

# Mt. Auburn Community Council

## Full Council 03/18/19 Meeting Minutes

Recorded and Prepared by Carlton Farmer (Recording Secretary)

**Board Members in Attendance:** Sandi Allen, Shawn Baker, Stanley Broadnax, Carlton Farmer, Carol Gibbs, Steve Gibbs, Josh Gilbert, Walter Hawkins, Anne Shannon, Tom Rotte, Anthony Thompson

**Absent:** Ken Farmer, Ryan Lammi

**Special Guests:** Marlena Brookfield (School Board Candidate), Art Dahlberg (Building and Inspections), Matthew Andrews (DOTE), Steve Schuckman (Park Board)

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order by MACC President Stanley Broadnax at 7:04 PM.
2. **Safety Report (Officer Hamann) – 1.** Expecting crimes to increase a little as the weather starts to turn warmer. Keep aware of your property and surroundings. **2.** Easter Egg Hunt at 2026 E. Seymour from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM April 20 (day before Easter). **Questions.** Hawkins: Are the police concerned about the convenience store that is going in at McMillan and Highland? Hamann: I am not aware of any concerns. I haven't received any notification of a new liquor license or any similar paperwork for this location. Hawkins: They told me they were working on getting their license, but don't have it yet. Hamann: I haven't received anything yet. Broadnax: We are working with the police to address speeding and pedestrian safety concerns along Dorchester and the Sycamore side of the hill as well.
3. **Special Guests –**
  - a. **Liberty Street Improvement Project (Matthew Andrews with DOTE)** - The administration has asked us to look at the Liberty Street project again. So I am here to talk about those and answer any questions. It is my understanding that your community council had previously supported the 5-lane option a few months back. I have drawings for the different options laid out on tables in the back of the room for those that are interested. **Questions.** Rotte: Have you studied the traffic along the street? Andrews: Yes, we have. We are confident that none of the proposed options will work. Linders: Wasn't this already passed at one point? Yes, it was passed. However, some parties have posed new concerns and we have been asked to revisit the project. *Shawn Baker made a motion to affirm our original support for the 5-lane option. Stephen Gibbs seconded. Motion carried.* (Note: At the 08/20/2018 MACC full body meeting, the community council passed a motion to join the OTR Community Council in urging the city to move forward with the 5-lane Liberty Street calming project.)
  - b. **Building and Inspections Department (Art Dahlberg)** - There are two ways that the department gets involved with housing inspections. The first is NEP (Neighborhood Enhancement Program). This is proactive, in other words we have been invited by the neighborhood. The second way is through a complaints. Anyone can file a complaint. On average, about 40% of the complaints we receive are viable complaints and they are closed. With the other 60% of complaints, the inspector went out to the property and determined that there is an issue. The inspector will try to make in-person contact with the resident. An order is written and sent to the property owner that identifies the problem with the problem, lists the inspector and provides contact info. The goal of this order is to start a conversation with the property owner. If we don't hear from the the property

owner in 10 days, we go back out and post the order on the door. This is in an effort to establish contact. We are happy to discuss the order over the phone or in person, including coming back out to the property. Most orders have a 30-day period in which they are supposed to be fulfilled. If the property owner asks for a reasonable extension they are usually granted. If the inspector doesn't hear from the property owner in 30 days, they will go back out and again try to make contact. If we simply never hear from the property owner, we send a notice for a pre-prosecution hearing. The majority of the time, the issues are solved by this point or before in the process. We have connections to a number of agencies that can help property owners who need financial assistance to address code violations, such as People Working Cooperatively. The main point I'd like to get across is that if you receive an order please contact us and start the conversation. You can go to [CincyCodeEnforcement.com](http://CincyCodeEnforcement.com) and building a map by neighborhood or street or look at a specific address.

