

Mt. Auburn Community Council

10/19/2020 Full Council Meeting Minutes (Zoom)

Recorded and Prepared by Carlton Farmer (Recording Secretary)

Board Members in Attendance: Shawn Baker, Stanley Broadnax, Carlton Farmer, Ken Farmer, Carol Gibbs, Steve Gibbs, Anne Shannon, Anthony Thompson, Sarah Vogt (Sandi Allen, Cindy Jo Holmes, Ryan Lammi and Alice Williams were outside of Taft Elementary during the meeting to collect in-person ballots for the MACC Officers election)

Absent: Walter Hawkins

Special Guests: Christian Huelsman from Spring in Our Steps, Joele Newman from the Peaslee Neighborhood Center

1. **Call to Order** – Zoom meeting of the MACC was called to order by MACC Vice President Shawn Baker at 7:07 PM.
2. **Safety Report (Officer Bower)** – The last month’s crime stats have been generally pretty good. Auto thefts are down. Aggravated crime reports from the last month were all known suspects, meaning the victim knew the person. The homicide on Vine street earlier this month was technically in District 5, but obviously still effects Mt. Auburn residents. It is still under investigation. 2. Traffic car to be set up around McCormick area in the next couple of weeks due to complaints about speeding. 3. Highland and McGregor apt building at 296 McGregor is tied up in eviction court. Frazier: People that were hanging out around Highland/McGregor area have moved down to the park on Burnet Avenue or around Earnshaw/Burnet--loud activity, cars parked in the grass at the park, people at the park well after the park is closed. Bower: I’ll make sure we look into these areas. **Questions.** S.Gibbs: How can we make sure we are getting liquor license requests and renewals as fast as possible? Bower: I send these as soon as I receive them, but sometimes there is a short turn around. As a community council, you can always request more time on these. C.Farmer: Please send these notices to the MACC email at mtauburncincinnati@gmail.com to ensure they get received by the group. Our neighborhood liaison officer can be reached at (513) 569-8679 or Maggie.Bower@Cincinnati-oh.gov. The non-emergency police number is (513) 765-1212.
3. **Special Guests and Presentations** –
 - a. **Spring in Our Steps (Christian Huelsman)** – Spring in Our Steps is a non-profit organization that began in Mt. Auburn in 2012, with the goal of restoring alleys and stairways that have been neglected. North Wendell Alley Steps were a gateway into the Little Bethlehem area of Mt. Auburn. With cuts to the city budget these alleys have become overgrown, underlit and difficult to navigate. Work on St. Joe Alley (east of Loth Street) began back in 2012 removing large amounts of garbage and rubble, making this corridor accessible for people to use. Since these efforts in 2012 and 2015, we have worked with the city to get signage erected in this area. We also partnered with the city to add naming signs to Frintz, Lang and Main Street steps about a month ago and are working on signage at Loth, Mulberry/Wendell Alley areas. We held clean-ups at St. Joe and Wendell Alleys in August of this year. We are looking for volunteers for an upcoming clean-up of South Wendell Alley on Sunday 10/25 from 9:00 AM to noon. Please bring a mask if you can. We will hand sanitizer and masks in the event that someone doesn’t have one. Meet at the corner of Loth and Mulberry. **Questions.**

C.Gibbs: MACDC and the Port Authority are working together to build 16 new homes, some affordable and some market-rate in this area in the coming months. S.Gibbs: Do you know why this area is called Little Bethlehem? Huelsman: I don't, but I know that there have been some articles, blogs written about it. S.Gibbs: I have heard it is because the cross on the top of Christ Hospital can be seen from that area. C.Gibbs: I will invite Greg Hand to an upcoming meeting to talk about the history of Mt. Auburn. Linders: Do you know why the newly renovated stairs from Liberty to Reading are closed? Huelsman: I'm not sure why they are closed. S.Gibbs: I think it is due to hillside sliding issues. S.Gibbs: Should we be looking to allocate 2021 NSP money to these clean-ups. Heulsman: Yes. I would be happy to further discuss potential projects with this group, such as wall stabilization, lighting, handrails or other safety measures.

- b. **Joele Newman (Joele Newman)** – Next Tuesday 10/27 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM the Peaslee Center will be hosting an open house event to talk with residents about potential development at Main and Schiller. **Questions.** C.Gibbs: Just a reminder that this area is in Mt. Auburn. Cooper: Do we know what land is actually part of the RFP that the city will be including. C.Gibbs: The basketball courts are not currently part of the RFP. S.Gibbs: If there are plans for a development at this site, can you make sure they are sent to the Mt. Auburn Community Council email and the Mt. Auburn Community Development Corporation email? Newman: Yes, I can do that. Brad Cooper: I'd like to encourage people to come to this event and hear about the development proposal, give input and work with other neighborhood groups.
4. **Board Report** – Carlton Farmer provided a brief synopsis of what the board discussed during its most recent meeting, including:
 - i. Request for purchase of a portion of Burnet Ave. - The board asked for an extension on this while some of the particulars of the project work themselves out. S.Gibbs: As an update, a few days after our board meeting, City Council approved the extension of the tax abatement for the Kingsley + Co. hotel project.
 - ii. 2021 NSP Funds - If you have an idea for a beautification or improvement project in Mt. Auburn, please contact MtAuburnCincinnati@gmail.com.
 - iii. MACC Officers election - The board talked through plans for the upcoming MACC election, both online and in-person voting options.
 - iv. Uptown Rental Properties Project at the end of Bigelow and Short Auburn - The board received an update on this project. Uptown Rental Properties has been holding community engagement meetings for the last few months and wanted to update the board on the project. No action was needed from the board or the community council. The plan is to have Uptown Rental Properties update the full council at the November meeting.
5. **Treasurer's Report (Anthony Thompson)** – Our balance is \$3,383.83, which includes recent expenditures for Go Vibrant Walking Path and for a MACC Zoom account. *Stephen Gibbs made a motion to approve. Shawn Baker seconded. Motion carried.*
6. **MACC September Minutes.** *Carol Gibbs made a motion to approve. Shawn Baker seconded. Motion carried.*
7. **Old Business** –
 - a. No new business
8. **New Business** –
 - a. Members of the community council have until 11:59 PM tonight to online vote for the MACC Officers. (As previously announced, in-person voting was available from 6:00 to 8:00 PM in front of Taft Elementary.)

- b. Members of the MACC board expressed their appreciation for the years of service to the neighborhood from both Anthony Thompson and Stanley Broadnax. Dr. Broadnax also thanked those who worked with him over the years when the community council was struggling to get people involved and promised to still be around and involved.
 - c. Anna Linders reminded the board that in years past we have given an annual report in the October meeting, (committee updates, recapping actions taken from the previous year, etc.). Suggested that we do so in the upcoming November or December meeting.
9. **Adjournment** – *Stephen Gibbs made a motion to adjourn. Ken Farmer seconded. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.*