

FEBRUARY 2022 – MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

Date: February 7, 2022, 6:00 pm

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

Members absent: Jackie Bryson, Teri Boland, Mary Heimert, Andrew Naab, David Ostrander, Victoria Pershick



President Alan Bunker called the meeting to order at 6:02.

Items for Presentation, Discussion or Action:

1. Review/approval of previous meeting's minutes – Joan Meyer made a motion to approve, seconded by Lorry Hartley, and all voted in favor.

2. Review/approval of Treasurer's report – Kurt Grossman moved approval, Heidi Shenk seconded, and all voted in favor.

3. Reports of Committees:

A. Finance – Tricia Lynn reported that the Neighborhood Activation Fund monies have been disbursed to Zeigler Park and Saturday Hoops. Zeigler Park cashed their check, but have not yet returned their agreement to furnish receipts. Tricia will follow up on this.

B. Nominating – Committee member Christian Rahe (in the absence of chair Jackie Bryson) confirmed that candidates for five open seats (including those of Cate Douglas and Hank Davis) will be sought. The committee intends to send an email blast to membership later in the week. The committee feels that a 3CDC representative – who is a DRC member and ideally a downtown resident – is an asset to the Board. Esther Wing raised a question about possible conflict of interest, given what a major player 3CDC is in Cincinnati decisionmaking. This is a consideration, but so is the value that a 3CDC rep brings to the Board in terms of information and contacts. It is important to pick the right person. Esther also noted that Cate had been the DRC speaker coordinator. Christian reported that Jackie has contacted potential speakers for the next few meetings until a new coordinator is named.

A question was raised about whether to appoint people to fill Cate and Hank's terms or simply to wait for the April general election. Alan made a motion to fill those seats as part of the general election. Esther seconded, and all approved. Alan then observed that the Board had never formally authorized a Nominating Committee. Kurt Grossman moved that we ratify the existing committee, Lisa Sprague seconded, and all approved.

C.Membership – Heidi Shenk raised the issue of a Wild Apricot idiosyncrasy related to membership “bundling.” In a household membership, only one person is recognized as the “administrator,” while his or her spouse is not. The spouse is not permitted to make payments or to RSVP. Christian is sure that this can be fixed; he will follow up with Victoria Pershick and with the WA help desk if necessary.

D.Information & Technology – Before the meeting, Victoria sent all Board members a detailed email about her work on the membership directory. A module for business members is underway. The I & T Committee is working on an eblast message to let business members know about the directory and its benefits. Esther said that she would like to see more attention to the DRC Facebook page. It exists, but we are not posting to it. As Esther is already a page administrator, she was encouraged to pursue her idea of posting information about Bengals events and associated street closures.

Alan and Tricia had met earlier in the day with First Financial’s Jim Curtis to discuss A/V issues. The result is that we have Zoom capability in the Board meeting room, but not in the space where membership meetings take place. However, Jim says that a general A/V upgrade is scheduled over the next few months.

E. **Social** – There will be no social following the February 8 membership meeting; however, one is scheduled for February 23 at Mighty Good: Meat n’ Three on Elm Street in OTR. Mary will send out an invitation.

F. **Clean, Green & Safe** - Alan had previously emailed his report on this topic.

G.New/Young Member Recruitment – Christian asked the group to table this committee for the present. Hank has moved, and Christian doesn’t feel he has time to give this activity its proper attention at this time. All agreed to do so.

Old Business

Discussion of Letter of Support for Redevelopment of Macy’s Headquarters:

Alan asked whether anyone was prepared to offer a motion that we compose such a letter. Kurt said that a letter was moot, in that the city has already decided to move forward with this project, irrespective of input from DRC. Christian explained that converting an office building into a residential one, while beneficial to a city, is also very expensive. It should not be surprising that a city with the occupancy challenges Cincinnati faces would want to offer incentives to a developer. Discussion concluded with an agreement to remain silent on this topic. Esther suggested that we might want to talk to the city about reasonable guidelines on response times.

Announcements

Alan had several items to relate. He has officially been recognized as DRC's statutory agent. There was little response from DRC membership to the city's request for traffic-calming proposals and data. DRC member Tom Hayward had hoped that the Council would be able to ask the city for advance notification of fireworks. The city has said no to this, but offered to instruct those applying for fireworks permission to notify DRC. Alan attended an IIN meeting with the interim City Manager, who spoke of plans for greater emphasis on community engagement and public safety. Finally, Alan acknowledged receipt of Hank's formal resignation from the Board.

Christian asked for any ideas people might have about a place to relocate Greyhound operations. Their land on Gilbert has been sold. If they are to stay in Cincinnati, they need a place where passengers can be picked up and dropped off. The city's downtown transit center, used largely for storage, has neither heat nor security. Museum Center management worries about Greyhound customers mingling with schoolchildren.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 7, 2022, 6:00 pm at First Financial Innovation Center, 4th & Vine.