

JUNE 2021– MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

Date: June 8, 2021 @ 6:00pm

Place: Virtual via Zoom by Tricia Lynn, Treasurer

New Members: Greg and Angie Otis



President Alan Bunker called the meeting to order at 6:00 and welcomed new members.

Monthly reports:

Captain Doug Wiesman thanked Alan for reaching out to the bars now operating under Good Neighborhood agreements with the city. 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 said that a suspect has been identified in the stabbing incident at PRVLGD discussed at last month's meeting, and CPD is working with the prosecutor's office to move forward with a case. Doug acknowledged the many communications expressing the concerns of DRC and its members to the transfer a liquor license from the former Garfield Mini-Mart to a location on Main Street.

Doug let members know that Plum Street would be shut down on June 12 to allow for repainting of the Black Lives Matter mural on the street surface between 8th and 9th Streets. He warned of large crowds expected downtown the following weekend, with an FC Cincinnati home game in a stadium permitted to be filled to full capacity for the first time, along with various Juneteenth celebration events.

The CPD recently met with owners of Galla Park, against which the Department had filed a nuisance complaint; rebranding as a restaurant rather than a club is underway. Police will keep an eye out.

Doug announced the hiring of two new downtown officers, Larry Johnson and Jeff Ruberg, replacing two retired officers.

Crime statistics are up somewhat, again compared with low incidence in 2020 but also in some categories compared with 2019. Theft from autos has shown a marked spike.

Officer Tim Eppstein noted that the city's transient population tends to swell in the summer months; the CPD is monitoring the situation and making referrals to the LEAD (law enforcement assisted diversion) initiative where appropriate.

When Alan invited questions, Jackie Bryson said that, in the course of a food tour, she noticed shattered panes in the glass structure housing the Carol Ann's Carousel, as well as scattered trash. This occurrence had not been brought to Doug's attention by the Park Board, which operates the carousel. Sue Byrom raised a question about a brawl at the Banks that she had seen on a video; Doug was aware of this. He mentioned that most bar owners are investing in a digital driver's license reader

that allows the owners to be in communication with one another with respect to troublesome customers.

Cate Douglas of 3CDC reminded the group of Court Street opening celebrations taking place over the weekend, including ribbon-cutting, unveiling of a new mural, a vendors' market and a gathering of classic cars. She reported that Ambassadors are engaged in much weeding around the city. They are also doing extra checks with concierges and other staff in a newly-defined hotel zone where complaints about aggressive panhandling have been common. On behalf of Nicole Smith, Cate summarized Social Outreach Team activity: 161 open cases, many referrals to social services, and 70 connections to permanent housing.

DRC Report

Treasurer Tricia Lynn reported an opening balance of \$20,210.94 and a closing balance of \$20,231.91 for the month of May. Subtracting committed NSP and AIG funds leaves an unencumbered balance of \$11,333.91. There were no questions

Old Business

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

New Business

Alan announced that the DRC Board had held an in-person meeting the night before and looked forward to continuing with such meetings. The Board is seeking a venue for an in-person membership meeting next month. Membership meetings will return to the library when renovations now in process are completed, probably sometime mid-fall.

Speaker

Matthew Hulme, Division Manager and Transit Coordinator for the city, talked about a new bus service, FlixBus, that will make downtown pick-ups for travel to other cities. A route between Cincinnati and Milwaukee will debut in July; Indianapolis, Chicago, and possibly Atlanta are contemplated. (Note: the Mega Bus no longer operates between Cincinnati and Chicago. Matt can be reached at 513-335-9115 or matthew.hulme@cincinnati-oh.gov if people have questions.

Announcements

Jackie drew everyone's attention to the DRC newsletter, which – after the COVID lull – is full of new activities. Cristina Anez, new to the city and DRC, expressed her thanks for the opportunity to get to know new people and places.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40.

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. (Location TBA)