

Welcome to the November 2020 Meeting of the **Mt. Auburn Community Council**

Tonight's Agenda

1. Call to Order and Moment of Silence - 7:00 PM
 2. Safety Report (Officer Maggie Bowers)
 3. Special Guest Speakers and Presentations
 - a. City Gospel Mission Project (Roger Howell, Kurt Platte and Lucretia Bowman)
 - b. MACHDO Building on McGregor (Freeman McNeal)
 - c. 24th Annual Christmas Gala in Mt. Auburn (Reverend Floyd)
 4. Board Report (Stephen Gibbs)
 5. Previous Month's Full Council Meeting Minutes
 6. Treasurer's Report (Joshua Gilbert)
 7. Old and Unfinished Business
 8. New Business and Announcements
 9. Adjournment
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Board Meeting Minutes from 11/09/2020 (Zoom Meeting)

Recorded and prepared by Carlton Farmer (Recording Secretary)

Board Members in Attendance: Sandi Allen, Shawn Baker, Carlton Farmer, Ken Farmer, Carol Gibbs Steve Gibbs, Joshua Gilbert, Ryan Lammi, Anne Shannon, Alice Williams

Absent: Walter Hawkins, Cindy Jo Holmes, Sarah Vogt

Special Guests: Roger Howell, Kurt Platte and Lucretia Bowman for City Gospel Mission project

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting was called to order by MACC President Stephen Gibbs at 7:04.
2. **24th Annual Christmas Gala in Mt. Auburn** – *Ken Farmer made a motion to donate \$500 to this event headed by Reverend Floyed. Sandi Allen seconded. Motion carried.* This will go to the full council at the 11/16/2020 meeting.
3. **Subdividing Lot on Mulberry** – South side of Mulberry. Owners of lot are proposing to subdivide a large lot into 3 parcels. *Ken Farmer made a motion to approve. Ryan Lammi seconded. Motion carried.* We will bring this to the full council at the 11/16/2020 meeting.
4. **City Gospel Mission Project (Roger Howell, Kurt Platte and Lucretia Bowman)** – Howell: City Gospel Mission has been in operation for over 100 years. Four basic program types: Addressing homelessness, 2. drug and alcohol recovery, 3. jobs, and 4. at risk youth program. Bowman (VP of the Recovery program at City Gospel Mission): Excited and passionate about showing at-risk women that life can be lived well. Newly proposed project will help develop a campus on Goethe will give them a safe space to do so. Platte (Architect): 15,000 square-foot facility. The building is only 3 stories on the street side and looks like 3 separate buildings. The goal is for the new building to fit into the rest of the street. Buildings at 141, 131 and 127-129 Goethe will be renovated and upgraded as part of this project. Most of the service would be taking place in the new building, which will include a gym, commercial kitchen, and dormitory housing in the range of 45 beds. As residents move through the program, they move into units in

other buildings on Goethe in supportive housing and independent living. **Questions.** Baker: What is the average length of residency? Bowman: About 3 years. Baker: Great, so we will get to know these people. What is the current capacity? Bowman: In our current 3 buildings we are at 36. So the capacity will increase with this new project. Gilbert: What's the timeline of the project. Platte: Our ask of the MACC is a letter supporting this project, which will require some zoning changes or tweaks. We would then hope to go to City Planning in the next month or so. If things go well, architecture work would take place over the next two months and constructions on this project would take about 14 months. Bowman: We have all the funds raised for phase 1, which is the new building. *Carlton Farmer made a motion to draft a letter of support for this project and bring this before the full council. Shawn Baker seconded. Motion carried.* This group will present again to the full council at the 11/16/2020.

5. **Main and Schiller Land** – Peaslee Center is holding an event on Nov. 12 4:00-6:00 pm to talk about a potential development project in this area. It is not clear what their plans are for this land. The MACC board has asked them to send us their proposal, but they have not done so. Ken Farmer: Do we know when the city would be issuing this RFP? Carol: Likely before the end of the year. Ken Farmer: Does Invest in Neighborhoods have any documentation about how neighborhoods should behave toward other neighborhoods, especially around development proposals? Baker: They may have something but I'm not sure how much clout it would have. S.Gibbs: There have been lawsuits between Cincinnati neighborhoods over who is the neighborhood of record for development projects. Hopefully this doesn't come to that, but it very well could. C.Farmer: What is to stop any group or entity from submitting a development project in response to an RFP from the city? C.Gibbs: Nothing. C.Farmer: So is this group just beating us to the punch by being more tenacious and proactive. K.Farmer: I think in some ways they are. Lammi: I am a little confused by the discussion. If it goes to an RFP, it would be up to the city as to what plan they would accept. That group would then eventually have to come before the MACC. S.Gibbs: Several years ago, this group opposed the Northpointe project and nothing got built in this area. The bottom line is that this land is in Mt. Auburn and we have a vested interest in what gets built in this area.
6. **Online Membership Form (Anne Shannon)** – It would be fairly easy to add an option to our website that would allow people to fill out a membership form on our website. Sandi Allen recommended that we roll 2019 and 2020 members into our 2021 membership. Shawn and Anne will look into adding something to the website that will allow people to sign up for an MACC membership online. *Shawn Baker to roll forward any 2019 and 2020 membership to 2021 and made a motion to authorize Anne to spend up to \$100 on this if necessary. Carol Gibbs seconded. Motion carried.*
7. **December Meeting - Holiday History Night (Carol Gibbs)** – In some of our recent meetings some questions have come up regarding the history of our neighborhood and areas within it. Carol offered to invite local historian Greg Hand to our December meeting to talk about the history of Mt. Auburn. S.Gibbs: I think this came up in relation to Little Bethlehem, which is a fitting discussion for a December meeting. C.Gibbs: Yes, but if there are other questions or topics, we can ask Greg to talk about them too. C.Farmer: For the last few years, we haven't met in the month of December. So are we planning to this year? C.Gibbs: We didn't meet because Taft Elementary was closed over the holiday, so we would have to pay more to have it opened for us. We will continue to meet through Zoom for a while.
8. **Building at McMillan/Auburn has been purchased by Uptown Rental Properties (Ryan Lammi)** – The MACC Community Council identified this building and the flat iron building as an important building to the historic fabric of Mt. Auburn. Shawn and Carol said they would reach out to Dan Schimberg and ask if he has plans for the site.

9. Thanking Stanley and Anthony for their Service – The Board approved buying a card and spending up to \$100 on each for a gift thanking them for their years of service to the Mt. Auburn Community Council.

10. Agenda for Upcoming MACC Meeting –

- a. Call to Order and Moment of Silence - 7:00 PM
- b. Safety Report (Officer Maggie Bowers)
- c. Special Guest Speakers and Presentations
 - i. City Gospel Mission Project (Roger Howell, Kurt Platte and Lucretia Bowman)
 - ii. MACHDO Building on McGregor (Freeman McNeal)
 - iii. 24th Annual Christmas Gala in Mt. Auburn (Reverend Floyd)
- d. Board Report (Stephen Gibbs)
- e. Previous Month's Full Council Meeting Minutes
- f. Treasurer's Report (Joshua Gilbert)
- g. Old and Unfinished Business
- h. New Business and Announcements
- i. Adjournment

Adjournment – *Shawn Baker made a motion to adjourn. Alice Thompson seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.*

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

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 appt building at 296 McGregory 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. Huelsman: 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.*