

Mt. Auburn Community Council

Full Council 11/19/18 Meeting Minutes

Recorded and Prepared by Carlton Farmer (Recording Secretary)

Board Members in Attendance: Shawn Baker, Stanley Broadnax, Carlton Farmer, Ken Farmer, Carol Gibbs, Steve Gibbs, Josh Gilbert, Ryan Lammi, Tom Rotte, Walter Hawkins

Absent: Sandi Allen, Anne Shannon, Anthony Thompson

Special Guests: Sgt. Shawn George, Daniel Betts (CRC Director), Michelle Dillingham, Anita Frazier (TCH), Adriana Alvarez (Cincy Flags Project)

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order by MACC President Stanley Broadnax at 7:00 PM.
2. **Safety Report (Sgt. George, Liaison Supervisor for District 4)** – **1.** Most crime stats were down last month besides thefts from auto and personal thefts. As a reminder, please don't leave anything valuable in your car, especially if it is visible. **2.** About 16 guns were confiscated this past month from the Mt. Auburn area. When we make these arrests, we are looking to get info from the people we arrested as to who supplied them with these guns. **3.** District 4 is sponsoring a Senior Citizen Banquet. If you know any seniors who would be interested, call Ms. Marcie at 513-569-8608. **5.** Shop for a Cop is also coming up. Schools select students based on a variety of criteria to shop with a cop this holiday season. The selections are made at the school. **6.** The area around the tennis courts in Inwood Park has largely been cleared. There is still a little work to do. We will be working with Uptown Properties to make sure that the brush alongside the tennis courts is maintained. It being overgrown has allowed people to camp out there. **Questions.** Hawkins: Can you share where or how these guns were confiscated? Sgt. George: We stopped a vehicle that was on our list of vehicles to be on the lookout for. There were guns in that vehicle and that stop lead us to others. C.Gibbs: Was this in the Reading/Kinsey area? Sgt. George: Yes, it was in that area. Arrests are up, but calls are actually down. So please keep calling in to report criminal activity. Hawkins: I reported some shots fired a while back, but I am wondering if the ShotSpotter technology would have caught them. Sgt. George: You can always call me or your neighborhood liaison officer and ask them to update you on shots in your area. They will follow up with you the following day. Resident: One issue is that people come to these meetings and take information back to those individuals committing crimes. So the police can work as hard as they want, but we have to work against this as a community. Derek: What do we need to do to get a 4-way stop at Young and Dorchester? Sgt. George: The engineering department would be the ones to make that decision. Some neighborhoods' approach has been to start a petition. Collecting signatures from residents does have some power. I would suggest trying to take these petitions to a councilmember and try that approach. I'll have Officer Hamann run accident stats for that intersection and bring it to the January meeting so that you have that information as well.
3. **Special Guests** –
 - a. **Michelle Dillingham (Over-the-Rhine Senior Center)** - Due to consistent underfunding, the OTR senior services center is scheduled to close. Some community members, myself included, have reached out to City Council Members, asking them to find a solution that does not involve simply closing this center. We will be going to City Hall on Wednesday to tell them that we think it is wrong to close the OTR senior center.

For those that can't go to Council chambers, contact your council members and sign the petition.

