

Mt. Auburn Community Council

11/16/2020 Full Council Meeting Minutes (Zoom)

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, Cindy Jo Holmes, Ryan Lammi, Anne Shannon, Sarah Vogt, Alice Williams

Absent: Walter Hawkins

Special Guests: Roger Howell, Kurt Platte and Lucretia Bowman from City Gospel Mission; Freeman McNeal from MACHDO; Reverend Floyd for the 24th Annual Mt. Auburn Christmas Gala

1. **Call to Order and a Moment of Silence** – Zoom meeting of the MACC was called to order by MACC President Stephen Gibbs at 7:04 PM.
2. **Safety Report (Officer Roper- Issa filling in for Officer Bower)** – 1. In the last reporting period, there was an increase in break-ins. However, there were no violent crimes reported 2. Burnet area has been added to the list of hotspots. **Questions.** S.Gibbs: There were a lot of thefts from autos last month. Roper-Issa: I don't have a lot of information about the areas where these took place, but I will ask Office Bower about this. C.Gibbs: The building on McGregor that we have been having issues with now appears to be boarded up. Ronney: I have heard that the building has been sold and no one is currently living in the building. Linders: Can you clarify what is meant by overtime parkers and how one can avoid being reported and potentially towed? Roper-Issa: Technically, you should be moving your car every 72 hours. We do run the plates and if the address comes back as that street, we will check with the car owner. Frazier: There were gunshots on Burnet on Halloween, but I don't see them on the report. Roper-Issa: That will be reported on next month's crime stats. Frazier: The group is there pretty much all day. Roper-Issa: Are you calling and reporting? Frazier: Yes, I am. Roper-Issa: I'll talk to Officer Bower to ensure we have a continued presence in that area. Gary (Manager of Comfort Suites being built on Reading): Who can I reach out to to discuss getting a speed zone set up? Roper-Issa: Please email maggie.bower@cincinnati-oh.gov. Eagleson: We are seeing a lot of speeding cars on Highland. Can we get a speed bump or something like this to help curb this speeding? The number we were given previously doesn't work. Roper-Issa: This isn't something that is handled through the Police Department. I am not sure why that number isn't working. Shannon: It's likely that we would need to reach out to Department Transportation and Engineering. We will work to get the correct contact info to you. Gilbert: I know that we requested patrolling officers to check for speeding. Do you know if this has happened? Roper-Issa: I think this took a back burner, due to the unrest we dealt with over the summer and COVID-19. S.Gibbs: Do you have the metered signs that show drivers their speed. Roper-Issa: I will put in a request with Sgt. George about getting these placed along Highland.
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. **City Gospel Mission (Lucretia Bowman, Roger Howell and Kurt Platte and Lucretia Bowman)** – Howell: City Gospel Mission has been in operation for over 100 years. We have four basic program types: 1. 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): My husband and I started the social service Having the Courage to

Change in our home, teaching a small group of women how life was supposed to be before drugs and alcohol knocked them off track. We merged with City Gospel Mission in 1999. Since then we have served thousands of women in the Goethe Street area of Mt. Auburn. We have worked hard to create a community for these women and to help them integrate into the neighborhood. We have outgrown the buildings that we currently have. This newly proposed project will help develop a campus on Goethe and will provide a safe place for our residents. Platte (Architect): The new construction being proposed is a 15,000 square-foot facility. The goal is for this new building to fit into the rest of the street. It is only 3 stories on the street side and looks like 3 separate buildings. Most of the services would be taking place in the new building, which will include a gym, commercial kitchen, and dormitory housing with somewhere in the range of 45 beds. As residents move through the program, they move into units in other buildings on Goethe, designed for supportive housing and independent living. These other buildings at 141, 131 and 127-129 Goethe will be renovated and upgraded as part of this project. 141 G will be transitional housing. 131 Goethe will be independent living and affordable housing. Just about any new construction on this street would need to get some zoning variances due to the nature of the lots. The city has asked for us to apply for a “notwithstanding ordinance” variance, which will allow the zoning variances for this project to be grouped together. So we are asking for a letter of support from the Mt. Auburn Community Council. Bowman: We have spoken with residents on Goethe and many of them will be speaking on behalf of this project at upcoming hearings with the city. **Questions.** Cindy Jo Holmes: Will there be increased residency when the new project is complete. Bowman: We can currently house 36 women in our facility. That number will remain roughly the same. There would then be 11 units for affordable housing. Baker: Do you know where most of the construction and staging would be done? Main? Goethe? Platte: It should mostly be on Goethe, there is a good amount of room there for construction staging. *Shawn Baker made a motion to support. Sarah Vogt seconded. Motion carried.*

