

## JUNE 2021 – MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

**Date:** June 7, 2021 @ 6:00pm

**Place:** Captain's Watch Terrace, courtesy of Jackie Bryson

**Members absent:** Hank Davis, David Ostrander, Christian Rahe, Esther Wing



President Alan Bunker called the meeting to order at 6:05.

### **Items for Presentation, Discussion or Action:**

- 1. Review/approval of previous meeting's minutes** – Mary Heimert made a motion to approve, seconded by Heidi Shenk, and all approved.
- 2. Review/approval of April Treasurer's report** – Jackie moved approval, Lorry Hartley seconded, and all approved.
- 3. Reports of Committees:**

**A. Finance** – Tricia Lynn reported that the committee (herself, Jackie, Teri Boland, and Andrew Naab) met recently and generated some proposals to bring before the Board:

The first involves the \$1,198 earmarked for the library. David Siders of the library staff told Jackie that the library's renovation program over the next several months would preclude the DRC's meeting there at least into the last quarter of the calendar year and would mean that some library summer programs would be suspended. He requested that we send our planned contribution to the West End Library Summer Youth Program. The committee decided to reach out to other organizations within the 45202 zip code rather than going out of our area. Jackie contacted staff at Ziegler Park, which operates a summer camp, operating this year from 8:00 – 4:00 Monday through Friday and providing campers with two meals. The camp wants to expand its educational component by offering a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) program designed to assist at-risk youth with creative learning and thinking skills. Funding from corporate sponsors has fallen through. Though a DRC contribution cannot meet the full cost, the committee proposes to offer to the Ziegler Summer Camp the funds that would have gone to the library.

Since ArtWorks, a regular recipient of DRC funds, has recently been granted significant funding by City Council under the American Rescue Plan Act, the committee decided to seek alternatives here as well. DRC member Ann Mooney brought to the committee's attention another program located at Ziegler Park, the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative's Saturday Hoops program. Saturday Hoops serves 40 at-risk kids per week, providing mentoring through sports, art, and other enrichment activities. It is also short of funds, even for basic

equipment such as basketball and soccer balls. Again, a DRC contribution would not meet the full need, but could certainly help. The committee proposes to give \$600 to Saturday Hoops and the remaining \$597 that would have gone to ArtWorks to GeneroCity to augment the \$797 already earmarked for the latter.

Tricia asked for the Board's approval of these committee recommendations. Kurt made a motion to re-direct the \$1,198 previously slated for the library to the Ziegler Summer Park STEM program. Joan Meyer seconded the motion, and all approved. Jackie moved approval of re-directing \$600 of what would have been ArtWorks money to Saturday Hoops and \$597 to GeneroCity. Lisa Sprague seconded, and all approved. Kurt further suggested pursuing the involvement of a retailer such as Koch Sporting Goods.

**B.Membership** – Jackie noted that Wild Apricot is doing the work of renewals automatically. Jackie responds to membership inquiries that come through the ilivedowntown website. She is planning outreach to new residential communities such as Artistry on Pete Rose Way and the apartments under construction on Sycamore between Reading and 12<sup>th</sup> Street when they open. Heidi and Lorry agreed to help with membership activities.

**C.Information & Technology** – Victoria Pershick reported that a Wild Apricot training session, specifically focused on event scheduling, is scheduled for June 9 at the Renaissance. All Board members are welcome; those interested should contact Mary Heimert. Victoria reiterated that she is always available to help with Wild Apricot questions. Tricia reminded the group that she can provide log-in information if Board members would like to use the new DRC Zoom account for committee meetings.

**D.Social** – Mary announced the good news that a DRC social has been scheduled for June 29 at Braxton Cincinnati. The bar is located at Broadway and 13<sup>th</sup> in Pendleton and incorporates a restaurant, Pendalo Wingery. Invitations will be sent to DRC members around June 20.

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

**F. Speaker Coordinator** – Cate Douglas announced that Matthew Hulme, the city's Transit Coordinator, would speak at the June 8 membership meeting. Next month's speaker will be Kent Wellington, Cincinnati attorney, Board Chair of the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative, and longtime mentor with Saturday Hoops. Cate is always open to suggestions for speakers.

**G.Young Professional Recruitment** – In the absence of co-chairs Christian Rahe and Hank Davis, Victoria reminded the group that the two are still seeking ideas for a new name for this recruiting venture.

**4.New Business** – Alan raised this issue of in-person meetings in light of the library's being off-limits for several months. He asked whether space might be available in the Newberry Lofts building on 6<sup>th</sup> street. Cate offered to look into availability, saying that space to accommodate

the Board was likely, but a membership meeting would be too large. Andrew suggested Rebel Mettle on Central Avenue, which has a second-floor space large enough for a membership meeting and an owner likely to be receptive. Alan reminded all that Lou Sands, who spoke at last month's membership meeting, would love to make riverfront park space available – perhaps Schmidlapp Lawn, with its covered stage space; he has also said he could open the Anderson Pavilion (under the carousel) in the event of rain.

Alan also drew the group's attention to a City Planning Commission virtual hearing on June 18 on the subject of the Development Plan and Final Plat at 50 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Steet (the Foundry complex). At issue is the air lots above the current buildings. As most Board members were unfamiliar with the term, Andrew explained that air lots refer essentially to the right to build vertically above the initial structure at a later date. Investing 3CDC with air rights would give them control over future development and protect against other developers who might seek to buy and control air rights in the future.

## **5. Announcements**

The downtown bars that recently executed Good Neighbor agreements with the CPD are required to have representatives attend at least 5 DRC meetings over the next year. They are to be treated as attendees only, not subject to questioning by the group. Andrew suggested that bar owners be invited to a Board meeting later in the year to discuss their progress toward implementing Good Neighbor policies. This would likely be construed as more constructive opportunity than appearing as speakers at a membership meeting.

Al reminded the group of a virtual meeting of Community Councils on Wednesday, June 9, to discuss the question of whether boundaries should be set by Councils themselves or by the Cincinnati City Council, as some members of the latter have proposed. Anyone Board member interested is welcome to take part.

In response to a motion from Kurt, the meeting was adjourned at 6:54.

**Next Meeting: Monday, July 12, 2021, 6:00 pm (Location TBA)**