

Mt. Auburn Community Council

Full Council 07/15/19 Meeting Minutes

Recorded and Prepared by Carlton Farmer (Recording Secretary)

Board Members in Attendance: Sandi Allen, Shawn Baker, Stanley Broadnax, Carlton Farmer, Steve Gibbs, Joshua Gilbert, Walter Hawkins, Ryan Lammi, Tom Rotte, Anne Shannon, Sarah Vogt, Alice Williams

Absent: Ken Farmer, Carol Gibbs, Anthony Thompson

Special Guests: New Taft Elementary School Principal, Dana Jason; Uptown Properties - Ringgold/Slack development; Youth Violence Prevention - Rufus Johnson; Transportation and Metro Plan, including councilman Greg Landsman, Pete Metz, Kreg Keesee SORTA Board Chair, Darryl Haley SORTA CEO

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order by MACC President Stanley Broadnax at 7:05 PM.
2. **Safety Report (Officer Hamann)** – Officer Hamann was not in attendance.
Officer Hamann can be reached at (513) 569-8679. The non-emergency police number is (513) 765-1212.
3. **Special Guests** –
 - a. **New Taft Elementary Principal (Dana Jason)** - Principal Jason spent several years teaching and earned an MA in teaching from the University of St. Louis. In 2016, she started teaching 4th grade math and science. She served as assistant principal at Roberts Academy within Cincinnati Public Schools. Recently graduated from Columbia University with a Masters of Education in School Leadership and organization.
 - b. **Metro Transportation Plan (Greg Landsman and Kreg Keesee)** - Landsman: A quick side note before we start talking about transit, this Thursday there will be a special session of council at 11:00 AM to discuss ways that we can address the uptick of violence in Cincinnati.
Landsman: Public transit is a big issue in Cincinnati, it helps connect people to jobs and families and when done correctly works to level the playing field of a city. Cincinnati has most of the things that other larger cities have, but the one thing we don't have is a good public transit system. In the 1970s we passed what was supposed to be a temporary earnings tax for public transit. Over the next 10 years, we are looking at a shortfall of \$184 million in public transit. Every year, we are consistently short on infrastructure funding as well. A broad coalition of people, have been working on a \$150MM plan. About 40MM to infrastructure where busses go and 110MM to busses--new routes, cross-town routes, 24-hour route, etc. It will require the following: council voting to put a repeal of the .3% of the earnings tax if voters pass a .9 cent sales tax increase to fund this program. The following year, SORTA would put on a .9 cent sales tax to fund this plan. This transfers the burden from the city to the county. Keesee: The key to good bus service is consistent frequency, meaningful hours, and destination. A little over a year ago, the SORTA board voted to move forward with this plan to revamp and drastically improve our bus system. Looking to go from 46 to 54 routes, to expand to 24-hour service on 6 of our major bus routes, currently we have zero 24-hour routes. We are also looking to add some dedicated bus traffic lanes throughout the region. We would also be adding more transit/transfer centers. Hughley: What about Blue Ash and Mason? Would any of this

\$150MM go to the streetcar? Keesee: We would be adding routes to Blue Ash and some circulator routes in those areas. None of this money would go to the streetcar. Rotte: Did you meet with the other countries to try to work out a regional transit system? Pete Metz: Longterm, we would like to connect CVG and Dayton with a regional transit system, but right now the issue is right here in Hamilton County. So first, we need to fix the system that exists in Hamilton County. S.Vogt: If everything goes as planned when can we start seeing changes? Craig: We would start seeing improvements in the spring following the passing of the .9 cent tax by voters. For Mt. Auburn, these would include extension of routes, 24-hour routes, improved weekend service, etc. Linders: There have been bus stops removed in the last few years. How does the plan address this? Craig: We found that in many places that we had too many stops, which caused slow service. It is a balancing act. Visitor: Will you be using technology to redirect services to account for increase in demand, perhaps temporary? Keesee: Yes, we have a partnership with Uber, which mainly focuses on data--where their rides are originating and terminating. Lammi: Is there any precedent for doing such a levy? Metz and Craig deferred to Rep. Ingram. Ingram: The law had to be changed, but it was changed. SORTA's board will not be making the decision as to where the funds go. S.Gibbs: Would some of this funding help the Western Hills Viaduct? Metz: Yes, many of the bus routes use the viaduct.

- c. **Uptown Properties (Mark Zering)** - We have been building in Mt. Auburn for about the last year and a half, completing 6 homes on Slack Street and all of these have sold. I have been hired to finish 6 home and 4 duplexes on Ringgold Street as well as 1 more duplex on Slack Street. The development is named Highland Park. The lots are 529, 533, 535, 537, Ringgold and 530, 532 slack. We are looking for 2 small variances for these projects, lot size and setback. They are eligible for a 15-year tax abatement, as they are at the gold LEED standard. Broadnax: In order for us to approve a variance, we really need to have you answer the questions that the MACC board asks of all new developers. Zering: Ok, I would be happy to come to a board meeting. Linders: I seem to remember the price of similar units to be somewhere around \$350K. Zering: I've only been with the company since January. I'm guessing they undershot the cost and value of these houses. Lammi: Are you proposing any new demolitions for the new projects you outlined. Zering: No. Rotte: Do people who can afford a \$600 house really need a property tax abatement. Zering: Essentially, it takes a \$450K buyer to \$550K. Issues with property tax abatement would need to be taken up with the city.
- d. **Youth Violence Prevention (Rufus Johnson)** - I am a concealed carry weapons instructor. Does anyone know of any programs to help educate young people and adults on firearm safety? No. We are offering these classes to communities throughout the city. *Placed flyers on the back table.* Questions. Broadnax: What is the training? Johnson: One-on-one demonstrations and video presentations. We also offer CCW certification as well as basic firearms safety, even for those who already have CCW certification. We are not advocating for the use of guns, but if you have a gun we are advocating the proper use and storage of that gun. The glorification of weapons is one of the main culprits for gun violence, accidental or otherwise. We can come to the community and hold the workshop at community centers, etc. Broadnax: Send us the youth safety flyer and we'll put it on our website and facebook. S.Gibbs: You should make this presentation to the Mt. Auburn Chamber. That is where you are likely to get traction for a program like this. Broadnax: Yes, that would be a good idea. Hawkins: Shouldn't this start with the parents or guardians? Johnson: I found that it is hard to tell adults what to do, so maybe if we can reach young people they will carry that knowledge on with them.

4. **Previous Month's MACC Full Body Minutes** – *Shawn Baker made a motion to approve both the previous month's minutes and the board report. Jon Vogt seconded. Motion carried.*
5. **Board Report** –
 - a. Broadnax briefly ran through the board report, touching on NSP funding, Mt. Auburn Day (Aug. 10th), Zones and Opportunity Zones. Ingram: State Reps did not determine those Opportunity Zones. These are federal zone, that were then decided by the state.
 - b. *Joshua Gilbert made a motion to approve NSP funds from computer class to communications. Stephen Gibbs seconded. Ingram: Asked why communications was selected. Gilbert: Communication allows us a little more flexibility. Linders: I'm in favor of these, but the funds should be left in the postage office account. Motion carried.*
6. **Treasurer's Report** – *no financial report given*
7. **MACDC Report** – *no financial report given*
8. **Old Business** -
 - a. none
9. **New Business** -
 - a. Mt. Auburn Day, Saturday, August 10th

Adjournment – *Shawn Baker made a motion to adjourn. Jon Vogt seconded. Motion to adjourn carried at 8:25 PM.*