- b. **MACHDO Building on McGregor (Freeman McNeal)** – *Freeman McNeal had technical issues and no one in the meeting could hear him.* S.Gibbs: John Kornbluh, I know you have some affiliation with Freeman McNeal, or at least did at one point. Can you speak to the plans for this building? My understanding is you are looking for support for affordable housing construction. Kornbluh: I am not familiar with the plans. I am at this meeting to hear the plans. *Numerous attempts were made to help Freeman with his audio issues, but no one was able to hear him. He will be invited back to speak at the January meeting.*
- c. **24th Annual Mt. Auburn Christmas Gala (Reverend Floyd Johnson)** - In past years the Mt. Auburn Christmas Gala has been a dinner, but with COVID-19, plans had to change. On 12/18 at William Howard Taft Elementary at 6:00pm we will be provided a basket of support for 50 or more families. They will simply drive around the circle in front of the school. We will have to rely more on gift certificates and gift cards this year. S.Gibbs: Do you know what we have donated in years past? Cora Blakey: I believe last year was \$275. *Carlton Farmer made a motion to support the project for \$500. Cindy Jo Holmes seconded. Motion carried.* Baker: If anyone would like to send additional donations on their own, is there somewhere they can send them? Johnson: They can reach out to Cora Blakey at 513-309-1827.

4. Board Report –

- i. Division of 103 Mulberry Street (Stephen Gibbs) – The proposal is to divide a large lot into three separate lots. The board discussed this at their most recent meeting and did not have any concerns. Lammi: As a nearby resident of this street, I don't have an issue with it. *Ryan Lammi made a motion to write a letter of support. Carol Gibbs seconded. Motion carried.*
- ii. Online Membership (Anne Shannon) – The plan is to add a membership sign-up form to our website to make it easier for people to become members of our community council. We will still have the paper option, which is currently the only option that we have. In other words, we will be expanding the membership sign-up options. Earlier this year, the board voted to roll 2019 membership over to 2020, in light of COVID-19 prohibiting us from meeting in person. At the November 9, 2020 board meeting, we voted to roll 2019 and 2020 memberships forward to 2021.

Ken Farmer made a motion to approve. Carol Gibbs seconded. Motion carried.

- 5. Treasurer's Report (Joshua Gilbert) –** Our current balance is \$2,573.64. Joshua and Anthony are working on transferring over the treasurer duties. Shawn Baker (Vice President) and Stephen Gibbs (President) are now signers on the account. *Stephen Gibbs made a motion to approve. Shawn Baker seconded. Motion carried.*

- 6. Previous Month's MACC Minutes –** *Shawn Baker made a motion to approve. Cindy Jo Holmes seconded. Motion carried.*

7. Old Business –

- a. No new business

8. New Business and Announcements –

- a. When will construction at the 5-way intersection begin? C.Gibbs: It is scheduled to begin July 2021.
- b. Is there an update on the Flatiron Building (at the 5-way intersection)? C.Gibbs: The building will be decorated for the upcoming holidays. And we should get an updated construction schedule soon.
- c. The historic white building at the corner of Auburn and McMillan was bought by Uptown Rental Properties. C.Gibbs said she spoke with Uptown and they have plans to restore and rent office space out of the building, potentially with a restaurant on the first floor. Lammi: As soon as they are ready to talk to us about their plans for the building, we would love to talk with them.
- d. December MACC Meeting will be about the history of Mt. Auburn with Greg Hand. We are not planning on addressing any new business this meeting, but rather having a virtual community get-together for the holidays.

- 9. Adjournment –** *Carol Gibbs made a motion to adjourn. Darryl Frazier seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.*