

November 2022 – MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

Date: November 7, 2022, 6:00 pm

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

Members absent: Teri Boland, Seth Harmon, Heidi Shenk



President **Alan Bunker** called the meeting to order at 6:02.

1. Guest: Brandy Del Farvo, Development Director, 3CDC – Brandy gave a presentation about 3CDC’s plans for a new Findlay Community Center. Current plans call for a 51,000 square foot recreation center (down from 56,000), incorporating a gym, pool, indoor track, weight room, etc. Outdoor recreation space will include a soccer field, pickleball courts and a rooftop field. Childcare facilities and meeting spaces are envisioned as well. Funding budgeted at \$41.8 million will be sought from New Markets Tax Credits, the City of Cincinnati, an Ohio State Capital Grant, and philanthropic sources. An immediate priority is to request \$1.75 million in TIF funds to enable completion of design work. 3CDC asks for DRC’s support of this request.

2. Review/approval of previous meeting’s minutes – Tricia Lynn made a motion to approve, seconded by Chase, and all voted in favor.

3. Review/approval of Treasurer’s report – Mary Heimert moved approval, **Joan Meyer** seconded, and all voted in favor.

4. Reports of Committees:

A. Finance – Tricia reported that Fifth Third Bank has begun charging a \$25/ month fee to our account, since an increase in the bank’s balance threshold means we no longer qualify for free checking. **Kurt Grossman** inquired whether another bank might do better by us. Tricia has not investigated, but reports that such changes are common across the board these days. Tricia then reported that our NSP grant from the city will actually be \$2,000 larger than we had anticipated for 2023, but that this increase will require additional paperwork and further documentation on our part. We will discuss the specifics at the January Board meeting.

B. Membership - Lorry Hartley said that she is settling into membership management via Wild Apricot, and announced that we have quite a few new members. She plans to send all of them a thanks-and-welcome communication.

C. Information & Technology – Victoria Pershick said that the holiday party invitation and RSVP processing are on the horizon.

D. Board Nominations – Jackie announced that there will be three Board vacancies in addition to the nine slots that are renewable by current Board members, all of whom have agreed to stand again. Five members will remain in place. **Lisa Sprague** raised a question about inviting a 3CDC person to run for a Board seat. Jackie responded that this is not really a decision in the Nominating Committee’s purview and recommended that the Board consider it at a future meeting.

E. Social – Mary reported that the November social will be held at Rosedale (indoors) and that food for purchase will be offered by Gomez.

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

G. Speakers – Jackie announced that membership meeting speakers would include David Siders from the library, Brandy Del Farvo on the Findlay Community Center and the Annie Project, and Anoop Dave, new owner of the Carew Tower (accompanied by city officials).

H. Young Downtowners – **Chase Mosijowsky** reported that he has reached out to Towne Properties and Uptown Rentals, both of which own many downtown apartment buildings. He has asked if they would be willing to share an email with their residents about DRC. Chase would furnish the text. He would like the Board to consider allocating dollars to print updated copies of the DRC brochure, with an eye to its distribution by apartment management as part of a welcome bag or folder given to new residents.

5. Old Business

Member Survey – **Andrew Naab** reported that he, Mary, Lorry, and Lisa met via Zoom in October to discuss the survey. The group agreed on seven short-answer questions along with some demographic information. Andrew will work with Jackie to finalize the format and then with **Sara Bujas** to get it out to members electronically. He said that hard-copy surveys would also be available to those who prefer that format.

6. New Business

Various requests for Board support of funding initiatives that have come before us were voted on as follows:

A. Request to endorse two-way traffic feasibility study for Race and Vine Streets: Tricia moved approval, Andrew seconded; 9 voted in favor, 3 opposed, 1 abstained. The motion carried.

B. Request to endorse Mercantile Center redevelopment: Chase moved approval, Jackie seconded; 11 voted in favor, 2 abstained. The motion carried.

C. Request to endorse use of TIF funds for 3CDC’s Annie project: While the Board has little information about the project, this meeting is the only chance to consider the request. Tricia moved approval, **Esther Wing** seconded. Kurt pointed out that since this is a project with

greatest impact on OTR, it would be helpful to know how the OTR Council feels about it. We do not have that information. Therefore, Kurt proposed a revised version of the motion, that we would support the request if the OTR Council did the same. Alan accepted the revised motion, Andrew seconded; 11 voted in favor, 2 abstained. The motion carried.

D.Request to endorse borrowing of TIF for Terrace Plaza redevelopment: Lorry moved Approval, Lisa seconded; 12 voted in favor, 1 abstained. The motion carried.

7. Announcements

Jackie confirmed that the special year-end Board meeting would be held December 12 at the Encore, beginning at 6:00. The agenda will involve a recap of DRC accomplishments in 2022 and discussion of priorities for 2023. Alan announced that a community engagement meeting on the topic of the Brent Spence bridge will be held on November 29. Alan also confirmed what some had already heard: **Doug Weisman** will retire from the CPD at the end of this month. Jackie suggested that we purchase a restaurant gift certificate to present to him in token of our gratitude at the next night's meeting. All approved the idea, and Jackie volunteered to make the purchase.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25.

Next meeting: Monday, January 9, 2023, 6:00 pm, First Financial Innovation Center