

Mt. Auburn Community Board Meeting

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
 - Urban Sites (Will Yokel) – Mulberry Project
 - Anna Louise Inn (Her Cincinnati) – Program Update
4. Board Report (Steve Gibbs)
5. Previous Month's Full Council Meeting Minutes
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Old and Unfinished Business
8. New Business and Announcements
9. Adjournment

6/21/2022 June Board Meeting Minutes (Zoom)

Recorded and Prepared by Cody Sheets

Members in Attendance: Shawn Baker, Ken Farmer, Steve Gibbs, Darryl Frazier, Christian Huelsman, Anne Shannon, Lee Wilson

Absent: Joshua Gilbert, Carol Gibbs, Alice Williams, Sandi Allen

Special Guest Speakers: Will Yokel

Call to Order and a Moment of Silence – Zoom meeting of the MACC Board was called to order by MACC President Steve Gibbs at 7:05 PM.

1. **Urban Sites (Will Yokel)** – Coming to the board to request a letter of approval for project on 214 – 218 Mulberry Street. Project will be 10 one bedroom apartments. Need four variances including a height variance, excavation and fill variance, parking within five feet of yard setbacks, and an exemption to remove parking lot screening requirements. There will be some screening in place still. Concerns about the number of parking spaces (1:1 parking spaces). Christian had concerns about the number of parking spots. Request for additional lighting along the stairway for safety and public good. Shawn requested additional landscaping around parking spaces to north and south. Anne mentioned additional landscaping along stairway both for people walking up the stairway as well as people in their apartments. Christian requested bollard sign continue to be a feature in future renderings so sign is not damaged or destroyed by contractors. Will asked for an approval letter and will present at the next community meeting.
2. **Cincinnati Union Bethel** – Shifting 10 units of recovery housing. They currently have units of recovery housing. Staff locations are being moved to Walnut Hills. Would like to shift units to more recovery housing. Beth will attend meeting next week to present what the program is doing

and to provide a general overview of the organization. Letter of support will be prepped. Program has not changed just a slight expansion of business.

3. **Invest in Neighborhood Letters** – Need a community representative for some of our efforts. Darryl Frazier recommended as community liaison for this. Steve will send contact information to Invest in Neighborhoods and they will contact Darryl.
4. **Reading Road Stairway** - Stairway used to be cleaned and is no longer being cleaned. Christian discussed that there is a Greenway Maintenance map. Is not on maintenance program right now. Homeless encampment is currently residing there. Mike Miller sent a letter already. We need to increase contact points to get these steps cleaned. Anne recommended including a note that school kids are using the steps as additional reasons to ensure the steps are cleaned and safe.
5. **July Celebration** – Shawn recommended getting more cops for the event. He felt that 1 cop would not be enough.
6. **Flat Iron Steps Reconstruction** – Work is progressing quickly in this area. Shawn recommended ivy hanging down from stairwell for beautification efforts.
7. **Inwood Park Auditorium** – Vice Mayor has requested \$1.5 million for possible improvements to Inwood Park Auditorium.
8. **Additional Comments and Questions** – Crime Statistic report shared for entire Uptown Consortium. Christian mentioned a lot of drug activity near Polk and Vine that he noticed while he was cleaning a stairway nearby. Shawn mentioned some Prospect Hill neighbors have been complaining about increased gun shots in the 700ish block of Sycamore Street. Get complaints on paper and they will be shared with liaison officers. Christian brought up pedestrian safety discussion at City Hall last week. Lot of discussion but not a ton of solutions. DOTE mentioned doing many temporary solutions including bump outs, speed cushions, etc. Lee mentioned that the orange barrels in front of the Flat Iron building hinder the view coming up Sycamore Street. Bring this up with Maggie next week. Lee also mentioned that there were still issues with the construction workers parking on Short Auburn. This need brought up to with relevant parties. Shawn encouraged Lee to contact Patrice when there are conflicts. Concerns about pedestrian access points as well -- we were told would be left open but have been blocked off. There was a little bit of confusion as to what was supposed to stay open; will require additional clarification.
9. **Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn from Darryl Frazier. Christian Seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM.

Full Council Meeting Minutes from May: 5/16/2022 (Zoom)

1. Call to Order and Moment of Silence – 7:07 PM
2. Safety Report (Officer Maggie Bowers)
 - a. No violent crime that has been reported in the last 28 days. Increase in auto thefts. Majority of thefts results from key fobs being left in the car. Convenience store did not receive their liquor license they requested. Peete Street – Project coming up this month. Grant money coming hopefully. Signs hopefully going up that will do a better job of alerting drivers that a dead end is approaching. Roger Hildebrand wanted to thank officer for the collaboration of planning for July 3rd. Carol described the event. Rob Festenstein expressed concern about potential unhoused individual living under bridge at 2031 Auburn Avenue. Officer Maggie Bowers stated that she would have an officer check it out and they can see about offering services and assistance. Concern about unhoused people moving across Hollister to Inwood Park near pond / shelter area. Semis near Christ Hospital. They have been doing some filming lately.

3. Community Budget Request information and proposals
 - a. Cathy Ingram expressed concerns about an unkept sign at Dorchester and Reading. The sign is a stone that came from an old building. The sign is surrounded by weeds and overgrown. Can money be used for upkeep of the sign? Lee expressed concerns about how the money is spent. Mural on one of the buildings. Carol stated that neighborhood is working with ArtWorks for potential mural locations, but it will be a while before a spot is selected and artwork begins (next year at least as summer projects for 2022 are already selected).
4. Board Report (Steve Gibbs)
 - a. NAFT Fund moved back to 2023. Newsletter will be mailed out at the end of the week. Juvenile court project is currently moving very slowly.
 - b. We received some preliminary numbers about number of kids that could be referred, and it was less than 10 a year. Big event coming up on July 3rd. Encourage everyone to attend. Roger Hildebrand commented that we have heard back about juvenile deferral program and commented that the numbers were low. There may be other options that would work better and do not require as much of a commitment. Lee is a court observer and was wondering if the program was just a diversion court program and was wondering exactly what we were getting into here. Lee would like additional clarification on the program and wanted to know to what degree it involved the parents. Number of children referred may be low due to changing demographics in the neighborhood as well as lack of high schools in the area. Neighborhood Plan has not made any progress. We are further back in line behind other neighborhoods.
 - c. Lee had a question about what is going on at Vine and McMillan. Property was sold to Uptown. Lee had concerns about whether affordable housing would be offered in the new apartment complex. Cathy Ingram requested a copy of the poll regarding the approval of the apartment. Darryl agreed with Lee that Uptown never showed an affordable housing plan for the neighborhood. Numerous members would like to continue to be updated about this project because of concerns about changing neighborhood and how this new structure will dominate a prime 2 acre space in Mt. Auburn. **Group should be collectively informed about ongoing details of this project including potential requests for TIF money, potential rezonings, potential requests for variances, etc.**
5. Previous Month's Full Council Meeting Minutes
 - a. Ken Farmer made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from last month. Carol seconded.
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Old and Unfinished Business
8. New Business and Announcements
 - a. Spring In Our Steps will be doing work on alleyway soon and will be doing lots of work. Will need volunteers soon. Money and resources will be leveraged for the second phase.
9. Adjournment
 - a. Carol made a motion to adjourn and Christian made a 2nd