

APRIL 2023 – MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

Date: April 11, 2023, 6:00 pm

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

Members absent: Teri Boland, Sally Donovan, Seth Harmon, Joan Meyer



Alan Bunker called the meeting to order at 6:01. Joining the group were returning Board members **Sue Byrom** and **Tim Nolan**; newly-elected **Sally Donovan** was unable to be present.

1. Organization of 2023-24 DRC Board – Jackie Bryson offered the Nominating Committee's proposed slate of officers for the year. Those nominated are Jackie as President, Alan as Vice President, **Sally Donovan** as Recording Secretary, **Tricia Lynn** as Treasurer, and **Esther Wing** as Corresponding Secretary. **Kurt Grossman** moved acceptance of the slate, **Lisa Sprague** seconded, and all voted in favor. Jackie circulated cards thanking **Victoria Pershick**, **Christian Rahe**, and **Heidi Shenk** for their Board service, as well as a card congratulating 3CDC's **Sara Bujas** on her impending motherhood.

2. Approval of March minutes – Tricia Lynn made a motion to approve the minutes, **Lorry Hartley** seconded, and all voted in favor.

3. Review/approval of Treasurer's report – Kurt moved approval, Alan seconded, and all voted in favor.

4. Reports of Committees:

A. **Finance** - Tricia reported that some of the recently-received NSP funds have already been disbursed: grants to 3CDC for the electrical box-wrap project and GeneroCity 513 and to Zeigler Park.

B. **Information & Technology – Carol Glotfelter** will serve as IT coordinator, but does not wish (and is not required to) take a seat on the Board. Member **Tracy Johnson** is interested in helping with this; she likewise declines a Board seat.

C. **Social – Mary Heimert** reported a glitch in purchasing tickets for the April 30 *Ragtime* performance, arising from Group Sales Manager Nic Bizub's absence. Mary has sorted out the confusion and members who received erroneous ticket assignments will be told how to correct this. A May social is scheduled at Corkopolis on May 17.

D. **Clean, Green & Safe** - Alan had previously emailed his report on this topic. He noted that Marisa Reed at 3CDC has offered a group of volunteers to paint the wall along the Path to the Taft.

Alan himself purchased some new plants for the Path. Sara will pass along other potential volunteer opportunities.

E. Speakers – Seth Harmon reported via Alan that speakers are confirmed for all 2023 membership meetings except September. May's speaker will discuss Medicare fraud. There was a request to address the Board on the topic of some voting changes in the state of Ohio, but Jackie and Seth determined that these have little likely relevance to DRC members. Esther offered to approach the Bengals' season ticket manager about speaking. Alan reminded the group that Ascent Wellness Holdings still wants to address DRC members on the subject of their new medical marijuana dispensary set to open on Reedy Street. It was agreed that they might be featured as an add-on speaker at an upcoming meeting.

F. Young Downtowners – Chase Mosijowsky said that he remains in touch with the Chamber of Commerce's CincyNext group, which focuses on young professionals and remote workers. It holds monthly happy hours. Chase plans to attend these and to hand out DRC brochures. Chase will print additional brochures for Board members who are willing to get them placed in their own buildings. There was agreement that we need to find a way to reach residents of the new Artistry (Riverside Drive) and Industry (Sycamore) buildings.

New Business

Chase asked for further discussion of outreach to downtown residential buildings. He proposed using our summer meetings to encourage members to be DRC ambassadors to their own buildings, making this an actual agenda item. Chase also proposed that DRC establish a Twitter account aimed at prospective members, observing that many young people no longer use Facebook. Chase volunteered to manage such an account, which earned him warm endorsement of the idea.

In response to a question, Jackie said that she and Alan have shared responsibility for attending city sector meetings. The schedule has now been scaled back to an every-other-month meeting encompassing all four sectors. Sue offered to take over the task of attending these meetings.

Esther expressed the desire to set up a shared photo folder for DRC. As it is now, when she wants to post a photo on Facebook or the DRC website, she has to request photos from Rick Dieringer and upload them individually. Alan suggested talking with Rick about an accessible folder.

Kurt raised the idea of updating DRC by-laws, particularly in regard to allowing votes to take place by email rather than requiring an in-person meeting. Jackie said Elizabeth Bartley of IIN may have guidance to offer about what other community councils are doing. She agreed to set up a call with Elizabeth for herself and Kurt.

In response to a question about a DRC membership card, Jackie reviewed the program, which at one time allowed members access to discounts from member businesses. This has fallen into abeyance. It would be possible to start it up again, with more economical paper cards, but Jackie said she would count on other Board members to take on the project of soliciting business participation.

Old Business

In Seth's absence, there was some uncertainty about the status of a DRC letter of support for Bridge Forward Cincinnati's request that ODOT and KYC expand their attention to residents' priorities with respect to the Brent Spence Bridge project. No one could say for sure that we have a final draft. Bridge Forward had asked that we present the matter to our full membership, but the Board agreed that its approval of any letter was sufficient. Kurt volunteered to review and edit the existing draft to make it more reflective of downtown residents' priorities and concerns. He will follow up with Seth.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03.

Next meeting: Monday, May 8, 2023, 6:00 pm, First Financial Innovation Center