

MARCH 2023 – MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

Date: March 14, 2023 @ 6:00pm

Place: First Financial Innovation Room, 4th & Vine

New members: Jenny Mauch, Lorraine Horine



President Alan Bunker called the meeting to order at 6:01 and welcomed new members

Monthly reports:

Officer **Marcus Moore** of the Cincinnati Police Department did not have the crime statistics summary normally provided by Officer **Chris Loreaux**, but offered to answer any member questions. He said that CPD representatives, aware of some incidents at Kroger-on-the-Rhine, have scheduled a meeting with Kroger security. In response to stories about car break-ins and stolen trash cans, he recommended that residents having video of these incidents share them with CPD, specifically with Chris (christopher.loreaux@cincinnati-oh.gov).

Sara Bujas of 3CDC gave an update on Ambassador and Outreach activities. Ambassadors have been cleaning gutters and spreading mulch for the spring season, in addition to their standard clean-up tasks. Sara asked that residents report graffiti either to the Ambassador hotline (513-623-3429) or to her (sara.bujas@3cdc.org). The number of homeless clients is down to 36, chronically homeless down to 4.

Sara outlined events scheduled for the spring season. These include Mutt Madness on March 19 and an Easter egg hunt on April 8 and 9, all in Washington Park. Opening Day festivities will be held in Washington Park and on Fountain Square. Saturday Hoops will commence in May in Ziegler Park, where the pool will open on May 13.

Speaker

Seth Harmon introduced **Joshua Steele**, Senior Manager of Memorial Hall. Joshua reviewed the Hall's history and its 2016 renovation. Memorial Hall was built in 1908 as a tribute to American veterans. It is owned by Hamilton County and appears on the National Registry of Historic Places. The renovation added air conditioning and permanent audio/visual technology and upgraded seats, restrooms, and the kitchen. An 8-foot extension at the rear of the building enable backstage crossover space for the first time. Basement space was transformed into a polished green room/meeting room space.

Memorial Hall's mission includes providing free shows for families on a regular basis, continuing tribute to veterans, and developing a schedule of performances in cooperation with partnering organizations and 3CDC, as well as accommodating third-party rentals. Annual gross revenues are close to \$2 million, though the Hall still operates at an annual deficit of \$100,000 – 200,000, made up

by 3CDC. Joshua urged DRC members to take advantage of its entertainment offerings, noting that the Hall's acoustics are superb. He suggested that members also consider signing up as volunteers, who help with wayfinding, seating, ticket processing, and decorating – and are able to see/hear performances for free. A training session is provided. More information is available on the web site, <https://memorialhallotr.com>.

DRC Reports

Treasurer **Tricia Lynn** reported an opening balance of \$10,738.32 on February 1 and a closing balance of \$11,082.72 on February 28. Social chair **Mary Heimert** reminded the group of the DRC brunch from noon to 2:00 on Sunday at Kroger's On the Rhine Eatery.

Old Business

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

Announcements

Alan reminded the group that next month's meeting is our annual meeting, during which election of the 2023-2024 Board will take place.

Randy Tucker described an *Enquirer*-sponsored research project looking at the evolution of downtown. Its director, *Enquirer* reporter Sydney Franklin, is seeking stories from downtown residents about their experience.

Lorry Hartley invited all to a free concert by the Anderson Community Band, in which she plays the flute, at 7:00 on Sunday at the Anderson Community Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 6:00 pm, First Financial Innovation Center, 4th & Vine.