

MARCH 2022 – MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

Date: April 13, 2022, 6:00 pm

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

Members absent: Teri Boland, Joan Meyer, Chase Mosijowsky, Heidi Shenk



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

Items for Presentation, Discussion or Action:

1. Organization of 2022 Board – Nominating and Electing Board Officers – Nominating Committee Chair **Jackie Bryson** reported that all existing Board Officers have agreed to serve in their current positions for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. They are Alan Bunker, President; Jackie Bryson, Vice President; **Tricia Lynn**, Treasurer; **Esther Wing**, Corresponding Secretary; **Lisa Sprague**, Recording Secretary. Esther moved acceptance of this slate of officers, **Christian Rahe** seconded, and all voted in favor.

2. Board Vacancy – David Ostrander submitted his resignation from the Board to Alan in March. Alan asked the group for their thoughts on whether to fill his seat now or wait for the next Board election, when David's term would have ended in any case. Jackie proposed leaving the seat open, with the possibility of filling it by appointment for the remainder of the term should the Board identify a particularly promising candidate. This was deemed a motion, seconded by **Mary Heimert**, and all voted in favor.

3. Review/approval of previous meeting's minutes - Jackie made a motion to approve, seconded by Tricia, and all voted in favor.

4. Review/approval of Treasurer's report – **Kurt Grossman** moved approval, **Lorry Hartley** seconded, and all voted in favor.

5. Reports of Committees:

A. Finance – Tricia noted that the DRC check to Wild Apricot has been cashed. Rothenberg School, recipient of DRC NSP funds for their GEM program, has received our check though not yet cashed it. Planning for events in appreciation of first responders should get underway soon, as all monies for that purpose must be spent by September 30. There was a short summary of NSP and AIG funding for the benefit of new Board member **Seth Harmon**.

B. Information & Technology – On April 6, **Victoria Pershick** emailed to Board members a final draft of proposed rules relating to the DRC Facebook page. She and Esther are page administrators, and will be notified of postings to the page, which can be taken down

immediately if inappropriate. Esther has disabled tagging and photo posting functions, though these could be temporarily reinstated in connection with DRC events, such as the holiday party. There was discussion of using the page to attract new members.

Tricia made a motion to approve the Facebook policies and procedures as drafted by Victoria and Esther and to abide by them henceforward. Jackie seconded, and all approved.

C.Social – Mary reminded the group that we are set for a social at Kinley hotel on Race Street on April 26. Corkopolis is scheduled for May 24, as is a social on Fountain Square for June 14. The Alcove is likely in late June. The holiday party will be December 5. Mary will be gone for most of the month of May.

D.Outreach – This position is still open. Jackie explained that there are two aspects to outreach: taking care of first responders and encouraging member donations to a project chosen by the outreach coordinator. Such projects have ranged from a coat drive to adoption of a kindergarten class to ABC. Mary said that last year many attendees at the holiday party took one of Nelson’s tree ornaments with gift requests funneled via Envision, a provider of services to children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families. Mary offered to talk with Nelson about doing this on an organized basis.

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

F. Speakers – Jackie will continue to act as the speaker coordinator until a Board member steps forward to take this role. Alan reported that a representative of a would-be developer of the Terrace Plaza Hotel property had made a request to address the DRC at either a membership or a Board meeting. A representative of Cincinnati Preservation, which seeks historic landmark status for the hotel, had been scheduled to speak at the April 11 membership meeting, but had to cancel because of a COVID outbreak. The future of the hotel has been a contentious issue for some time, complicated by the recent bankruptcy declaration of the current owner. Alan asked how we might best present the topic to membership. **Andrew Nabb** proposed the creation of an ad hoc committee to develop a strategy for presenting the Terrace Plaza development issue to membership, which all agreed to. Andrew and Christian will work on this.

G.Young Dntowners – As agreed to in February, this committee – created with a goal of rounding out DRC’s membership demographics -- is on pause at present. Christian and Seth agreed to discuss it offline.

6.Old Business

A. Pedestrian Walkway Bridge – The bridge from Mt. Adams to Gilbert Avenue (near the Greyhound station) is going to be revamped. The project coordinator is asking for input from users of the bridge on their experience with it and their thoughts on its future design,

particularly with respect to ADA compliance. Jackie has included contact information in the current issue of the DRC newsletter.

- B. Board Retreat** – Andrew outlined plans for a Board retreat to be held one Saturday this summer from 10:00 – 2:00. Possible dates are June 18, July 9, or July 23. Andrew has secured space at the Central Parkway YMCA and lined up some speakers. He requests \$200-\$250 for supplies and drinks and snacks. The focus will be DRC’s mission/vision/purpose, its strengths/weaknesses/opportunities/threats, what we have accomplished and what should be our goals going forward. It will also provide a chance for Board members to get to know one another better. Andrew will have all this on paper at the May Board meeting.

Andrew also reported that the developers of the 425 Walnut Steet, the building where the Mercantile Library is housed, would appreciate the opportunity to make an informational presentation to DRC’s members or the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 9, 2022, 6:00 pm at First Financial Innovation Center, 4th & Vine.