under the Clay Wade Bailey Bridge. Another is planned next week near 3rd and Broadway. Attempting to connect people with social services is part of the package.

When Doug invited questions, someone asked about a liquor application for a mini-mart to be located at 819 Main Street, wondering whether this was a good idea when the already-troubled bar Main Event is next door. Doug said that he himself had serious concerns, especially given that the applicants

previously operated the Garfield mini-market that contributed to problems in Piatt Park. Doug urged members to voice objections to the license transfer via Alan Bunker to the CPD.

Kurt Grossman raised a question about a recent incident where a friend of his was disappointed by slow CPD response. Doug said he had heard from the individual in question, but did not have the details to hand.

Cate Douglas of 3CDC reported that beautification efforts continue on 3rd Street, where a new mural was recently completed. Also ongoing is work with ODOT on sprucing up highway approaches to the city, as well as work with Urban Forestry to fill in downtown tree plantings. **Nicole Smith** reported 137 open client files, 22 of them new in April. There have been 1200 documented client encounters this year, many leading to referrals to various social services and 60 connections to permanent housing supports.

DRC Report

Treasurer Tricia Lynn reported an opening balance of \$20,178.25 and a closing balance of \$20,210.94 for the month of April. There were no questions

Old Business

Kurt Grossman made and David Ostrander seconded a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes; it was approved unanimously.

Speaker

Lou Sand, Cincinnati Parks Board Region Manager, gave the group an overview of events in downtown parks this summer. Given the Governor's most recent guidelines on outdoor events, the Parks Board is comfortable with plans for concert schedules in various locations. Sawyer Point will see three full-day festivals, plus additional events in Schott Amphitheater. The Castellini Esplanade (west end of Smale Park) will host concerts with beer sales and food trucks two Saturdays a month. The Schmidlapp Event Lawn has a full schedule of Rockin' on the Roebling Thursday-night concerts through the summer. Piatt Park will feature lunchtime acoustic concerts on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Lou also volunteered to arrange for park sites to accommodate DRC outdoor gatherings, including membership meetings. In response to a question, Lou said that BrewHaHa has been cancelled for this year, along with Taste of Cincinnati. He is optimistic about Riverfest and Oktoberfest.

Announcements

Matthew Hulme, Division Manager and Transit Coordinator for the city, and formerly its parking superintendent, introduced himself to the group and provided his phone number (513-335-9115) and email (matthew.hulme@cincinnati-oh.gov). He would be happy to hear from DRC members if he can be of help.

Joan Meyer responded to a question about the resumption of DRC socials by saying that the social committee is working on summer events. Constraints include potential hosts' lingering COVID

constraints and in some cases staffing shortages, as well as members' degree of comfort with large-group gatherings.

Jackie Bryson let everyone know that resuming meetings at the library is unlikely, at least through the summer. This is partly because of the library's COVID-related restrictions and partly because of the major remodeling project about to get underway.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. (Location TBA)