

JANUAR 2022 – MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

Date: January 11, 2022 @ 6:00pm

Place: First Financial Innovation Room, 4th & Vine

New Members - November: Mary Del Vecchio, Julie Ellison, Janet Floyd, Al Lusher, Thomas Mathias, Laura Melin, Chase Mosjowsky, Yosmeriz Roman, Donna Steutermann, Tammy Turner-Vorbeck, Melissa Uhlman, John Williams; December: Karen Bankston, Jeff Brown of AAA (business membership), Tim Green, Amy Moore



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

Monthly reports:

Officer Tim Eppstein spoke for the Cincinnati Police Department's Central Business Section. He reported that violent crime is down 20 percent on a rolling three-year average. Property crime is down 7 percent. Shooting statistics are 14 in 2020, 8 in 2021 (including 2 homicides), and 1 so far in 2022 (though Tim says there is no evidence that this reported shooting actually occurred). Four guns have been recovered since the first of the year. The multi-year project to revitalize Piatt Park, involving CPD, the library, and the Park Board, has shown good results.

In response to a question, Tim said that there has not been much of a problem with kids who are not in school congregating downtown, at least so far. Police liaison officers are now assigned to schools.

Marissa Reed, Operations Manager with 3CDC, gave a summary of the organization's activities. She introduced **David Vissman**, Vice President of Operations, and **Sara Bujas**, the newly-hired Community Engagement Coordinator, who, Marissa says, has already "done a ton in half a week." Sara said that she is looking forward to working with DRC.

Marissa explained that Ambassadors have been assigned to newly-drawn downtown zones. A new management software package is expected to facilitate keeping track of their daily activities. Beautification projects include work (with ODOT and Parks) on city "gateways" (entrance points), artworks, and decorating windows of vacant buildings to provide an enhanced pedestrian experience of the city and deter negative activity such as vandalism. Outreach activities are conducted by four outreach workers contracted through Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services and the Jobs Van contracted through the City Gospel Mission.

3CDC, through the Outreach program, is now a participant in Community Solutions, a national program comprising 98 cities and counties. Its aim is to end chronic homelessness by 2023. A person is considered chronically homeless if he or she has been on the streets for a year or more. In the last Cincinnati count (late November), 25 chronically homeless were identified.

A question was raised about what a concerned citizen can do if he or she sees a homeless person who needs attention during the night, after Ambassador and Outreach working hours. Can there be a backup contact? Marissa said that 3CDC works with Shelterhouse, and that she would discuss this situation with them. Member Carol Baden reported that in July Ohio will roll out a 988 number for mental health services; it will have the same priority as 911.

A suggestion was made that the Ambassadors wear some sort of button or sign indicating that they are available to offer advice or suggestions to city visitors. Dave said that recent changes to the Ambassador uniform are intended to accomplish this.

DRC Reports

Treasurer **Tricia Lynn** reported an opening balance of \$15,626.92 on November 1 and a closing balance of \$29,521.74 at the end of December.

Social chair **Mary Heimert** let everyone know that all were welcome to attend the social at E+O Kitchen on Freedom Way following the meeting.

Alan announced that seasonal decorations were removed from Piatt Park on January 8. These will now be stored at the Covenant – First Presbyterian Church at the Elm Street end of the park.

Old Business

Mary Heimert made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes, Tricia Lynn seconded, and all voted in favor.

New Business

Member Mike Miller raised the issue of noise emanating from the Hard Rock Casino's indoor/outdoor patio. Nearby residents are looking for the club to turn down the volume during certain hours. The Pendleton Neighborhood council has agreed to write a letter to the owners. Mike asked whether DRC would consider doing the same. Alan agreed to take that request to the DRC Board at its next meeting if Mike would give him the specifics of the issue in writing.

Speaker

Nicholas Bizub, sales assistant with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, gave the group a preview of the CSO's upcoming performance schedule. He announced that DRC members may secure a 15% discount on tickets by using the code DRC. Nicholas has worked with Mary Heimert on a DRC group outing to hear *Respect: A Tribute to Aretha Franklin* on March 20.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 6:00 pm, First Financial Innovation Center, 4th & Vine.