- b. **Adriana Alvarez (Cincy Flags)** - This is a city-funded project to design a flag for each neighborhood in Cincinnati. Presented the 3 potential options for a Mt. Auburn flag. People gave suggestions and feedback on the 3 options. Multiple people suggested incorporating the existing logo for Mt. Auburn more into the flag. You can go to Cincyflags.com and give me feedback and vote for the versions you like best. You can also see the flags that were designed for other neighborhoods. Cora: Where would this flag live or be seen? Alvarez: There is no specific place. S.Gibbs: We could use this in next year's neighborhood games or at other community events.
- c. **Ryan Dyson (Department for Community and Economic Development)** - Following up on a presentation from a couple months ago at MACC. There is a small parcel of land on Mulberry that is zoned for park. The Parks Department has no interest in developing a park on this land. The DCED is looking to rezone this land, and put out a RFP for this to be developed into housing. [Passed out a draft RFP] Projects are ranked with a variety of points. Proposals that include affordable housing or mixed income housing would be scored higher. McNeal: Are you guys asking for approval of this tonight? Dyson: We are asking for a letter for support for the zoning change, but we are not asking for that today. We want to give you all a chance to look over. Rotte: Was this process initiated at the request of a developer? Dyson: No. We noticed that a vacant parcel was zoned for parks and recreation and proceeded from there. The RFP is completely public, anyone can respond to it. All of the RFPs issued by the city can be viewed at ChooseCincy.com. Lammi: I live across the street from this land. I always wondered why this was zoned park. I am in support of this being put out for an RFP. Ingram: My concern is that we don't know what land the city owns and how much it is worth. Broadnax: What are you asking from us this evening? Dyson: We would like you all to review this draft RFP and then we will come back to the community council again, ultimately working toward a zone change. Lammi: I don't think there should be any controversy about the zoning change. This lot was obviously zoned incorrectly. Now, there should be a discussion about the issuance of the RFP. Daniel Betts: I agree with what this young man just said. As the CRC Director, I can tell you that we will not be making this land into a park. *Ryan Lammi made a motion to write a letter to support the zoning change from parks and recreation to residential. Joshua Gilbert seconded. Motion carried.* Broadnax: You will get a letter of support from us for the zoning change and then come back to us to present any RFP for this land. Dyson: Yes.
- d. **Anita Frazier (Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Christ College of Nursing)** - Described the various programs and degrees that are offered by TCH College of Nursing. Both the College and the Hospital are committed to employing and educating Mt. Auburn residents. Currently, TCH has over 200 positions open, not included nursing and physicians. If you apply online, select OpenHouse under How Did You Hear about this Position. That code will give that application priority based on your being a Mt. Auburn resident.
- e. **Leslie Mooney (Clifton Cultural Arts Center)** - We are the arts center for the uptown neighborhoods. We are currently looking for a new building to house our center. A few months ago, we made a proposal to the Cincinnati Parks Board commissioners to move all of our programs to a new structure in Burnet Woods. This would be an annual lease. We are not asking for any funding from the city or from the parks board. We would need to raise about 8 million dollars for this project. We currently have about a third of that.

We have been asked to come back to the park commissioners with more community feedback, a business plan, and show that we are able to raise the necessary funds, show how we would positively impact Burnet Woods. We partnered with Emersion Design, who built CPD District 3 Headquarters, which was the first net-zero police department in the world. The proposal identifies potential three spots for this building. If you are interested in more information, my full presentation is available from CCAC.org and on the Cincinnati Park Board website. **Questions.** Rotte: Have you looked at any other parks besides Burnet Woods? Mooney: No, we have not. It fits with the master plan for the park. Visitor: I know I am not slated to speak this evening, but I would be happy to talk with anyone after the meeting about why I believe this proposed project is a bad project. It amounts to pay-to-play.

- f. **Daniel Betts (Cincinnati Recreation Commission Director)** - I would like to speak a little bit about what Michelle Dillingham said earlier. I would argue that a non-profit that is working with seniors should be working more collaboratively with a public sector agency. The city can't afford to fund us, let alone CASS and other non-profit organization who are performing the same services that we are. We have to stop operating in silos and start working together.
- g. **Mike Mendralski (Albion Gardens on Albion Place and a pocket park on McGregor)** - We are looking to get a volunteers together in this coming spring to clean up and restore the gardens. You can visit AlbionGardens.com to see pictures of how the gardens used to look. It is an established community garden . We also will be planting fruit trees in a small garden/orchard space at 251 McGregor.
4. **Previous Month's MACC Full Body Minutes** – *Wessley Ossler made a motion to approve. Shawn Baker seconded. Motion carried.*
5. **Board Report** – *Rod Browne made a motion to approve. Stephen Gibbs seconded. Motion carried*
6. **Treasurer's Report** – *Shawn Baker made a motion to approve. Wesley Ossler seconded. Motion carried.*
7. **No December Meeting - The next meeting will be the second Tuesday of January.**

Adjournment – *Carol Gibbs made a motion to adjourn. Wessley Ossler seconded. Motion to adjourn carried at 8:43 PM.*