

JULY 2021 – MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

Date: July 12, 2021 @ 6:00pm

Place: Newberry Building, 28 W. 6th Street

Members absent: Jackie Bryson, Mary Heimert, Heidi Shenk, Joan Meyer



President Alan Bunker called the meeting to order at 6:04.

Items for Presentation, Discussion or Action:

1. Review/approval of previous meeting's minutes – Teri Boland made a motion to approve, seconded by Tricia Lynn, and all approved.

2. Review/approval of June Treasurer's report – Hank Davis moved approval, Lorry Hartley seconded, and all approved.

3. Reports of Committees:

A. Finance – Tricia explained that \$911 in NSP funds remains to be spent before the end-of-August deadline. She said that a similar amount had been used for the last breakfast for first responders, but that no such event had been planned for this year. Tricia suggested adding the sum to our donation to GeneroCity 513. Teri Boland made a pitch for organizing another breakfast to show ongoing appreciation for police and firefighters. Christian Rahe said that he could take this on in August; Lorry agreed to help.

Tricia reviewed the financing outlook for the city's coming fiscal year. NSP funds in the amount of \$10,000 from the Neighborhood Activation Fund will be granted to each community council, with an additional \$5,000 available for approved activities. The DRC finance committee will bring a proposal to the Board in August. Documentation is in order for our standard donations; the question is whether to add additional recipients.

B. Information & Technology – Victoria Pershick reported that the Wild Apricot registration process for the June social had worked well, barring a few members who said they did not get the invitation. Some of them later reported finding it in their Spam account. Victoria is training some Board members in Wild Apricot troubleshooting,

C. Social – Teri reported that the June 29 social had been well attended – some 70 people – and much enjoyed. The next is scheduled for July 27 at Nicholson's Backstage event center (2nd floor). A social for after the August 10 membership meeting is in the works.

- D. **Clean, Green & Safe** - Alan had previously emailed his report on this topic; there were no questions.
- E. **Speaker Coordinator** – Cate Douglas announced that Phil Aftuck of the Bernstein Companies would speak at the membership meeting about the company’s rehabilitation of the Textile Building at 205 W. 4th Street.
- F. **Young Professional Recruitment** – Christian Rahe and Hank Davis were pleased to share the news that a social event has been scheduled for this target audience on August 5 at Rebel Mettle. They asked for help in getting the word out. Cate offered to do a flyer and Andrew Naab to e-mail apartment managers. Kurt Grossman suggested a post on the Nextdoor app. Hank reiterated the request for ideas for a new name for this recruiting initiative.

4. New Business

Kurt walked the group through the issue of **community council boundaries** – who defines them, what to do about overlaps, and what the city’s notification responsibilities should be in regard to issues such as zoning and planned development that could affect more than one council’s jurisdiction. The city would prefer to eliminate overlaps and to notify only a single council on a given issue. Kurt gave examples of how undesirable this could be from a council perspective – for example, suppose a high-rise building or a store with a history of problems is proposed for a location close to a council’s border? The adjacent council(s) would want to be notified and have an opportunity to comment. Kurt has been working with a group of representatives of several councils; the group has developed a resolution requesting the city to engage and include multiple councils in discussions of issues that could impact more than one of them. The resolution would not resolve all questions, but would put the city on notice that this is important to councils and that councils are working together toward a solution acceptable to all. Kurt made a motion that DRC sign on to the resolution. Seconded by David Ostrander, the motion was approved unanimously. Alan will complete the form; Kurt will find out whether it is best submitted directly to the city or via the multi-council group.

Proposals to increase permitted housing density are also on the city’s agenda. While their intent is primarily to make a greater number of affordable housing units available, there are also implications for parking demand. The city is eager to encourage forms of transport other than cars. Kurt explained that, downtown living spaces already being fairly dense, the proposals would have greater impact in other city neighborhoods. A summary of proposals being considered might be sought from the city planning commission and made available to DRC members.

Andrew outlined his interest in seeing the Board engage in a broader discussion that the monthly hour-long meeting permits. He would like to address overarching questions such as: What do we want the city to be? What are our priorities for the year? What, in practical terms, can we do to accomplish our goals? Andrew suggests that this exploration take the form of a **Board retreat**, perhaps on a Saturday afternoon. Seeing interest around the room, he offered

to put a specific proposal together. Christian made a motion that he do so, Esther seconded, and all approved. Andrew will bring the proposal to the August Board meeting.

Some questions have been raised with respect to the Good Neighbor Agreements that three bars have entered into with the city and the CPD. One requirement is that a representative of each bar must attend five DRC meetings over the year following the date of the agreement. DRC has no direct way of knowing whether such attendance will influence the organizations' behavior. Andrew suggested that we invite owners of these establishments to meet with a subset of the Board, perhaps the executive committee, to discuss progress under the agreements in a constructive rather than confrontational atmosphere.

Andrew also brought up the July 4 Smale Park shootings. Cate said that it would be discussed at upcoming 3CDC meetings. It is expected that Captain Wiesman will talk about it at the membership meeting as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03.

Next Meeting: Monday, August 9, 2021, 6:00 pm at First Financial Bank, 1 E. 4th Street.