

**Date: May 10, 2022 @ 6:00pm**

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

**New members: Kirk Burgoyne, Ali Trianfo, Wade Howk, Carolyn Carptenter, Rachel Idzakovic**



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

**Monthly reports:**

**Captain Doug Wiesman** reported on two shootings, with three victims, that occurred downtown on May 1 and May 6. Two suspects are in custody in connection with the first. Shotspotter technology pinpointed the second, enabling officers to arrive quickly. No suspect has yet been apprehended.

Doug further reported a fatal accident at 5<sup>th</sup> and Sycamore on May 7. He confirmed that theft from autos remains a major problem. Police are “pulling every lever we can” to identify perpetrators.

On the perennial subject of scooters, Doug related that a city task force on which he serves had prevailed on the Lime and Bird scooter companies to halt scooter operations at 6:00 pm daily. He asked for members’ help in conveying the extent of the scooter problem to City Council. There will be a hearing on Tuesday, May 17 at 9:30 am in Council chambers; those willing to testify to their experiences will be welcomed.

**Sara Bujas** of 3CDC gave the monthly update on Ambassador activity. Spring projects include mulching tree wells, detailing alleys, pressure washing, and removing graffiti. She reported that there has been a lot of daytime disorderly conduct on the part of juveniles around Government Square. A task force including the CPD, 3CDC, and both Cincinnati Public and Dohn Schools is working to address the problem.

Following up on questions raised at the April meeting about 4<sup>th</sup> Street between Vine and Race, Sara said that 3CDC has been in touch with building owners and that improvements in lighting and the boarding up of entrance alcoves to vacant buildings are in progress. There is an indication, as yet unconfirmed, that the Immersive Van Gogh exhibit scheduled for Cincinnati in June may take place in the former TJ Maxx space in the 4<sup>th</sup> Street block

Sara announced that 3CDC will add a pop-up roller rink to its summer offerings. Its first appearance will be on Court Street. Stay tuned.

**DRC Reports**

On behalf of absent Treasurer **Tricia Lynn**, Alan reported an opening balance of \$17,147.80 on April 1 and a closing balance of \$17,054.54 on April 30. Some of these funds are obligated; the balance available for use is \$13,561.35.

### **Old Business**

**Mary Jacobs** made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes, and all voted in favor.

### **Speakers**

**Sarah Ditlinger** of the Taft Museum of Art described the renovation process that has been going on over the last year. Many structural repairs were needed to the 200-year-old historical house, from foundations to walls and window. Galleries have been repainted and reinterpreted with new artwork labels. The museum will reopen on June 11, with a new exhibit, *Jane Austen: Fashion and Sensibility*, featuring some 40 costumes and accessories worn in popular film and television productions. General admission is \$18, \$16 for seniors, free to members. Special group rates are also available. Also scheduled in connection with the exhibits are workshops on embroidery, bookbinding, fashion, and costume design, as well as special Jane Austen tours and a concert. (See the TMA website, [www.taftmuseum.org](http://www.taftmuseum.org), for more information.)

**Taylor Gruenwald** of the Model Group provided an update on the Mercantile Building renovation. Other than the Mercantile Library, which will remain in and indeed expand its space, the building is largely vacant. Work will commence this summer on converting other floors to 210 residential units and preparing for street-level retail tenants. Executive Director John Faherty of the Mercantile Library spoke up to say that the Library could not be more enthusiastic about the remodeling project and what it will do to improve a troubled block of Walnut Street.

### **Announcements**

**Amanda Tarburello** and **Brook Perry** of Corkopolis spoke about their tasting events and the opening of a second location in Mt. Auburn (1833 Sycamore) scheduled for mid-June. A DRC social event will be held at the downtown location (640 Main Street) on May 24. Invitations will be sent May 14.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 6:00 pm, First Financial Innovation Center, 4<sup>th</sup> & Vine.**