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**Downtown Residents’ Council, Inc.**

**August 2024 - MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** August 13, 2024 @ 6:00pm

**Place:** First Financial Innovation Room, 4th and Vine Streets

**New members**: Kirby and Colin McCloy, and Ali D’Arrigo

President Jackie Bryson called the meeting to order at 6:02PM and welcomed our new members.

**Monthly reports:**

Officer **Chris Loreaux,** Cincinnati Police Department (CPD), reviewed the crime statistics noting the past 28-days we have seen a decrease in violent crimes, but an increase in both property and auto theft crimes. Overall robberies are up for the year. He noted the school year has started, and we can expect about 11,000 students per day to come through Government Square catching the Metro. Metro rides are free for students up to 5:30PM (later if involved in after school activities). After 5:30PM students must pay the fare. He noted ten to fifteen additional police officers will be around Government Square and the city overall.

**Alex Martin**, 3CDC, noted signage for visiting Indiana and marijuana yard sales were erected around the city but should not have been. They have been removed. She noted Ambassadors are busy keeping the city clean. She addressed multiple questions about areas Ambassadors are responsible for keeping clean. She mentioned the Pickleball Court at Sawyer Point is outside the boundaries for Ambassadors, but Outreach services are available there.

**DRC Committee Reports:**

**Treasurer’s Report**

Tricia Lynn reviewed the Treasurer’s report - Starting DRC balance 7/1/2024: $12,552.92 with a closing bank balance of $11,908.42 less $1,348.50 NSP/AIG funds committed for expenditures leaves a DRC balance of $10,559.92.

**Social Committee**

Mary Heimertwelcomed everyone to the social following tonight’s meeting at Backstage Event Center at 625 Walnut Street.

**Old Business:**

**Approval of July Member Meeting Minutes:**

Sue Byrom motioned to approve the minutes, Teri Boland seconded, and all voted in favor.

Jackie Bryson provided an update on the Community Budget Request. We received five to six suggested projects from the community. We will select and submit three suggested projects for funding. More details to follow.

**New Business:**

**Speakers:**

Jackie Bryson introduced speaker **Tommy Arnold**, Project Manager, Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). He provided an overview of the Brent Spence Bridge construction. The existing Brent Spence Bridge will be updated to carry local traffic, and a new companion bridge built to carry interstate traffic. He spoke about recommended design updates that connect communities, provide more local connections and free up land for redevelopment. The project will be delivered in three phases over multiple years. Finally, he displayed graphics of the bridge grid upon completion.

Jackie Bryson next introduced **Lynne** **Miller** from the League of Women Voters. Lynne Miller spoke about Ohio’s redistricting amendment on the November ballot, voter ID requirements and when to vote. You will need one of the following to vote early in-person or on election day: 1) Ohio driver’s license or BMV issued state ID, 2) US military, Ohio National Guard, or US Department of Veterans Affairs ID card or 3) US Passport Book/Card. Early voting in-person runs from October 8th through November 3rd. Absentee applications are accepted now through October 29th.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 6 p.m. (First Financial Innovation Center)