



Date: February 8, 2022 @ 6:00pm

Place: First Financial Innovation Room, 4th & Vine

New Members – Mike Miller, Valerie Newell, Theresa Sedlack

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

Monthly reports:

Captain Doug Wiesman spoke for the Cincinnati Police Department's Central Business Section. He reported on some personnel changes, including the departure of Sergeant Mark Miller to an assignment elsewhere in the city. A new class of 45 recruits graduated last week, but new officers are never assigned to CBS. However, after the changes, CBS is staffed at the same level as last year. Doug noted that violent and property crime continue to trend downward. He then moved to his major topic of the night: the Bengals.

As everyone is aware, many parties are planned for Super Bowl weekend. Police, including a Civil Defense Response Team, will be fully deployed. Road closures, particularly around the Banks, will begin Sunday morning. Sunday night will be crazy. A victory celebration is planned for February 16. It will include a parade starting at 2:30, following the route of the Opening Day parade. Paul Brown stadium will host a program from 4:30 – 5:30 (gates open at 3:00). The stadium is expected to be full. Seats will be free, but ticketed to assigned seats. Doug suggested that people who do not intend to watch the parade or go to the stadium should try to work from home. (Note: in the dire and scarcely conceivable event that the Rams win, there will be no events on the 16th.)

Officer Tim Eppstein stated that the clean-up of a homeless encampment near Captain's Watch that had been scheduled for Thursday the 17th will almost certainly be postponed.

Sara Bujas, introduced at last month's meeting as the new Community Engagement Coordinator, spoke for 3CDC. She reported that Ambassadors logged 348 hours of snow removal during the period February 3 – 5, following the storm. Ali D'Arrigo asked whether next year's supply of salt could be ordered in orange in honor of the Bengals. Sara outlined the festivities 3CDC will sponsor in coming days, including parties at Fountain Square beginning on Thursday. Ali expressed a wish that 3CDC consider changing the way the skating rink is set up, so that Fountain Square is not hidden from the street. The weekend following the Super Bowl will see Mittenfest in Washington Park.

DRC Reports

Treasurer **Tricia Lynn** reported an opening balance of \$29,521.74 on January 1 and a closing balance of \$20,177.54 on January 31. She noted that approximately \$12,500 of this total is unrestricted.

Social committee member **Teri Boland** reminded everyone that there would be no social after the meeting, but announced a social on February 23 at Mighty Good: Meat n' Three in OTR. An invitation will be emailed.

Old Business

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

Member Mike Miller returned to an issue he raised at the last meeting, the noise nuisance from the Hard Rock Casino's indoor/outdoor patio. The Pendleton Neighborhood Council is trying to get Casino management to sit down with residential neighbors to work out a solution to the problem, and would like DRC's assistance to achieve this. On January 14, Mike forwarded to Alan a letter that the Pendleton council president had sent to Casino management, which Alan in turn forwarded to DRC Board members. No Board member requested that this issue be added to the agenda for the February Board meeting, nor has any DRC member complained of being affected by the noise. However, Alan said that he, as a downtown resident, would be happy to write a letter of support of the Pendleton council's efforts.

Speaker

Kathy DeBrosse, Vice President, Marketing and Engagement with ArtsWave, made a presentation about ArtsWave's activities. Arts organizations have had a tough time with the pandemic; lost revenue is estimated at \$140 million. ArtsWave has provided a significant amount of operating support during this time. Kathy noted that, while arts are an essential part of Cincinnati life, there is no public funding for them. Columbus and Cleveland, in contrast, have taxes earmarked for arts funding. Here, funding has depended on donors for more than 70 years. ArtsWave is conducting its annual fund-raising drive, and Kathy urged those in the audience to consider making a donation. She outlined donation incentives, including Reds tickets and Blink-connected tours.

Announcements

Alan reminded the group that the annual election of Board members is coming up; five seats will need to be filled. He encouraged members to consider joining the council's leadership.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58.

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