

**Date: March 8, 2022 @ 6:00pm**

**Place: First Financial Innovation Room, 4<sup>th</sup> & Vine**



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

**Monthly reports:**

**Captain Doug Wiesman** spoke for the Cincinnati Police Department's Central Business Section. He introduced Lieutenant Andy Hayob, who oversees the Section's patrol function.

Doug acknowledged that Super Bowl Sunday had, in fact, been "crazy." From his vantage point at the Banks, he saw thousands of people gathered, many drinking beer and often from their own sixpacks rather than in sanctioned DORA cups. It was not realistic to try to enforce DORA rules. (Hey, it's the Super Bowl, after 33 years.) However, strict enforcement will be the policy as the weather warms up.

Doug referenced an email he had sent to Alan in February concerning two reported downtown shootings. It turns out that neither counts toward CBS's crime statistics. In the first, a woman actually shot her boyfriend accidentally, but they reported as a shooting by an unknown assailant. The cover-up was not successful. In the second, a man reported having been shot with birdshot from a shotgun at 9<sup>th</sup> and Vine. The alleged shot did not trigger the city's shot-spotter mechanism, which seemed unlikely. Eventually, the man was linked to a drug-deal-gone-bad in Clinton County, where he had indeed been shot, but had also shot someone else.

In answer to a question, Doug said there had been no decision yet by Liquor Control with respect to the former Garfield Mini-Mart's application to open at a Main Street address. A question about Galla Park prompted Doug to explain that four downtown bars are operating under settlement agreement with the police, and are being closely watched.

Finally, Doug explained that crime statistics are up in all categories because of being compared with the same period in 2021, when there was little activity of any kind downtown because of the pandemic.

**Marissa Reed** from 3CDC gave an update on Ambassador activity. February saw a lot of snow, ice, and trash removal. The homeless client caseload saw an influx of 12 clients and an outflow of 15. Amanda Rodriguez has been named the new outreach team lead. In response to a question, Marissa agreed to look into trash pickup under the scaffolding at 4<sup>th</sup> and Vine. She said she is well aware of homeless individual camping out on 4<sup>th</sup> Street, but that they have proved difficult to engage and persuade to move on. Efforts to involve property owners are in progress.

**Sara Bujas**, 3CDC's Community Engagement Coordinator, reported that the Foundry project on Fountain Square is approaching completion. Office tenants (Deloitte, Turner Construction, and Divisions Maintenance Group) are expected to start moving in soon; restaurant opening are slated for the fall. Sara announced that 3CDC will manage the development of the new convention center hotel.

### **DRC Reports**

Treasurer **Tricia Lynn** reported an opening balance of \$20,177.54 on February 1 and a closing balance of \$20,575.59 on February 28. Less monies obligated to NSP and \$16.16 in check processing costs, the balance available for use is \$12,927.59.

Social committee chair **Mary Heimert** reminded everyone that there would be no social after the meeting, but announced that a location (the Kinley Hotel) had been secured for April. She urged members to take advantage of special prices for the Cincinnati Pops tribute to Aretha Franklin on March 20; tickets are still available.

### **Old Business**

**Rick Dieringer** made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes, **Jackie Bryson** seconded, and all voted in favor.

### **Speakers**

**Tasha Stapleton** and **Sara Portman** of 3CDC spoke about the Ziegler Park summer camp and other Ziegler activities to which DRC has made donations. Park activities have an annual budget of \$315,000 – always a fund-raising challenge, but viewed as a great forum for doing good for the community. This year, sponsors hope to have 80 kids enrolled in summer camp. The number was only 45 in 2021, largely due to staffing shortages. Activities include free swim lessons, a swim team, and a new synchronized swimming group. The cost is \$11 a week per child, with subsidies available to those who cannot afford the cost. Two meals are included each day, and sometimes food is sent home with children who need it. In addition to swimming, programming leans heavily on education. Community partnerships, such as with Xavier University (tutoring), the Cincinnati Nature Center, Turner Construction, and the Civic Garden Center (where making pickles proved a very popular endeavor) have proved highly successful. STEMulate Learning provides teachers and mentors for science-based learning.

Sara and Tasha thanked DRC for its support and reminded members that volunteers and individual donations are always welcome. There will be a fund-raising event at Rhinegeist on July 13.

### **Announcements**

Two community volunteer opportunities were highlighted. The Covington-Cincinnati Suspension Bridge Committee, which enhances and celebrates the Roebling Bridge with programs such as beautification lighting, flags, signs, and tours, is looking for new members. See

[www.RoeblingBridge.org](http://www.RoeblingBridge.org). The USO lounges at Greater Cincinnati International Airport seek new volunteers as well. Working with service members and their families is rewarding (and parking is free).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 6:00 pm, First Financial Innovation Center, 4<sup>th</sup> & Vine.**