

NOVEMBER 2021 – MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

Date: November 8, 2021 @ 6:00pm

Place: First Financial Innovation Center, 4th & Vine Streets

Members absent: Jackie Bryson, Teri Boland, Lorry Hartley, David Ostrander, Esther Wing



President Alan Bunker called the meeting to order at 6:00.

Items for Presentation, Discussion or Action:

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

2. Review/approval of August Treasurer's report – Lisa Sprague moved approval, Joan Meyer seconded, and all approved.

3. Reports of Committees:

A. Finance – Tricia reported that the NSP application had been approved, though an actual check has yet to be received. The Neighborhood Activation Fund application has been submitted, but the review process will not begin until December.

B. Membership – Heidi Shenk said that membership renewals have been coming in at a good clip, perhaps inspired by the holiday party “save the date” announcement.

C. Information & Technology – Victoria Pershick said that her focus has been on creating and preparing to send the holiday party invitation. The I & T committee has not met.

D. Social – Mary said that holiday party plans are coming along smoothly. The invitation will be sent on November 10, and RSVPs must be made by November 22.

E. Clean, Green & Safe - Alan had previously emailed his report on this topic. He said that the annual decorating of Piatt Park is slated to go forward on November 13, though he still had not heard from the new Cappel's owner about retrieving our decorations and lights and borrowing their van and ladders. Alan will stop by the store this week to check. If there is a problem, he asked the group whether a scaled-down decorating scheme, just candy-striping the lampposts, would be acceptable. Kurt Grossman moved approval, Tricia seconded, and all agreed that scaled-down was better than nothing.

F. Speakers – Cate Douglas let the group know that the scheduled membership meeting speaker from the CSO needs to defer her talk until January. In her place, Cate will give an

update about 3CDC activities, including the usual summaries of Ambassador and Outreach programs.

G. Young Professional Recruitment – Christian Rahe reported that the November 4 get-together for this group was not well-attended. Better marketing will need to be done. A proposal to refer to this group as Young Downtowners met with general approval. Christian wondered if the DRC newsletter could move to a calendar-based format, so that members could more easily locate what is going on by date. Such a calendar might also be posted on the DRC website. The idea will be discussed with newsletter editor Jackie, and Victoria will look at Wild Apricot’s ability to accommodate a calendar. Christian suggested that, longer-term, we might investigate existing events-management packages.

New Business

A. Alan announced that Cate had submitted her resignation from the Board, effective November 10. As previously communicated in an email, she has accepted a new position with the Center for Great Neighborhoods in Covington. Her last day at 3CDC is November 12. Mary made a motion to accept the resignation with regrets, Heidi seconded, and all reluctantly approved. Kurt made a second motion to thank Cate for her service and wish her well; endorsement of the motion was unanimous.

B. Last year, the city requested residents to identify and describe pedestrian safety issues in their neighborhoods such as inadequately marked crosswalks, loose or missing sidewalk pavers, and insufficient street lighting. For 2022, the city is seeking locations for establishing measures to calm vehicular traffic, specifically the use of bump outs and speed cushions. The city is asking that location nominations be submitted via community councils, backed up where possible by data relating to accidents, fatalities, and traffic volume. It was suggested that Captain Wiesman might be asked to help with such statistics. Alan asked whether Board members thought that the city’s request should be transmitted to the full DRC membership. Kurt said yes, particularly since downtowners tend to be familiar with their own micro-neighborhoods rather than the Central Business Section as a whole. All agreed. Alan said he would raise the issue at the next night’s membership meeting and then send the city’s solicitation to all members.

Announcements

Kurt said that a city-wide group, formed for the purpose of addressing violence in the city, wants to work with both the police and community councils. He will be taking part, and Andrew Naab expressed interest as well.

Alan reported that the City Manager’s office is sponsoring a number of community conversations around a proposed community engagement plan in November, some live and one virtual. More

information may be found at <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/planning/planning-projects-and-studies/active-ongoing/community-conversations/>.

Alan was recently informed that the law firm Frost, Brown, Todd will no longer serve as a statutory agent to DRC (and others). It is required by the Ohio Secretary of State that such an agent be named, essentially to serve as the person who can be served with legal documents on behalf of the group. Alan has agreed to be this person during the term of his presidency. Christian urged that we specifically tie this responsibility to the presidency, which will require an amendment to DRC by-laws.

Jackie, who will be out of the city for both the January and February meetings, has requested that she be conferenced in by phone.

Alan announced that FOUND, a series of holiday events and displays celebrating the city, will take place again this year. One of its components is a decorated-tree display in Imagination Alley in OTR, with trees representing the city's neighborhoods. Jackie and Gary decorated a DRC tree last year. Alan would welcome a volunteer to take over this year. Jackie still has ornaments and lights from last year, which could be re-used.

Joan would like to proceed with the membership directory idea she introduced at the October meeting, and will work with Victoria and Heidi to go forward. The directory will be online only, accessible through the DRC website. Ideally, it will include each member's name, photo, and building or area of residence (e.g., the Renaissance or One Lytle Place). Members may opt out if they do not wish to be included.

Christian requested a re-send of the list outlining board terms; Alan agreed to have this done.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 10, 2022, 6:00 pm at First Financial Innovation Center, 4th & Vine.