

# Mt. Auburn Community Council

## 02/16/2021 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, Cindy Jo Holmes, Ryan Lammi, Anne Shannon, Sarah Vogt, Alice Williams

**Absent:** Joshua Gilbert, Walter Hawkins

**Special Guest Speakers:** none

1. **Call to Order and a Moment of Silence** – Zoom meeting of the MACC was called to order by MACC President Steve Gibbs at 7:05 PM.
2. **Safety Report (Officer Bower)** – 1. Homicide on 2/8/2021, near Auburn and Southern. This is an active investigation being worked by our homicide unit, so don't currently have much info. 2. Auto thefts: In 2020, 70% of all auto thefts in District 4 were the result of people accidentally leaving the keys in their car or leaving their car unattended while it was warming up. 3. There will be a police officer in Mt. Auburn in the coming weeks to issue speeding citations. The speed wagon is currently being repaired, so it can't currently be used. **Questions.** Steve Gibbs: Can you give us an update on the homeless encampments in or around Inwood Park? Bowers: We are working with a variety of city departments and social service agencies to stay on top of this. There were clean-up and outreach efforts near the end of the year, and the homeless camps that had previously been reported in the Inwood Park area were no longer there. However, we know that these often move and return. The city is backed up on its effort to address homeless camps, so this has taken longer than we initially expected. Dan Schimberg: There is a dark blue van that appears to have people living in it. There is also a silver sedan that I am seeing regularly that appears to be selling drugs around Hollister. Lee Wilson: Regarding the homicide near Auburn and Southern, were officers responding to ShotSpotter alert? Because the report made it sound like it was around 5:00 AM, but the shots were fired around 4:00 AM. Bowers: They initially responded to ShotSpotter but did not find anything in that area. They were later called, about an hour later, about someone who was found shot in that area. Steve Gibbs: Can you explain how ShotSpotter works? Could there be a long lag in the process? Cpt. Mark Burns: No, ShotSpotter is very close to real-time. The sound is monitored and determined to be a gunshot or something else, and then if determined to be a gunshot it is relayed to local police. Resident: Should we report speeding issues directly to you or is there a specific process for this? Bowers: Yes, you can report those directly to me, either by phone or email.  
Our neighborhood liaison officer can be reached at (513) 569-8679 or [Maggie.Bower@Cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:Maggie.Bower@Cincinnati-oh.gov). The non-emergency police number is (513) 765-1212.
3. **Special Guests and Presentations** –
  - a. **Board's Recommendation for Filling the Open Trustee Position (Ryan Lammi)** – When Steve Gibbs was elected MACC President this past fall, that left his trustee seat open. We notified the council of this vacancy last month and received 3 candidates who were interested in being appointed to serve out the term for this open seat. The three people are Anthony Thompson, Lee Wilson and John Pearl. The board is recommending that we temporarily eliminate the 9 trustee cap on the board so that we can appoint all three of these individuals as MACC board trustees. This is something we have done in the past when we have had more than one person interested in a vacant trustee position on

our board. John and Lee are in attendance, so I'll let them briefly introduce themselves. John Pearl: I have lived in Mt. Auburn for 45 years and owned property in the neighborhood. Retired from Proctor and Gamble. Served on the Cincinnati Board of Health years ago and was a previous board member of the Mt. Auburn Community Council. Lee Wilson: I'm a property owner in Mt. Auburn and have been involved in the community council for the last few years. I am a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha and have served on executive committees for a number of local organizations. I think Mt. Auburn is a great neighborhood and I would like to contribute to the community. Anthony Thompson was not in attendance. *Ryan Lammi made a motion to temporarily suspend the portion of Article VI, Section B of the MACC bylaws that stipulates the number of trustees on the MACC board. Shawn Baker seconded.* Carlton Farmer asked for clarification as to when this temporary suspension would expire. Ryan Lammi stated that it would expire on the day of the upcoming MACC election in October of 2021, at which point all of the nine trustee positions on our board would be open to any members who wanted to run. *Motion carried.* *Ryan Lammi made a motion to appoint Anthony Thompson, Lee Wilson and John Pearl as MACC board trustees. Alice Williams seconded. Motion carried.*

- b. **Potential Park Board Land Sale North of Hollister (Carol Gibbs)** – Inwood Park is an asset to our neighborhood, but has been in need of some serious attention over the years. The park has undergone some improvements in recent years, including new sidewalks, safety railings and landscaping. There will be a brand new playground area in Inwood Park this year, likely done by March. There have been consistent homeless camps near the tennis courts. We would like to make a proposal to the Park Board that they look into selling the land where the tennis courts currently are. This is something that we believe the Park Board may already be pursuing. **Questions.** Steve Gibbs: CRC has stated that they will not be repairing the tennis courts. Ryan Lammi: It would be nice to see new basketball courts put in Inwood Park if this land is sold. Those courts are used regularly. Brad Cooper: Are we recommending that this land be sold to someone specific or just asking the Park Board to consider selling it. Carol Gibbs: We would just be recommending that the Park Board look into selling the land. Freeman McNeal: A question for Dan Schimberg, didn't you have a plan to swap some land that included this area. Dan Schimberg: There were discussions about a land swap, but the area was near Glencoe, south of Wellington. Carlton Farmer: Is there a way that the proceeds could be spent exclusively in Mt. Auburn. Carol Gibbs: Yes, that is something that would be done. Ryan Lammi: If the Park Board does decide to sell the land, what is the process for them coming back to Mt. Auburn. Dan Schimberg: I can answer this if you like Carol, since I have been involved with similar processes in the past. The Park Board would ask the Department of Community and Economic Development to advise them on selling this land. The DCED would then report back to the Park Board. If they moved forward with the sale, it would go to the Planning Commission. There are many touch points along the way in which the city would notify Mt. Auburn. Brad Cooper: They could sell this land without our support, correct? Dan Schimberg: They could, but they like to hear from neighborhoods. It would also be a good point to begin engagement. Freeman McNeal: Previously, Willy Carden has stated that Park Land is not for sale. What has changed? Carol Gibbs: There have been instances in the past where the CRC was interested in selling land. Steve Gibbs: To address Freeman's question about why now, it may be due to the sewer issues and the city not wanting to incur that cost. Freeman McNeal: If the Park Board is looking to sell this property, then why don't we let them come to us and tell

us that. *Ryan Lammi made a motion to write a letter to the Park Board saying that we understand that they are interested in selling this land, if they do we would like to be involved in the process. Cindy Jo Holmes seconded. Motion carried. There was one vote in opposition.*

- c. **Letter of Support for the Proposed MACHDO Project on McGregor (Freeman McNeal)** – This proposed project is located at 316 McGregor There is no public money going to this project. The building has been vacant for about five years. 316 McGregor. Carol Gibbs: Why are you tearing down the current building rather than rehabbing what currently exists. Freeman McNeal: The current structure is too far gone for repair. It would cost a million dollars to rehab the current property. Cindy Jo Holmes: Is that million dollar figure based on a study or more of an assumption? Freeman McNeal: It was based on assessments that I and my contractors made. Shawn Baker: Are you saying that the building has to be torn down due to foundation issues? Because that doesn't make sense. Freeman McNeal: I'm not here to argue with you. I am here as a good neighbor and developer in Mt. Auburn, notifying the community of my plans. I would like a letter of support for this project, but if I don't get one, that's okay. Steve Gibbs: You are proposing to build 3 units on this property. Lee Wilson: Would these units be sold or rented. Freeman McNeal: Both. Cindy Jo Holmes: I believe this is the first we are hearing about renting. So you would potentially sell some of the units and rent others. Freeman McNeal: Yes. John Pearl: If this land is owned, there's not much we as a council have to say on the issue, right? Steve Gibbs: Yes. I would entertain a motion for a letter of support for the MACHDO mission and efforts in Mt. Auburn. John Pearl: I agree with that. Ken Farmer: Would that work for you, Freeman? Freeman McNeal: Yes. *Jon Vogt made a motion that the MACC send Freeman a letter supporting MACHDO's mission to develop affordable housing on McGregor. Anne Shannon seconded. Motion carried.*
4. **Treasurer's Report (Steve Gibbs)** – *Brad Copper made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Shawn Baker seconded. Motion approved.*
5. **Board Report (Steve Gibbs)** – Brad Cooper asked if someone could send him the developer questionnaire that the MACC board currently uses. Steve Gibbs said that he would. *There were no further questions about the board report.*
6. **Previous Month's MACC Minutes** – *Ken Farmer made a motion to approve the January 2021 full council minutes. Shawn Baker seconded. Motion carried.*
7. **Old Business** –
  - a. There was no old business.
8. **New Business and Announcements** –
  - a. 2021 Neighborhood Support Program – Cindy Jo Holmes noted that our NSP proposals have been submitted.
  - b. Balanced Development – Brad Cooper noted that in the previous month's meeting, he requested that Peaslee be invited to a council meeting to present their equitable development scorecard, and he felt like he was somewhat dismissed. Is the intention to actually invite Peaslee to talk about their scorecard? Steve Gibbs: I apologize if you felt dismissed. It is my intention to invite Peasee and others involved with the various development documents. We are just not ready for that to happen yet. *Brad Cooper made a motion that the board invite Peaslee to its next meeting. Anne Shannon made a motion to table this discussion. Carlton Farmer seconded the motion to table, noting that he is supportive of Peaslee being invited and included in upcoming discussions regarding development scorecards or rubrics, but not necessarily the next board meeting. Jon Vogt noted that he would expect Peaselee to be included in developer scorecard discussions,*

but not supportive of requiring it to be placed on next month's agenda. Cindy Jo Holmes noted that she would like to make sure the board and community members have time to review the various documents that are out there. *Motion to table carried. There was one vote in opposition.*

- c. Stairway Neighborhood Gateway Lighting (Christian Huelsman) – The city was trying to relight a streetlight in this area and when they attempted to do so, a resident came out to stop that work. The resident was concerned that if the lighting was restored, it would attract illicit or otherwise unwanted activity to the area. At this point the city will not complete this work until they get more community feedback. Steve Gibbs: If there is a signature sheet that you can share with us, I think many of us would be interested in helping out.
9. **Adjournment** – *Carlton Farmer made a motion to adjourn. Ryan Lammi seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.*