

# Mt. Auburn Community Council

## Full Council 02/21/17 Meeting

Recorded and Prepared by Carlton Farmer (Recording Secretary)

**Board Members in Attendance:** Sandi Allen, Stanley Broadnax, Rod Browne, Carlton Farmer, Ken Farmer, Carol Gibbs, Steve Gibbs, Ryan Lammi, Anne Shannon, Anthony Thompson

**Excused Absence:** Cathy Ingram

**Special Guests:** Sgt. Doug Neack, Barb Keef and Beth Platte (Crossroads Health Clinic), Christian Dohn and David Wesselman, Rob Richardson, Anthony Garay, Lenore Cross Sullivan and Dr. Marilyn Crumpton the Interim Health Commissioner

### Meeting Activities

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order by called to order by Stanley Broadnax at 7:02 PM.
2. **Safety Report (Sgt. Doug Neack, Neighborhood Liaison for District 4)** - There have been several shootings. An arrest was made for the shooting that occurred on McCormick. Suspect is in jail. A warrant has been issued for a 16-year-old for the shooting on McGregor. The homicide on Vine Street by Inwood Park is still under investigation. The homicide of the young girl on Burnet is also still under investigation. **Monthly Crime Stats:** Slight uptick in theft from auto. Sgt. Neack and officer Brazil walked the Prospect Hill area, grading cars for items and 8 or 9 out of 10 failed. If people want to reduce crime in their neighborhood, a good start is not leaving items in their vehicles. Violent Crime officers have increased their presence in Mt. Auburn. Most of them are in plain clothes. They have made good arrests on Highland, Albion and Gilman. There was a good turn-out for the Peace Walk in Mt. Auburn on Saturday February 18th. **Questions:** C.Gibbs: There was a report of a shooting into a home on Highland. Neack: I don't have info on that, so it must mean that no one was hit. C.Gibbs: I know there is a warrant for a woman living in the Lighthouse Services building on Highland. Is this an issues with residents of this building? Neack: No. Most people in this facility are pretty well behaved. Allison Erwin: I've been noticing more graffiti around the neighborhood. Neack: It's happening here and downtown and OTR and Mt. Adams. Not sure why, may be the warmer weather. You can call 591-6000 to have graffiti removed. Rotte: Were all the three murders you referenced at the beginning of your report drug related? Neack: They all could be, but we don't know for sure yet. Investigations are ongoing. Broadnax: Do we know if these crimes are being committed by residents of Mt. Auburn or if these crimes are just being committed in Mt. Auburn. Neack: The majority of these crimes are being committed by individuals who are no residents of Mt. Auburn. Anthony Garay: January's 12 thefts from autos seems low. I'm wondering if people are no reporting. Are there instances (low value items stolen, etc.) when people shouldn't call? Neack: Calling is always preferred. It lets downtown know where police presence is needed. 765-1212 is our non-emergency number. C.Gibbs: Do you have any information on the shootings on I-75 and I-275. Neack: A Middletown individual was arrested for the I-75 shooting. The shootings on I-275 have stopped, luckily. We think all of the I-275 shootings were perpetrated by the same person/people. Lammi: Regarding theft from auto, is there a way to file a report over the phone or the internet? Neack: No. An officer has to come out for theft from auto. Anthony Garay: What is the police response to the homeless camps on the hillside between Highland Avenue and Reading Road? Neack: There are federal guidelines we have to follow. Officer Brazil and I are working with the homeless coalition on ways to address this situation.

