

NOVEMBER 2021– MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

Date: November 9, 2021 @ 6:00pm

Place: First Financial Innovation Room, 4th & Vine

New Members: Leslie and Leo Darling, Shawn Kennedy, Jackie and Tom Schantz.



President Alan Bunker called the meeting to order at 6:01. He thanked First Financial for making the meeting space available to us and welcomed new DRC members.

Monthly reports:

Captain Doug Wiesman introduced **Officer Tim Eppstein** and **Sergeant Mike Miller**, who handles liquor-related issues in the Central Business Section. Doug distributed a chart detailing crime in various categories, comparing statistics by year, and calculating averages. He pointed out that the city's 2021 numbers look good in all categories but auto theft and thefts from autos. Doug reported that the city has refiled its suit against Galla Park at the Banks, as the terms of an earlier settlement have not been adhered to by the owners. The parties are back in court, and it is the city's intent to shut the business down. Doug greeted Mike Evans from Chalet, attending the meeting as part of his bar's agreement with the city.

In response to a question, Doug confirmed that a body had been found in the long-vacant Garfield Suites building across from the library. The coroner has yet to release a cause of death, but there were no signs of violence. Doug has heard that a new owner is prepared to refurbish and reopen the hotel.

Alan announced that the scheduled guest speaker from the Cincinnati Symphony had found it necessary to postpone her talk. He explained that **Cate Douglas** of 3CDC would give an update on that organization's activities instead.

Cate reviewed some of 3CDC's accomplishments over the pandemic period. Two new murals, on 3rd Street and at Pete Rose & Mehring Ways, were painted. It being "a heck of a year for graffiti," much time was spent on graffiti removal. 3CDC is working with GIS Mapping to map repair and improvement projects all over town. Work continues with Urban Forestry on tree planting and maintenance; 102 new trees were planted last spring and another 54 will be planted by the end of the fall. A similar partnership with the Department of Transportation and Engineering focuses on streetlight repair; so far 215 reports have been filed and repair has been completed on 193 of them. 3CDC continues to work with ODOT and Cincinnati Parks to maintain and expand green spaces, especially in city gateway areas.

GeneroCity 513 added two new outreach workers this year. Housing was obtained for 109 clients. The jobs van continues to offer daily paid labor as an alternative to panhandling, with lunch and connections to social services added to the mix.

Cate urged DRC members to visit the revamped 3CDC website, downtowncincinnati.com. It includes videos related to the Downtown Vibrancy campaign.

Winter events include the skating rink on Fountain Square, which again will include bumper cars. Reservations are required for both skating and the cars. FOUND, a series of holiday events and displays celebrating the city, will take place again this year. Its components include a decorated-tree display in Imagination Alley in OTR, with trees representing the city's neighborhoods, decorated store windows along Vine Street, and a citywide scavenger hunt. More information may be found at foundcincinnati.com.

Cate reviewed the tenants secured so far for the Foundry, including two restaurants and several businesses. She said that expansion of downtown streateries is planned.

Cate's presentation concluded with an announcement by Alan that this was in fact her last meeting as a member of the DRC Board. She has accepted a new position with the Center for Great Neighborhoods in Covington. He thanked her for her work (to much applause), and Cate responded by thanking DRC in turn for being such a great group to work with.

DRC Reports

Treasurer **Tricia Lynn** reported an opening balance of \$15,401.53 and a closing balance of \$15,626.92 for the month of October. There were no questions.

Social chair **Mary Heimert** let everyone know that the invitation to the December 6 holiday party would be sent the next day. Members attending may bring up to two guests at a cost of \$25 each. Names must be provided with the RSVP. Drinks are to be purchased; everything else is complimentary. A vaccination card will be required for admittance.

Alan announced that the annual decoration of Piatt Park will take place November 13 from 11:00 to 1:00.

Old Business

Rick Dieringer made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes; all voted in favor.

New Business

Alan announced a new pedestrian safety initiative, under which 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. Alan will send the city's solicitation to all members. Responses should be directed to him.

Announcements

Alix Wenzel let the group know that she has opened a dental practice, Piatt Park Dental, facing the park of the same name. She encouraged all to seek her services.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00.

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 6:00 pm, First Financial Innovation Center, 4th & Vine.