

September 2022 – MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

Date: September 12, 2022, 6:00 pm

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

Members absent: Teri Boland, Seth Harmon, Christian Rahe, Heidi Shenk



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 – Mary Heimert made a motion to approve, seconded by **Tricia Lynn**, and all voted in favor.

2. Review/approval of Treasurer's report – Chase Mosijowsky moved approval, **Jackie Bryson** seconded, and all voted in favor.

3. Reports of Committees:

A. Finance – Tricia is still working on the required NSP filing, which has become quite demanding in terms of documentation. She has all receipts in hand. DRC did spend all of the remaining AIG dollars, as well as all of the NSP grant. In October, we must submit a new NSP budget proposal, which includes the intended recipients of donations. Recipients in recent years have been city beautification (planters), GeneroCity, and the Rothenberg School, with funds also directed to membership expenses such as Wild Apricot, member communications, and copies. Tricia has asked DRC members to share any suggestions they may have with her.

B. Membership Management – **Lorry Hartley** is acting as membership chair in **Heidi Shenk's** ongoing absence (of uncertain duration). **Victoria Pershick** was asked to change the signature on membership communications from Heidi to Lorry for the time being.

C. Membership Directory – **Victoria** announced that the membership directory will be live on September 15 and that all seems to be in order.

D. Information & Technology – Mary reported a glitch with the invitation to the next social; Victoria agreed to look into it.

E. Social – Mary reminded the group of the event at Frankie's Sips & Savories on Garfield Place on September 19th; the bar will be open exclusively for DRC.

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

G. Speakers – Jackie announced that the speakers for this month’s member meeting were Doug Moormann with an update on the Terrace Plaza project and Justin Brookhart with a preview of BLINK. October’s topic will be recycling in the city and in November David Siders will give an update on the library. Seth and Jackie have met to discuss Seth’s taking the lead on speaker engagement going forward. Jackie requested that, when/if we do a member survey, one of the questions be what topics members would like to have addressed at meetings.

H. Young Downtowners – Chase said that he wanted to get started on this front, and hopes to present ideas at the next Board meeting. Suggestions from the group would be most welcome.

4. New Business

A. Nominating Committee – Jackie summarized the situation we will face with Board elections in April. There currently are two vacancies, the result of resignations by Hank Davis and David Ostrander. Victoria will reach the end of her six years in March. Christian will not stand for renewal. Nine members may renew for another two-year term. So we definitely will be in need of new candidates. It was agreed that announcements to this effect will be made at upcoming member meetings. Board members were asked to cultivate potential candidates.

B. Community Budget Request Proposals – Alan reminded the group of the FY 2024-25 CBR proposal descriptions that he had emailed to the DRC membership. The two projects concern a) improvements to the pedestrian intersection at 3rd and Pike and b) creation of a west-side dog park along Central Avenue. Alan asked for a motion to approve submitting the proposals to the city. Kurt so moved, Chase seconded, and all voted in favor. **Lisa Sprague** agreed to make a similar motion at the member meeting the next night.

C. Board Retreat Review – Andrew Naab presented his summary of the themes that emerged during the July 23 retreat.

i. Communicate our impact and success – How do we best do this? Is there potential for collaboration with the Downtown Cincinnati Improvement District board?

ii. Defining our role and being a resource – As a feedback group, how do we better position ourselves to provide said feedback to the city, developers, for-profit and not-for-profit organizations?

iii. Reconnect with partners – How do we work with the Chamber of Commerce, the Regional Economic Development Initiative, neighboring community councils?

iv. Forum for community members – How do we solicit feedback from our members?

- v. What we are known for** – Do we have a signature event or activity? How do we participate in events such as BLINK, Oktoberfest, Taste of Cincinnati?
- vi. Building community** – How do we build community with our members and thereby create a pipeline for new board members?

Discussion revealed a consensus that we should do a member survey. Jackie and Mary agreed to obtain past surveys from Gary and Sue. Andrew moved formation of a retreat follow-up committee, Jackie seconded, and all agreed. Jackie, Esther, Mary, Joan, Lorry, and Lisa volunteered to serve. Andrew will be in touch about scheduling.

- D. December Board Meeting** – Alan proposed that we schedule an informal board meeting for December. Normally there is no meeting that month, when the holiday party replaces the member meeting, but this seems like a good time to reflect on the year past and our aspirations for the year to come. No official business will be conducted and discussion will not be recorded. All agreed to the plan, and to a meeting date of December 12.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00.

Next meeting: Monday, October 10, 6:00 pm, First Financial Innovation Center