



August 2023 – MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING MINUTES Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

Date: August 8, 2023 @ 6:00pm

Place: First Financial Innovation Room, 4th and Vine

New members: Maria North

President **Jackie Bryson** called the meeting to order at 6:03 and welcomed our new member.

Monthly reports:

Officer **Chris Loreaux** started with a Thank You to DRC for providing the Central Police District with lunch. It was very much appreciated and he expressed the unit enjoyed the food and our thoughtfulness in providing it to them. Officer Loreaux talked of the upcoming events taking place with the Bengals pre-season game and Black Family Reunion both on the 19th of August. He also mentioned the upcoming WEBN fireworks September 3rd noting road closings and timing of the fireworks as well as the road closings that will take place during Oktoberfest.

Officer Loreaux discussed the Government Square issues. He mentioned Dohn School will not provide Metro passes to students this year. The student passes did not have a time limit which allowed them to gather and stay in the Government Square area. Cincinnati Public Schools have worked with Metro to have less CPS students routed through downtown or change routes in downtown.

CPD and 3CDC are working together to provide better lighting in the Piatt Park area and improving Police presence.

There were questions asked and Officer Loreaux offered responses to the questions.

Marissa Reed of 3CDC gave an overview of the additional lights being set up in the Piatt Park area. She also gave an update on the scooters being left on the sidewalks. 3CDC is working with ODOT to move the scooters to on-street parking to reduce the number of scooters left on the sidewalks.

Ms. Reed discussed the GeneroCity outreach with the Jobs Van run by Mission Gospel which picks up the homeless paying them for work, providing lunch, and engaging with them to discuss housing. GeneroCity gives the homeless small items of need such as hygiene products. She asked DRC members to bring to the September meeting small items which will go into small packages for the homeless. Additionally, DRC members can drop items for the packages at their Operations address: 28 W. 6th Street. Jackie Bryson will put the items requested in our DRC newsletter and the list of items will be placed on the ilivedowntown.com website.

DRC Reports

Treasurer's Report-

Tricia Lynn -Starting balance 7/1/2023: \$14,008.41 with a closing balance 7/31/2023 of \$13,317.86 less allocated funds of \$1,353.58 leaving a DRC bank balance of \$11,964.28.

Social Committee-

Mary Heimert noted the next DRC social will be August 15, 2023 at Filson on the Banks. Over 50 members have already made reservations. She looks forward to seeing everyone there.

Old Business:

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

New Business:

Nothing new to report.

Speakers:

Councilperson Mark Jeffries asked to speak to Downtown Residents' Council on the motion to ban expansion of surface parking in the downtown area. He noted our vision of Downtown Cincinnati is a vibrant mix use area of residential, retail, and restaurants. If a surface becomes a parking lot, it doesn't add vital tax revenue. Councilperson Jeffries used the Kroger grocery building as an example: the complex increased parking spaces, added retail, and added residents. The tax revenue increased making the building and the corner a more vibrant area. Environmentally, surface parking reduces green space, water run-off is contaminated, and it becomes an oasis diminishing the vibrancy of the community.

A DRC member asked Councilperson Jeffries if they missed the zoom meeting regarding engagement and planning would there be other opportunities for us to voice support? Councilperson Jeffries replied yes and a letter of support would be optimal. Jackie Bryson will follow-up with Councilperson Jeffries on the request.

Patricia Van Skaik of Lloyd Library gave a presentation on Lloyd Library "a Not So Hidden Treasure." Three Lloyd brothers manufactured botanical drugs in the late 19th century. They built a vast collection of books and materials on botany, pharmacy, history and medicine. The Lloyd Library houses the collection and has added to the collection current books and journals. Ms. Van Skaik noted the library is rated as housing the best botanical art collection. In addition to individuals reading and researching the vast collection, the library hosts programs of interest which are free to the public. Reservations are requested due to limited seating and interest in the programs. Upcoming programs mentioned were Fungus About Us and Cooking with Mushrooms, with a card available to the members with the dates of upcoming programs. Ms. Van Skaik showed the members the upcoming Lloyd Library Renovation with the exterior façade changes as well as the new addition to the building for programs and events, doubling the current capacity.

Announcements

Chris Sands is opening Voodoo Brewery on 8th Street. He invited DRC to their soft opening on Saturday, August 12th. The new brewery will be open from 11:00 am – 11:00 pm serving beer, wine, and food.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm.