

Date: November 8, 2022 @ 6:00pm

Place: First Financial Innovation Room, 4th & Vine

New members: Thomas and Nancy Gruber, Al and Shari Heimert, Laura Santullo



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

Monthly reports:

Captain Doug Wiesman announced that he will be retiring from the CPD as of 11/25. He has accepted a job with Fifth Third in executive protection. Doug turned his monthly report duties over to **Chris Loreaux**. Chris talked about BLINK: lots of people, no serious incidents. A woman was assaulted and robbed on W. 9th Street; police officers were able to catch the assailant and recover the stolen property (a gun). Chris reviewed downtown crime statistics, which have been on a par with 2019 (pre-COVID). He noted that Light Up the Square will take place November 23-26; 5th Street will be closed between Vine and Walnut. Following will be Dazzle, taking place on Saturdays from November 26 - December 17; Vine Street will be closed along the Square those nights. Chris shared the story of a phone that was stolen in Wheeler Alley on October 24 – the thief inadvertently snapped a selfie with it, which led to his apprehension. Finally, Chris thanked downtown residents who called to report a gang breaking into autos; their information led to the gang's identification

Alan asked Doug to return to the front of the room, in order to present him with a gift from DRC in appreciation of his service and his great relationship with us. Doug said he had just been told that he could join DRC by virtue of working (though not living) downtown. He is glad to know this.

Anne Lann Field and **Brandy Del Farvo** of 3CDC talked to the group about two 3CDC projects in progress. The Annie Project is the renovation of a property on W. 12th Street, which will offer 29 apartments, 3 at 60% AMI, 6 at 80% AMI, and 20 at market rates. The total budget is \$12 million. 3CDC is applying for West End TIF dollars to make up a \$2 million budget shortfall. The second project is a new Findlay Community Center. Current plans call for a 51,000 square foot recreation center, 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 from the East TIF district to enable completion of design work. Part of the process will be a streetscape analysis of Vine Street north of Liberty with an emphasis on pedestrian safety.

DRC Reports

Treasurer **Tricia Lynn** reported an opening balance of \$14,982.22 on October 1 and a closing balance of \$15,253.85 on October 31. **Mary Heimert** reminded the group that there will be social at Rosedale on E. 12th Street on November 15; members should already have received the invitation.

Old Business

Sue Byrom made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes, **Gary Bryson** seconded, and all voted in favor.

Speakers

Jackie Bryson introduced **David Siders** of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. David gave an update on the library's lengthy renovation project, showing photographs of current construction and drawings of the intended result. Highlights include a redesigned entrance and new plaza on the Vine Street side, family space on the ground floor of the south building, and a new staircase that can also serve as amphitheater seating. The project's planned 2023 completion date may slide into 2024. David noted that the north building is currently open for all library services.

Jackie then introduced **Anoop Dave**, CEO of Victrix Investments LLC, new owner of the Carew Tower. He was accompanied by city officials **Anthony Cadle** and **Justin Halter**. Anoop spoke highly of the city, the Vine Street corridor, and the Carew Tower's central role in city history and residents' memories. He said that the guiding principles for renovation and repurposing of old buildings are *fun, food, and feeling safe*. Purchase of the Tower closed in August. Victrix is now working through the historic registration process and the separation of the building's HVAC, plumbing, etc. from the Netherland Plaza Hotel (which was not part of the purchase). The renovation project will make the Tower largely residential. In response to a question, Anoop said Victrix is working toward bringing the rooftop observation deck (currently closed) up to code so that it can be enjoyed again.

Announcements

Alan announced that there will be a community engagement meeting on the topic of the Brent Spence Bridge at 7:00 pm on November 29. While it will be held at the First Financial Center at 4th and Vine, where DRC meets, this is not a DRC meeting, but rather is sponsored by the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. DRC members are welcome to attend.

Alan reminded members that the annual decorating of Piatt Park will take place. November 12.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00.

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 6:00 pm, First Financial Innovation Center, 4th & Vine.