3. **Crossroad Health Clinic (Barb Keefe and Beth Platte)** - The clinic is in Taft Elementary. It is open to residents of Mt. Auburn as well as those who live outside the neighborhood. It accepts private insurance, Medicaid and Medicare. The clinic can provide any service that a private practice would provide. Currently the hours are MWThF 8:00 AM to noon and Tues noon to 4:00 PM. Broadnax: Can you explain your sliding scale charges? Beth: We charge you \$15 for your visit, and then depending on your income, we may or may not bill you more. People are encouraged to visit the clinic and take a tour.
4. **Rob Richardson (Mayoral Candidate)** - I'm a resident of Mt. Auburn. My son attends Taft Elementary. I studied Electrical Engineering at the University of Cincinnati and graduated from Law School at UC. I served on UC's board of trustees and served as Chairman of that board for 2016. I want to take the success that I had with the UC board to City Hall. I have a plan to focus on attracting and retaining talent, but also to develop talent in Cincinnati residents. 1. Focus on expanding access to education. UC Scholars program, a residential program with the goal to get students into UC. At one point the valedictorian for Hughes couldn't get into UC's main campus. Focus and getting Cincy kids into pipeline for jobs and college. 2. City needs to provide wifi and highspeed internet. 3. Whether you like the streetcar or not, it's here, it's part of our city's transportation system. Let's figure out how to leverage it. We need to develop a transportation system that connects all of Cincinnati's 52 neighborhoods. 4. Development needs to be done in an inclusive manner. The city needs a policy for development of low to moderate income housing. Cranley and Simpson haven't offered any solutions for these problems. Too long those in City Hall deal in minor arguments. We need long-term visionary leadership. **Questions:** Tom Rotte: From your experience on the board at UC, was there a consensus about bringing the streetcar to the school/uptown. Richardson: Good for the school and the city to bring the streetcar to uptown. Also need to invest in rapid transit bus routes. Allen: What are your thoughts on light rail? Richardson: I am for it. Jon Vogt: When is the democratic primary? Richardson: May 2nd. Rotte: Do you support the housing court? Richardson: Yes. The city needs to establishing inclusionary zoning. We can also incentivize people to fix up their properties. It's time for some big ideas in this arena, such as renter equity and rethinking the Section 8 housing. As mayor, I would not hesitate to take these concerns to the Trump Administration. Mary Johnson: What would low income housing look like in your mind? Richardson: When inclusionary development is done right, it shouldn't be obvious where low income residents live. Rotte: What are your thoughts on a luxury tax on condos? Do you support that? Richardson: I read that in the NY Times, but need to read and explore more about it before I can commit one way or the other. Wesley Osler: How would you work to expand the internet/wifi. Richardson: I would establish a public/private partnership. I wouldn't rule out anything. It would be a high priority for me as mayor. Richardson thanked the community for their time.
5. **Christian Dohn and David Wesselman (Mt. Auburn Studios)** - Dohn: We were in need of a building for our photography/video editing business, previously in OTR. We bought the church at the corner of Dorchester and Highland under Mt. Auburn Studios as a commercial property, which was how it was listed. After buying, the city said that it is zoned as a single-family, even though it is a church. We have applied with the city for a use variance so that we can operate our business out of the church we purchased. We are asking the council to support our use variance and send a letter to the city. **Questions:** Vogt: Just the two of you, or other employees? Dohn: Just the two of us. No immediate plans to expand. Freeman: Why did you guys not ensure that this was a commercial property. Dohn: It was listed as a commercial property and it was a church, which is not residential. We had no reason to assume this information was incorrect. The building does not lend itself to be a residence. Linders: It has not been a single-family residence since I have lived here, may never have been. Resident: Are you guys taking any action against the

realtor who listed the property incorrectly. Wesselman we are exploring our legal options, may take action through the Better Business Bureau. Dohn: We are trying to figure out what action, if any, we want to take. *Stephen Gibbs made a motion the the council support this use variance. Ken Farmer seconded.* Freeman stated that you can't just make a motion. S.Gibbs stated that that is exactly how it works. Broadnax noted that the motion to support the use variance has been properly seconded and asked if there were any further questions. Freeman: What is the name of the person you talked to at the zoning department. Dohn: I believe it was Trey Sheldon. Freeman: Well I called down there and there is no Trey Sheldon that works there. Dohn: I don't know what to tell you. That is who we talked with. Resident: Any large equipment moving in? Dohn: No. Photography and videography equipment just keeps getting smaller. Allison Freeman: Are you planning on making any changes to the building. Dohn: Nothing beyond basic improvements. Vogt: Will you come take pictures of Mt. Auburn? Dohn: Definitely. Zachary Schunn: Given the weirdness of this zoning, I think we need to be careful about blocking something like this. We want more commercial businesses in this neighborhood. Resident: I agree. You guys seem like you would be a real asset to the neighborhood. Rotte: How does this variance work? Dohn: We are applying for a variance as a communication company. I believe it ends if we sell, or otherwise no longer own the property. *Broadnax called for a vote. Motion carried.*

