

Mt. Auburn Community Council

Full Council 07/16/18 Meeting Minutes

Recorded and Prepared by Carlton Farmer (Recording Secretary)

Board Members in Attendance: Stanley Broadnax, Carlton Farmer, Carol Gibbs, Steve Gibbs, Josh Gilbert, Walter Hawkins, Ryan Lammi, Tom Rotte, Anne Shannon, Anthony Thompson

Absent: Sandi Allen, Ken Farmer

Special Guests: Sgt. George, Chinedum Ndukwe Kingsley & Co. and Jay Kincaid, Marc Van Allman

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| 1. Call to Order | 4. Previous Month's Mins | 7. Old Business |
| 2. Safety Report | 5. Treasurer's Report | 8. New Business |
| 3. Special Guests | 6. Board Report | 9. Adjournment |

Meeting Activities

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order by MACC President Stanley Broadnax at 7:05 PM.
2. **Safety Report (Officer Hamann)** – 1. There haven't been any spikes in crime in the area. 2. ShotSpotter has been a good tool for us gathering information about gunshots. **Questions.** C.Gibbs: There were number of cars stolen and houses broken into in Mulberry, Sycamore, Milton areas. That seems like a spike to me. Hamann: The stats we have are for the previous month, and likely don't include those break-ins and thefts. They will be included in next month's stats. George: We don't always want to immediately talk about particulars of an investigation while it is ongoing. S.Gibbs: I understand that, but people have photos and videos of the kids that perpetrated these crimes. George: I would assume that the victims of these acts have turned that information over to the investigators. S.Gibbs: Yes, I would assume so. C.Gibbs: I think we are just looking for reassurances that arrests have been made or at least that there is an investigation going on. George: We have made arrests in this case, but the investigation is ongoing. Theft-from-Auto is the number one crime in this neighborhood, especially in the Prospect Hill area. It is vital that people do not leave valuables in their cars. Hawkins: Does ShotSpotter distinguish between guns and fireworks. Hamann: Often it can, but not always. Anytime there is a ShotSpotter alert, an officer is dispatched to the area.
3. **Special Guests** –
 - a. **Community and Economic Development (Marc Van Allman?)** - [distributed hand-out] Our department is intending to issue RFPs for a few properties in Mt. Auburn in the next month or so. We hold properties that we don't necessarily want to hold onto, so we are looking to see if there is interest in these properties in the 5 points area (Sycamore/Dorchester intersection) and on Auburn. **Questions.** McNeal: Was donation considered? Mark: I won't say we considered donating the property, but if you put together a proposal that hinged on donation, we would review it during this RFP process. Resident 1: The properties on Dorchester are on a fairly steep hill, are these properties that could even be developed. Mark: We are at the beginning stages of this process, but we have been told that these properties do not need to remain vacant or green for the stability of the hill. Visitor 1: Are you trying to assess the needs of the community with these RFPs or simply looking for new development? Mark: We are simply issuing RFPs to see if there are interests. We could have a small group from Mt. Auburn sit in on the

oral presentation portion of this process. And again we will look at any proposals or submissions we get after we issue the RFP. The city is always interested in encouraging mixed-income housing when we can. Linders: It may be helpful to also view the Mt. Auburn Plan in conjunction with the Auburn Avenue Corridor Plan. Broadnax: Yes, one of the stated concerns of the Mt. Auburn Plan is to minimize displacement. Visitor 1: The issue is these new construction projects are getting 15-year tax abatements that aren't available to current residents. Resident 2: Has the city consulted the U.S. Geological survey about the hillside. Mark: We have worked with our Department of Transportation and Engineering and they have assured us that these sites are developable. I will be happy to get further information about this and follow up with you about this. McNeal: You mentioned that this was done in conjunction with the Auburn Avenue Corridor Plan, why are we just now being notified? Mark: We did not work direct with the group, but we looked to the plan. S.Gibbs: Once the proposals come in, a group from this body could weigh in at that point. McNeal: Will we have any real opportunity to make any changes after proposals start coming in. Mark: The community will be able to express their concerns and wishes, but will not have a vote in the process. After our department makes a recommendation, that will go to City Council. At that point if residents are unhappy they can take their concerns to City Council.

- b. **Chinedum Ndukwe (Kingsley & Co.)** - Chinedum: I am with Kingsley & Co. a commercial property investment company. Our proposed Choice Hotel is at the corner of Kinsey and Reading Rd. It will be a mix of regular and extended stay rooms. We have been working on purchasing this site for the last 3 years and recently closed on the site. Some of you may have noticed that we have cleaned up that site. Our goal is to start construction in September and plan to open the hotel in the fall of 2019. We will be seeking tax abatement, but are committed to paying the 7.5% VTICA to the community. **Questions.** McNeal: What are you doing to ensure inclusion in your project? Chinedum: Our General Contractor is committed to interviewing local and minority contractors. Broadnax: After the project is built, they have committed to reaching out to residents to get them into jobs in this hotel. Hawkins: I appreciate your commitment to inclusion, but how much of an impact do you think you can have on hiring? Broadnax: There is an Uptown African American consulting firm that is working on doing just that. I would encourage reach out to Bill Witten and the others involved with that effort. Chinedum: It is, but we are committed to doing all we can do. I am familiar with those involved with that group. As a side note, we are very interested in opportunities to build affordable workforce housing in the area. We would like a letter of support for the project from this community council. Broadnax: The board did review the project and is recommending that we provide a letter of support. *McNeal made a motion to draft a letter of support. S.Gibbs seconded. Motion carried.*
- c. **Tracy Collins (CEO Cincinnati Area Senior Services)** - [distributed a hand-out] We are reopening Senior Services in Mt. Auburn. We are providing a lunch meal M-F at Church of Our Savior on Hollister. It is open to residents of Uptown. The only eligibility requirement is that they have to be 65 years or older. That's it. We do need people to show up for these services to remain viable. We will pick people up at their door and bring them to Church of our Savior so they can take part of these services. We will pick up any residents that live within a 3-mile radius of Church of Our Savior. **Questions.** Gilbert: Is there a target number that you are shooting for? Collins: If we order below 15 meals a day, we are not going to cover our costs. We are shooting for 20 to 30 meals a day. Hughley: This isn't just meals, there are other activities. Collins: Yes, we ask the

seniors who come what type of activities they are interested in doing. We want to develop those programs, but we need people to attend.

4. **June Full Body Minutes** – Broadnax recapped the minutes from last month. *S.Gibbs made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction noted. Anthony Thompson seconded. Motion carried.*
5. **Board Report** – Broadnax recapped the minutes from the July board meeting. Anne Shannon explained the capital community budget project requests. Applications due in September. One of the ideas we are talking about is gateway signage for Mt. Auburn. If anyone has ideas they can be emailed MtAuburnCincinnati@gmail.com or bring them to August Full Council meeting. *Tom Rotte made a motion to approve the report. Anthony Thompson seconded. Motion carried.*
6. **Treasurer’s Report** – Thompson gave a brief overview of the report and asked if there were any questions. Linders: Can we mark that the MadCap expenditures are NSP projects, not general funds. Thompson: I will make that correction. *Joshua Gilbert made a motion to approve the report. Joyce Hughley seconded. Motion carried.*
7. **NSP Report (Anna Linders):** The plan is to split any leftover funds between beatification and communication projects.
8. **Upcoming Events -**
 - a. **Cincinnati Games (Joshua Gilbert)** - We have 6 children and 13 adults participate in 9 different games. There is a stein holding competition, supersize jenga, cornhole and trivia at the Moerlein Taproom (behind the Liberty Street Shell station) on 7/26. If you are interested all you have to do is show up.
 - b. **Mt. Auburn Day** - Free food, health screening, a dj and more. At Hopkins park on 7/21.
 - c. **Burnet Block Party** - 8/11 on Burnet Avenue.

Adjournment – *Freeman McNeal made a motion to adjourn. Stephen Gibbs seconded. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.*