

Date: October 10, 2022, 6:00 pm

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

Members absent: Seth Harmon, Andrew Naab, Heidi Shenk

President **Alan Bunker** called the meeting to order at 6:01.



1. Old Business, Part 1

With Board approval, **Chase Mosijowsky** had invited **Pete Metz** of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber to address the group on the topic of a proposal to cap Ft. Washington Way. Goals of the proposal are to link 2nd and 3rd Streets more closely with the rest of downtown and to provide additional green space in so doing. Investment 20 years ago to channel this section of highway and build up 2nd and 3rd Streets included building a foundation that would support such a cap. The current proposal seeks federal funds under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to support a planning grant. The Chamber has spearheaded the project to date, but the city and county will be the principal players going forward. Thus far, KZF Design has drawn up draft plans for the project. Pete said that the next step will be some 18 months of engagement with stakeholders. The budget for actual construction is estimated at \$110 million, with a timeline of two years. Pete stressed that the ideal time to complete the project would be in conjunction with the reconstruction of the Brent Spence Bridge. At this point, the Chamber seeks a letter of support from DRC for the planning grant. This would not represent a commitment to any specific project proposal.

2. Review/approval of previous meeting's minutes – **Mary Heimert** made a motion to approve, seconded by Chase, and all voted in favor.

3. Review/approval of Treasurer's report – **Kurt Grossman** moved approval, **Christian Rahe** seconded, and all voted in favor.

4. Reports of Committees:

A. Finance – **Tricia Lynn** reported that the Finance Committee had met on October 3 to discuss next year's NSP budget request. Invest in Neighborhoods has recommended that councils use the current-year amount for budgeting purposes. Alan emailed the Finance Committee budget proposal to DRC members last week. In summary, it asks for \$1700 for membership expenses, \$1188 for the Path to the Taft, \$1250 each for GeneroCity, Rothenberg Prep Academy, and the Outside the Box project, and \$1000 for the City Parks flower pot program.

Jackie Bryson moved approval of the Finance Committee's NSP budget proposal, **Lisa Sprague** seconded, and all voted in favor.

B.Information & Technology – Victoria Pershick announced that the membership directory is live. Alan agreed to make the same announcement at the member meeting. Victoria said that she will be working on the holiday party invitation and a mechanism by which members may invite paying guests.

C.Board Nominations – Jackie will reach out to board members eligible to seek re-election to see whether they intend to do so. She has received several suggestions for potential new Board candidates.

D.Social – Mary will meet with Prime this week and receive holiday party pricing information. The October social will most likely be at E & O (still negotiating) and November will take us to Rosedale.

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

F. Speakers – Jackie announced that **Seth Harmon** will take the lead on scheduling speakers going forward. The speakers for this month's member meeting will address recycling and composting programs in the city. In November David Siders will give an update on the library.

G.Young Downtowners – Chase expressed regret that his travel schedule this month had left him unable to focus on this initiative.

5.Old Business, Part 2

- A. Member Survey – Jackie** and **Andrew Naab** have been discussing this. The survey committee will meet this week to review questions from past surveys, suggest edits, and will hope to have a draft survey ready for approval at the November meeting.
- B. Ft. Washington Way Proposal – Kurt** moved that we support the planning grant application, with the understanding that a robust community engagement process will follow. Chase seconded and all approved.
- C. Board Year-End Review Meeting –** will take place December 12 at 6:00 at the Encore.

6.Announcements

Alan confirmed that members would be asked to vote to approve the NSP budget request at Tuesday night's meeting. He told the group that a consultant from ODOT had contacted him in hope of arranging a meeting with DRC to discuss plans for the Brent Spence Bridge. He suggested that she set up a meeting and he would let DRC members know about it so that they might attend if they so chose. Sara Bujas has let us know that Jay Miles, the artist who did the new Hometown

Heroes installation on Main Street is offering a free guided tour of the work. Sara will announce this at the member meeting. Finally, Alan related that he will send a letter to the city about our concerns with neighborhood funding, as requested by Elizabeth Bartley of IIN.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56.

Next meeting: Monday, November 7, 6:00 pm, First Financial Innovation Center