

OCTOBER 2022 – MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

Date: October 11, 2022 @ 6:00pm

Place: First Financial Innovation Room, 4th & Vine

New members: Margaret Feckner, Cate Kruth, Kristen Walker



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

Monthly reports:

Captain Doug Wiesman distributed a chart detailing crime statistics. He reported that major preparations for BLINK are underway. Doug asked **Chris Loreaux** to summarize clean-up activities of homeless encampments. Chris encouraged members to let him know of any such encampments that they become aware of.

Katie Westbrook of 3CDC filled the group in on a proposal to make Vine and Race two-way streets, an idea that originated in former Mayor Cranley's 2019 Pedestrian Task Force. 3CDC and the city's Department of Transportation and Engineering have hired a third-party traffic engineering firm to study the idea's feasibility. Members raised questions related to the potential impact on existing parking possibilities. **Greg Lawson** of DOTE said that plans are still at a conceptual level and that detailed analysis of affected intersections is yet to come.

Sara Bujas of 3CDC reported a Hometown Heroes display has been installed on Main Street as part of FotoFocus. The artist who created it is offering a free guided tour of the work to DRC members in gratitude for our contribution to it. Members were asked to indicate their date preference on a sign-up sheet.

DRC Reports

Treasurer **Tricia Lynn** reported an opening balance of \$14,958.09 on September 1 and a closing balance of \$14,982.22 on September 29.

Old Business

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

New Business

Alan reminded the group of an email he had recently sent to all DRC members summarizing the 2023 budget request that will be submitted to the city for Neighborhood Support Program funds. Totaling

\$7,638, it asks for \$1700 for membership development, \$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. This package was approved by the Board on October 10.

Rick Dieringer made a request that DRC also consider sponsoring the repainting of certain dangerously faded crosswalks in town. Tricia explained that this would not fit into NSP's defined categories, but that the idea could be considered by the Board with respect to other DRC funds if Rick would provide details.

Lauren Noyes moved approval of the budget request as presented. **Mary Heimert** seconded. Forty of 47 members in attendance voted in favor; none of the remainder voted to oppose. The motion thus passed.

Speakers

Jason Chamlee of the Model Group gave an update on the Mercantile Redevelopment project, which incorporates buildings at 414 Walnut and 115 E. 5th Street. But for the Mercantile Library, which will remain and indeed expand, the buildings are virtually empty. Total investment in the project will be approximately \$75 million. The end result will be 156 residential units in a broad range of size, type, and price. Funding has been secured, design is complete, and permits are pending. Construction is expected to begin by the end of the year and to take two years to complete. In answer to a question about parking, Jason said that his group is working with local parking garages to secure space; the building itself will not have parking.

Mary Cropenbaker of Hamilton County R3Source gave a tutorial on recycling in the city. She demonstrated what glass, plastic, and paper items are accepted by the Rumpke recycling program and which are not. For example, grease-soaked paper, clamshell food containers, paint containers, and plastic bags are unacceptable. Items not eligible for recycling may be dropped off at designated times and places. (Note: whatever company picks up your recycling, it is all processed in a Rumpke plant.)

R3Source is a non-regulatory county government entity. It works with communities, residents, schools, and businesses to reduce waste. It also carries out landfill audits. Their website, <https://hamiltoncountyr3source.org> offers guidance on recycling and drop-offs.

Marie Hopkins and **Julia Marchese** gave a presentation about their organization, Queen City Commons, a composting enterprise. The estimated 30% of Cincinnati trash that is organic can be composted. QCCC has drop-off bins for food scraps in Over-the-Rhine, Northside, and East Walnut Hills, none downtown yet. They also have arrangements with some residential sites, such as Schoolhouse Lofts and the Regency, and hope to expand in this sector. Please see their website <https://www.queencitycommons.com> for more information.

Announcements

Alan reported that the DRC directory is now live online.

Mary Swallow announced upcoming films at Cincinnati World Cinema, including documentaries examining climate change and Caribbean hurricanes (these are free to FotoFocus passport holders) and a Julia Reichert retrospective.

Christine Jankoski of the Lloyd Library invited members to view the Library's FotoFocus offering, Visions of Nature Across Time and Space, featuring photos by Library co-founder Curtis Gates Lloyd.

Martha Good reported that Delta Airlines is "aggressively" hiring for its downtown call center on Plum Street, where she is currently working. A \$2500 sign-on bonus is offered.

Jay Joyce said that polling volunteers are greatly needed for election day, and urged members to consider volunteering. Training is provided.

Scott Skeabeck announced that the Downtowne Listening Room is back in business, no longer in a single location but with sessions in various locations in partnership with other business orders. See their website at <https://www.downtownlisteningroom.com>.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 6:00 pm, First Financial Innovation Center, 4th & Vine.