**Questions.** S.Gibbs: Did your department issue any fines as part of the NEP process here in Mt. Auburn a few years ago? Dahlberg: No, no orders got that far along in the NEP process. Rotte: What percentage of violations are from complaints? Dahlberg: In Mt. Auburn, about 60% of the orders in the last 3 years have come from complaints. Darryl: Why does property that is owned by banks get a free pass? Dahlberg: They don't get a pass. We issue a lot of orders against property owned by banks. Hawkins: There is a house across the street from us that is in the process of being demolished. I asked him about how the asbestos in the house will be handled and how quickly this demolition process will be handled. Dartburg: For a demolition to take place, there are a number of processes, including notifying the community council and a public hearing. Once a property gets through that process, we put out a bid for the work. The contractor has to test for asbestos. If you give us your phone number, we can follow up on this property with you. I would like to look into why the demolition is taking longer than it sounds like it should. Linders: Do you prioritize complaints? Dahlberg: Life safety issues are prioritized over anything cosmetic. We have to respond to every complaint. There are good reasons that people can complain anonymously, but we understand that the processes has the potential to be abused. Baker: How many inspectors do you have? And do they stay in a specific area? Dahlberg: Twenty inspectors, most are assigned to a specific district. A few are assigned to special projects--working with police on problematic locations, working on vacant buildings, etc. S.Gibbs: Does your department handle high grass or trash issues? Dahlberg: No, those are handled by Public Services. Rotte: How successful do you think the fire escape compliance program has been? Dahlberg: In general, I believe the program is needed from a safety perspective. Derek: I have some senior friends who have had trouble getting in contact with People Working Cooperatively. Dartburg: If you don't mind sharing those names with me, I would like to bring them up in my next conversation with People Working Cooperatively. Derek: If people receive an order, but aren't sure what the next steps is to fixing the issues, what is your advice. Dahlberg: Every order has the inspectors name and the phone number at the bottom. The best course of actions is to call that inspector and talk with them about the issue.

- c. **Marlena Brookfield (School Board candidate)** - Briefly introduced herself and announced her candidacy for the CPS school board.
- d. **Parks Board (Improvements to Inwood Park)** - There have been plans to improve Inwood Park for years and we are happy that we are getting to some of them. We have recently made improvements to the park including a walking path, picnic shelter and a

small parking lot in the upper section close to Wellington Place. Recently, we replaced a walkway from Wellington to Hollister, replaced old asphalt walks with concrete, cleared brush and honeysuckle and we are installing railings along most of the walkways. Other improvements that are in the works: updating the playground, a small parking lot off Vine Street to stop people from parking in the grass (these first two should happen this construction season), and lighting around some of the walkways. We would also like to rehab the old pool house building, but until we know better what plans for the building are, we are essentially just working to stabilize the building. **Questions.** Resident: Any plan for a dog park? Schuckman: Yes, it would likely be in the future, but there is a location in the plan for a fenced in area for dogs near Wellington. Joyce Hughley: Is there a plan for a water feature in or near the playground? It is a shame that they took away the pool. There is nothing for the kids in the neighborhood to do in the summer. Schuckman: It is not part of our plan, but pools and water features are run by the Cincinnati Recreation Commission. Resident: Can you all do anything about Jackson Park? Schuckman: The short answer is yes we can. The neighborhood can also put in capital budget requests for improvements to Jackson Park.

4. **Previous Month's MACC Full Body Minutes** – *Anna Linders made a motion to approve all three sections of the pack. Jon Vogt seconded. Motion carried.*
5. **Board Report** – *see above*
6. **Treasurer's Report** – *see above*
7. **MACDC Report (Carol Gibbs) -**
  - a. Property Tax Working Group - Vice Chair Christopher Smitherman and Carol Gibbs have been working on freezing property taxes for limited income residents. There is a meeting about this at Taft Elementary on 4/2 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM.
8. **Old Business -**
  - a. Dumpster at Jackson Park (corner of Eleanor and Dorchester from 4/1 - 4/5)
9. **New Business -**
  - a. A Mt. Auburn Workforce Committee is being formed, if you are interested please contact [ShawnBaker@gmail.com](mailto:ShawnBaker@gmail.com) who is chairing the committee

**Adjournment** – *Shawn Baker made a motion to adjourn. Sandi Allen seconded. Motion to adjourn carried at 8:23 PM.*