

SEPTEMBER 2021– MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Downtown Residents' Council,

Inc.

Date: September 13, 2021 @ 6:00pm

Place: First Financial Innovation Room, 4th & Vine

New Members: Beth Bohlen, Kwesi Calliste, Mitchell & Jay McGinniss, Linda & Dave Meyers, Gil Richards



Treasurer Tricia Lynn called the meeting to order at 6:00 and welcomed new members.

Monthly reports:

Captain Doug Wiesman reminded the group that crime statistics are complicated by the difficulty in comparing 2021 to 2020, when the city was largely in lockdown. Compared with 2019, crime is down in all categories except car theft. The increase in car thefts appears to be related to the availability of a device that essentially lets thieves clone car key fobs. Several stolen cars have been recovered in Clifton.

In other crime news, in the last 14 days, police seized four guns from people on the street in the Banks. The Banks business organization has hired extra detail officers to augment Doug's force. Prostitution has been reported (and seen) in Piatt Park. Officers versed in human trafficking issues will be involved in addressing this situation.

Doug said the coming weekend will be a big one for crowds and street closures, what with a 14-K run on Saturday, along with Reds and FCC home games. It is also Oktoberfest, which this year begins on Thursday.

Officer Tim Eppstein explained that Faraday bags, which block electronic interference with key fobs and phones, may be purchased as a crime prevention measure. He said that a big homeless encampment on Linn Street remains a problem, particularly since shelters have been full. Five fentanyl overdoses have been reported.

Cate Douglas of 3CDC said that Ambassadors continue to be engaged in weed removal and power washing in the city. They are also training to use leaf-removal equipment. She announced that there will soon be 20 new blue-painted recycling bins placed around downtown. She suggested that members pick up one of the new 3CDC cards from the back table, which have the Ambassadors and Outreach hotline numbers for handy reference.

Nicole Smith of the Social Outreach Team said that her team is involved with the homeless encampment population, and is working with a higher number of homeless individuals this year as compared to last. She was pleased to announce 100 "positive exits" in the last month, that is,

individuals successfully transitioned into housing or treatment. There were 20 housing matches in August.

DRC Report

Tricia reported an opening balance of \$16,451.69 and a closing balance of \$15,288.16 for the month of August. There were no questions.

Old Business

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

New Business

Tricia reminded members that we use NSP (Neighborhood Support Program) funds from the city to support our social program donations. She has created a form, which she will be happy to email to interested members, to solicit member ideas for additional program benefiting zip code 45202 in the coming year. Forms should be completed and returned to her by mid-October.

Tricia also announced that the DRC Board had discussed the possibility of conducting concurrent in-person and virtual membership meetings. She is interested in feedback from members as to whether a virtual option would be welcome.

Speaker

Cate introduced **Jordan Hamons**, founder and owner of the Tablespoon Cooking Company at 1713 Elm Street in OTR. Tablespoon got its start under the auspices of Findlay Kitchen, operating there for four years before moving to permanent space. Tablespoon offers hands-on cooking classes. Its space can also be rented for private or corporate events. Classes are normally three hours long, and include 2 glasses of beer or wine and consumption of the finished food product along with instruction. DRC members are encouraged to look at the class schedule at tablespooncookingco.com. Jordan concluded by kindly offering the signature chocolate chip cookies she had brought.

Announcements

Mary Heimert, DRC's social chair, invited all in the audience to the after-meeting social at FB's Kitchen at 126 W. 6th Street.

Cincinnati World Cinema invited members to the final showing of *A Ghost Waits* on Wednesday, September 15, and to Luna Fest, a series of seven short features by and about women on September 19 and 26.

Christian Rahe let the group know that there is an effort underway to "round out the demographics" of DRC by recruiting a young professional cohort. The next event for this population will be November 4 at Bar Pilar on E. Court Street.

Tricia said that a representative of Gest Carts had intended to be at the meeting to make an announcement about their services. These are boxy cars, paid for by advertisers, available to transport Cincinnatians around town. They may be hailed or summoned via an app. There is no cost to passengers for the trip, but drivers rely on tips for their income.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 6:00 pm, First Financial Innovation Center, 4th & Vine.