

Date: January 10, 2023 @ 6:00pm

Place: First Financial Innovation Room, 4th & Vine

New members: Wako Welch



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

Monthly reports:

Captain Adam Hennie introduced himself as the new commander of the Central Business Section of the Cincinnati Police Department. He is a 24-year veteran on the force. Hennie announced his intent to be accessible to downtown residents and provided his contact information: cell phone 513-497-5027 and email adam.hennie@cincinnati-oh.gov. Members gave him a welcoming round of applause. Officer **Chris Loreaux** gave a rundown of upcoming downtown events and associated street closures. These are:

- January 15 Bengals-Ravens game at 8:15
- January 16 Martin Luther King Day parade 10:30 – 12:30, route from Freedom Center to Washington Park
- January 23 pro-life rosary march 11:00 – 2:00 from City Hall to Fountain Square
- January 28 polar plunge, river near the Reds stadium; Joe Nuxhall Way will be closed beginning the night of the 27th for construction of a ramp
- February 4 Cincinnati Cyclones Frozen 5K 9:00 along 2nd Street and Riverside Drive
- February 11 Cupid's Undies run, noon – 4:00, starting at Galla Park in the Banks

Chris moved on to the crime statistics report, noting that crimes are down in most categories for the year to date and lower than the five-year average. He then told a story about how *not* to be a successful criminal: break into a police car, steal a rifle, take it to your girlfriend's, get into such a fight with her that a neighbor calls the police, get arrested, go to jail. Where you will have ample time to reflect on your bad decisions. Chris again provided his contact information: cell phone 513-352-5422, email christopher.loreaux@cincinnati-oh.gov.

Sara Bujas gave an update on Ambassador activities for the year, which have included pressure washing, emptying trash, weeding, maintaining planters, removing bulky trash items (e.g., a couch), and removing graffiti. She urged members to call the Ambassador hotline if they see situations that need attention. Hotline hours are 7:00 am – 10:00 pm for Ambassadors, 7:00 am – 7:00 pm for Outreach.

Sara reported that GeneroCity 513 now has four full-time social workers. Total homeless clients are down to 37 as of the end of November. 3CDC responded to 1145 stakeholder requests last year, of

which 97% were closed, 2.2% were delegated, and .08% are still in progress. Sara may be reached at sbujas@3CDC.org. In response to a question, Sara said that a homeless campout location on 2nd Street, closed once but back, will receive attention.

DRC Reports

Treasurer **Tricia Lynn** reported an opening balance of \$15,235.85 on December 1 and a closing balance of \$10, 278.41 on December 29. **Mary Heimert** let the group know that there will be social on January 29, sponsored by DRC in conjunction with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. Discounted tickets will be available for the *Tchaikovsky Spectacular: 1812 Overture* concert at 2:00 pm. There will be a welcome gathering in the Corbett Tower beginning at 1:00 pm.

Old Business

Tim Nolan made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes, **Mary Heimert** seconded, and all voted in favor.

New Business

Alan drew the group's attention to a change in Neighborhood Support Program (NSP) funding. During the October membership meeting, DRC approved a 2023 NSP budget. A month later, the city informed community councils that it was going to add \$2,234.00 to each council's budget for help in supporting neighborhood non-profit organizations. Like the original budget, proposals for use of these additional funds must be approved by the membership and submitted to the city; the filing is due at the end of the week. The DRC Board on January 9 approved a proposal designating \$2,000 of the new funds to the Zeigler Park Summer Camp and the remaining \$234 to DRC's Business Expense category in recognition that operating costs have been increasing. The new NSP budget totals \$9,872. Alan asked for a motion to accept the additional funds and target them as described to the Zeigler Park Summer Camp and DRC Business Expenses. Kurt Grossman made this motion, Pam Myers seconded, and all 35 members in attendance voted to approve. Tricia will submit the necessary paperwork to the city.

Speakers

Seth Harmon introduced Dylan Lurk of Bridge Forward Cincinnati, a coalition formed to encourage a forward-thinking approach to the Brent Spence Bridge project. The group is urging federal, state and Cincinnati city officials to work together and with local community groups and leaders on a plan that will reclaim 30 acres of land and seize a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create developable land, reconnect the West End with downtown, enhance walkability, improve public safety and unleash new opportunities for people to live, work and play in our city and region. Federal funding has been secured, but the project vision could be refined. Information about Bridge Forward's vision, including drawings, is available on their website, <https://www.bridge-forward.org>. The group asks DRC members and other downtown residents to seek more information and let City Council know that more benefit is available to the city than is contained in what ODOT has proposed.

Announcements

Scott Skeabeck reminded members of programming offered by Downtowne Listening Room. **Dan Bower** of the city's Department of Community and Economic Development gave an update on the Saks Fifth Avenue property. The city, which owns the land, exercised its option to purchase the Saks improvements on that land. The negotiated price is \$3 million. No specific redevelopment plans have been made, but Dan acknowledged that the parcel would fit readily into the Convention Center footprint. **Ed Ratterman** alerted members to the upcoming Beefsteak Club dinner, a fundraiser for Bockfest, at the Moerlein Lager House. Details are available at <https://brewingheritagetrail.org>.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 6:00 pm, First Financial Innovation Center, 4th & Vine.