

AUGUST 2021– MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

Date: August 10, 2021 @ 6:00pm

Place: First Financial Innovation Room, 4th & Vine

New Members: Peggy Cave, Ginny Clausen, Teresa Harmeyer, Kathleen MacQueeney, Kathy Santen, Meg Schroeder, Kathy Schwab, Alexandra Wenzell.



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

Monthly reports:

For the benefit of new members, **Captain Doug Wiesman** introduced himself as the Commander of the Central Business Section of the Cincinnati Police Department. He explained that he has a regular patrol force and also a 6-person special events unit charged with security at events such as games at the three stadiums, BLINK, Oktoberfest, etc. He noted that a new (and huge) event will be a game between the U.S. men's soccer team and their counterparts from Mexico, to be played at TQL Stadium in November.

Doug said that the city is doing well in terms of crime statistics this month. Police presence on weekends has been increased since the Smale Park shooting July 4 weekend.

Officer Tim Eppstein introduced himself as downtown's neighborhood liaison officer, and invited DRC members to contact him with questions or issues at tim.eppstein@cincinnati-oh.gov. He said that on the agenda this week is the cleanup of a homeless encampment on Linn Street.

A question was raised about the ongoing motorcycle nuisance; Doug reiterated what he said last month about what the police can and cannot do under the law and again summarized some warrants and impoundments they have been able to execute. Another question concerned the Good Neighbor agreements in place with three bars. Doug said that police and liquor control representatives had a recent meeting with the Main Event. (Note: a representative of the Main Event was also present at this DRC meeting.) PRVLGD is closed at present, but plans to reopen in September. Doug went on to say that a recent meeting with Queen City Wine & Spirits on 5th Street, also under a Good Neighbor agreement, had been most encouraging. Doug thinks the application by the owners of the former Garfield Mini-mart at Piatt Park to reopen on Main Street will be denied, in part because of DRC's opposition.

Mary Heimert, DRC's social chair, invited all in the audience to the after-meeting social at Corkopolis on Main Street.

Cate Douglas of 3CDC said that Ambassadors continue to be engaged in weed removal and power washing in the city and working with Urban Forestry toward replanting of damaged or missing trees this fall. Cate drew members' attention to a new outdoor bar opening at Fountain Square next week.

Nicole Smith of the Social Outreach Team announced that emergency housing vouchers, financed via federal COVID relief dollars, have become available, with 11 clients successfully matched thus far.

Tricia Lynn let the group know that DRC dues have supported food deliveries to the Ambassadors, police, and fire department personnel this month in thanks for their service.

DRC Report

Treasurer Tricia Lynn reported an opening balance of \$16,531.46 and a closing balance of \$16,451.69 for the month of July. There were no questions.

Old Business

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

Speaker

Marcus Thompson and **Adam Turner** spoke of Saturday Hoops, a program for city youth to which DRC recently made a \$600 donation. Adam related with glee his trip to the sporting goods store to purchase basketballs and soccer balls and other much-needed equipment. Saturday Hoops began some 17 years ago in Washington Park, before the Park's renovation. Founder Ed Berg wanted to provide city kids with a safe and fun activity that incorporated role modeling. The program soon moved to the OTR Recreation Center, where it remains. Originally the schedule was January to May, but it is now year-round, including summer sessions at Ziegler Park. And basketball has been joined by soccer, gymnastics, art, yoga, guest speakers, and more. Breakfast and lunch are provided to the 100+ kids who show up each week. Mentoring remains a key element.

Marcus and Adam led the DRC audience in the Saturday Hoops pledge, "I am a cheerful giver. I am a hard worker. I am an overcomer. I understand that faith and education are the keys to my success and happiness. I will not let guns and drugs crush my dreams. I matter. I control my destiny. And I am going to make this world a better place."

DRC members are welcome to drop by and to consider getting involved as mentors. "We ask you for 8 minutes with the kids. Just to talk with them," Adam encouraged.

Announcements

Margaret Swollow of Cincinnati World Cinema described the upcoming lineup of films. **Rose Emory** invited all to a house party, August 28 from noon to midnight, at the Art Academy of Cincinnati's new

event space at 1200 Jackson Street, former site of the BarrelHouse Brewery. **Alan Bunker** announced that next month's post-meeting social would be held at FB's Kitchen and Lounge, 126 W. 6th Street.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 6:00 pm, First Financial Innovation Center, 4th & Vine.