

**Date:** June 13, 2023 @ 6:00pm

**Place:** First Financial Innovation Room, 4th & Vine

**New members:** Jane and Robert Seago, Tracy DeCourcy, Steve Lutz household



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

**Monthly reports:**

Captain **Adam Hennie** of the Cincinnati Police Department reported there will be extra police coverage/presence over the summer weekends in the DORA, Smale Park and Downtown areas. Twenty to thirty officers will be covering the areas on Friday and Saturday nights. There will also be extra coverage for the upcoming Taylor Swift concerts at the end of the month.

Officer **Chris Loreaux** reviewed the latest crime statistics report. Comparing the last 30 days, violent crimes have decreased but property crimes have increased. A DRC member asked for an update on the recent drive-by shootings in OTR. Captain Hennie reported the investigation is still active.

Lieutenant **Robert Von Heone** of the Cincinnati Fire Department (Central Station location) shared the latest fire run statistics. Eighty percent of runs are medical related, 20% are fire related. He noted they are seeing a reduction in drug overdose related runs. Last month there were 48 EMS runs to the Drop In Center. He noted folks will be coming out of the shelters/Drop In Center for the summer and living on the streets.

A DRC member asked what the policies are for camping and sleeping on the streets. Officer Loreaux responded the city does not allow for encampments on public property but there no laws for being on the street. Another DRC member asked about the 6-8 homeless sleeping beneath the bridge at Butler and Culvert Streets. Officer Loreaux responded that the area is owned by the Transportation Department and should be reported to the police by them, but he will investigate it.

**Marissa Reed** of 3CDC gave an overview of the services provided by the Ambassador program. The Ambassadors provide enhanced clean and safety services in public spaces. They provide litter patrol, graffiti removal, weeding and mulching, pressure washing and safety escorts. They are staffed with three shifts. A DRC member asked who is responsible to clean and repair sidewalks in the downtown area. Sidewalks are the responsibility of the property/business owner. However, the Ambassadors can assist with getting a request to the owner to have it cleaned or repaired. The city provides bricks/tiles to property owners to repair sidewalks when needed. A service request can be submitted to via the 311 Cincy application, or a call can be made to 311.

A DRC member asked about pan handling on the downtown streets. Marissa responded that a call can be made to the Outreach hotline, who have had some success in preventing pan handling, but it's not against the law. If you see something, call the hotline. She then introduced the second shift field coordinator, Melvin Walker, who was present at the meeting.

### **DRC Reports**

Treasurer **Tricia Lynn** reported the starting balance on 5/1/2023: \$13,348.44; closing balance 5/31/2023: \$14,137.70 less allocated funds leaving a balance of \$11,604.76.

Social Director **Mary Heimert** reported the In Between Tavern is hosting tonight's social after the meeting with special pricing.

### **Old Business**

**Rick Dieringer** made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes, **Mary Jacobs** seconded, and all voted in favor.

### **New Business**

**Jackie Bryson** announced the DRC Constitution is being updated to address needed changes to voting procedures. The changes will be presented to the members and a vote taken to accept the changes at an upcoming meeting.

### **Speakers**

**Jackie** thanked **Alan Bunker** for his work on the Path to the Taft. His presentation was moved to the July meeting.

**Jackie** introduced **Samatha Kendall**, Findlay Market Event and Community Engagement Manager. Samatha explained many of the Findlay Market programs they run. Findlay Kitchen is a non-profit food business incubator program supporting food entrepreneurs looking to start, grow or scale a business. Findlay Launch is another food focused program that provides food related businesses with mentorship, industry connections and a minimum of 9-months in a fully built-out operating storefront. The Nutritional Benefits program helps families afford more fresh produce and healthy foods. Shoppers have access to an Education Center resource 6-days a week to help their dollars go farther.

Findlay Market also hosts special programmed events for food tastings, live music, and walking tours. A DRC member asked if tickets are still available for Sunday's tasting. Samatha indicated it's not too late to get your ticket. Another DRC member asked if the restrooms are getting remodeled at the market. Samatha indicated they are getting remodeled, and Rumpke will be providing back-up restrooms during the remodel process.

## **Announcements**

Jackie welcomed those having announcements to come forward.

**Margaret Swallow**, a volunteer at Cincinnati World Cinema, encouraged members to attend the short film series coming up in the next two weeks. She also noted the Gordon Lightfoot documentary is returning on July 11th. The cinema is located at 719 Race Street.

**Morgan Rigaud**, a volunteer with Skate Downtown Cincy, invited everyone to Sawyer Point this Saturday for free yoga at 9AM, open skate at 10AM and adult skate at 11:30AM.

**Lorry Hartley**, a DRC Board Member, encouraged everyone to take a few DRC promotional brochures with them at the end of the meeting to share with others in their condos/apartments. She encouraged members to spread the word about the DRC.

**Melissa May** motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:00.

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