6. **Street Calming in Prospect Hill Area (Anthony Garay)** - The residents of some of the streets that make up the Prospect Hill Historic District would like to petition the city to perform a traffic study on Boal, Milton and Highland up to Liberty Hill. They have collected the necessary number of signature from residents who live on those streets. **Questions:** Freeman: I would like to add Burnet to this list. Garay: You would need to get signatures from Burnet residents, but I think that is very doable. C.Gibbs: This is really a safety issues, somewhat stemming from heroin use. I know the city doesn't love speedbumps but the curb bump-outs and crosswalks that you were talking about are a great idea. Freeman: Is this being presented as a Prospect Hill proposal or a Mt. Auburn proposal. Garay: The street calming petitions are street-specific. I would be happy to work with you on the petitions and forms needed to do this on your street or any other streets in the neighborhood. Vogt: This is something that the residents on any street can do, right? Garay: Yes. Broadnax: It is a street specific request and involves collecting signatures from the residents of the street or streets in question. Sam Rundo: It takes 50% of the residents on the street for the city to even consider it. Linders: Is it only for a study? Garay: Correct. Resident: Does the study validate the need or just come up with a solution? Anthony: The first step would be to validate the need for street calming. Vogt: There is an issue with speeding on Highland in general, so I'm glad to see residents stepping up and attempting to address this. *Jon Vogt made a motion that the council support this petition. Carol Gibbs seconded. Motion carried.*
7. **Neighborhood Clean-Up Projects (Ryan Lammi) - A.** There is a clean-up lead by students from the University of Cincinnati on Saturday, April 1. We have submitted some ideas: Main Street Steps, Gage Street Steps and Earnshaw Street and the step in that area. We need someone from the council to be the point of contact for that day (Lammi will be out of town that day). **Questions:** Vogt: Are there safety concerns with the Gage Street steps? Broadnax: We may need to contact the city so they can be on hand for this clean-up day. Linders: I have cleaned up those steps in the past. They are not that dangerous. This is pretty close to the Great American Clean-Up, so we want to make sure we aren't doing double work. Lammi: Yes, we are working to ensure that is the case. **B.** Go Local by Crossroad Church clean-up event is Saturday May 20th. Our application is due by 2/28 (a week from this meeting). They do clean-ups, construction, public painting, gardening etc. of public lands. See me after the meeting if you have ideas and we can connect. **Questions:** Broadnax: Will they do yardwork for seniors? Lammi: I don't think so. I don't think it is for individual resident, but more focus on public spaces. S.Gibbs: We had talked

about putting a tall fence of some sort along the hillside of Eleanor, to keep trash from being thrown down the hill. Resident: What about talking with Christ Hospital? S.Gibbs: I think that conversation has been lost in the bureaucracy of Christ Hospital. Broadnax: Perhaps we can ask Christ Hospital to put out more trash containers. But we should add this fence along Eleanor to our list of requested projects for this GO Local event.

8. **NEP Violations** - Yvette Simpson is sponsoring a public meeting that will be held in Mt. Auburn so residents of Mt. Auburn and other neighborhoods can get their questions about NEP violations answered. This meeting will be held Monday 2/17 from 6pm to 8pm at Taft Elementary. C.Farmer: Will the council offices be helping with logistics of this event? Broadnax: I think they are relying on members of the community council to set this up.
9. **Straight to the Heart (Lanore Cross Sullivan and Dr. Marilyn Crumpton - Interim Health Commissioner)** - Sullivan: We will be providing a post-trauma workshop, in light of the shooting death of the young girl on Burnet. The plan is to have this event at Taft Elementary. The tentative date for the Mt. Auburn Psychological Screen Workshop is March 7th. Dr. Crumpton: Dr. Kathleen Chard operates the PTSD center at the University of Cincinnati. Her work is nationally recognized. The Joey Votto Foundation has funded her to open a Stress Center at UC Hospital. Councilmember Simpson wanted to connect residents of Mt. Auburn with professionals who deal with PTSD and stress. **Questions:** Freeman: There are a lot of children who would be willing to attend this event. Carolyn Edwards: Have you had any contact with the Mt. Auburn International Academy? Sullivan: Yes. We would even be willing to have a workshop there as well. Sam Rundo: Would you be looking for volunteers for this event? Dr. Crumpton: Yes. We would like volunteers to show up 30 minutes in advance. C.Gibbs: Try contacting Mt. Auburn Presbyterian for an alternative location. Freeman: Have you spoken with the Do Right program? Sullivan: No, not as of yet. But we are willing. Broadnax: The Mt. Auburn Do Right group could provide boots on the ground if you need them. Help get the word out. Sullivan: You can reach me at (513) 348-9379. Marilyn Crumpton: (513) 357-7417.
10. **Treasurer's Report** - *Tom Rotte made a motion to approve. Anna Linders seconded. Motion carried.*
11. **January MACC Minutes** - *Wesley Ossler made a motion to approve. Joyce Hughley seconded. Motion carried.*
12. **February Board Report** - Broadnax noted that the Director of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission will be at the March MACC meeting to talk about potentially closing Filson Park. The CRC has to cut 10% from their budget. Filson Pool needs costly repairs. Those with questions were advised to come to the upcoming March MACC meeting. *Anna Linders made a motion to approve the January MACC meeting minutes. K.Farmer seconded. Motion carried.*
13. **Old Business** - Any old business? Hughley: Was something brought up about Gilman at the last meeting. Linders: There were some NEP violations for a few residents on Gilman. Hughley: Ok, that must have been what I was thinking of.
14. **MACC Committees** - We are looking for volunteers for a variety of committees. K.Farmer stated that some committees are in need of member more than others. There is a sign-up sheet at the front table.
15. **New Business** - Thompson noted that he updated 5013c paperwork. No other new business.
16. **Adjournment** - Stephen Gibbs made a motion to adjourn. Anna Linders seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM.