

Mt. Auburn Community Council

Full Council 07/17/17 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, Cathy Ingram, Ryan Lammi, Anne Shannon, Anthony Thompson

Absent: Deborah Ooten

Special Guests: Ryan Messer (School Board Candidate), Maurice Wagner (President of the OTR Community Council), Rick Williams (Home Ownership Center), Stephanie Sweitzer (Cincinnati Water Works)

1. Call to Order
 2. Safety Report
 3. Special Guests
 4. Previous Month's Minutes
 5. Treasurer's Report
 6. Board Report
 7. Old Business
 8. New Business
 9. Adjournment
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Meeting Activities

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order by Stanley Broadnax at 7:07 PM.
2. **Safety Report (Officer Brazil)** - There was no safety report as Officer Brazil was not in attendance.
3. **Ryan Messer (School Board Candidate)** - Former President of the OTR Community Council. Particularly passionate about the school board, in that I am a father--three children that will be public school students. Is a product of public school. So many of the problems we face can be addressed throughout public school system. We have a great public school system in Cincinnati, but unfortunately the greatness of this system is not felt equally by all students in Cincinnati. I am supportive of magnet schools, but there is nothing quite like a neighborhood school. We have to think through things differently than we have to address the issues we face as a city. Grew up in Rising Sun, IN. I am a first generation college student. I have been with Johnson & Johnson for 20 years. I have the experience to manage the school board's \$550-600 million budget. We can create specializations in our schools, even for kids who don't plan on college, so we can set them up for success in life. Questions. Resident: In what ways would you be managing the school board budget and how does your business background relate to that? Messer: I manage a business development team for Johnson & Johnson. I manage people, budget, and other resources. At J&J we strongly believe that if people are happy with the work they are doing, we will succeed. I think the same can be applied to teachers. Rotte: Who audits the financial records of the charter schools? Messer: I don't know since they are outside of the CPS board's purview. Rotte: Doesn't this come out of your budget? Messer: No. It comes out of the State budget. Messer: In the current education environment, we may have to get a little more aggressive than we have in the past in pushing back against any attempts to reduce funding for public education.

4. **Introduction** - Broadnax introduced the newly elected President of the OTR Community Council Maurice Wagner.
5. **Rick Williams (Home Ownership Center)** - We provide a number of funding products to help residents of Mt. Auburn to help make improvements to their property. 1. Opportunity to receive \$5,000 to use toward repairs on your home. This is geographically tied, not tied to your income. Most, if not all, of Mt. Auburn is the right area qualifying for participation. This is a loan for both interior or exterior fix-ups. You make interest only payments monthly for 3 years. If you never miss a payment, and the then load is written off. During those three years, this \$5,000 will be a lien on your property. Resident: What is the interest rate on that loan? Williams: I'm am not for sure, but the monthly payment is about \$8.00. Broadnax: Eight dollars? Williams: Yes, \$8. Resident: We went through this process, but the bank called us back and said that they had no money left in that program. Williams: Please get me your contact info and I will follow-up on this. 2. The next options can come in 3 different ways: (a) a deferred loan that you would not pay on unless you sell your property; (b) whatever loan you qualify, for plus a deferred loan that will get written off once you pay off your loan, any code violations would have to be taken care of under this program; (c) a loan for what you need with a grant equal to 20% of the loan Linders. Where is financing for this coming from? Williams: Financing for this is coming from Union Savings Bank and Guardian Saving Bank. Linders: Why would they do this? Williams: They are doing this as part of a program that they have to implement. Rotte: Is there a "trusted contractor" list? Williams: Yes, but the homeowner chooses their own contractors. Wagner: Do these loans have interest? Williams: Yes. Allen: Is this similar to other programs in which the census tract is determined by being at least 50% African American. Williams: That's not exactly what this is. It is more complicated than that. It is based on census tracts that have been prioritized by the banks. Ingram: Not all of Mt. Auburn is in the same census tract, so it is possible that not every Mt. Auburn resident could qualify. Williams: Yes. It is based on census tracts. Mt. Auburn is not one census tract: Linders: It is three tracts. Broadnax: Does it have to be a single-family home or can it be a two-family? Williams: Yes, we have done some two-families. Schunn: Is there any other criteria other than that you own a home and are within this census tract? Williams: Yes. Since they are loans, you have to apply for the loan. Broadnax: What if a homeowner is underwater on their mortgage? Williams: They should still apply. Allen: Is there an appeal process? Williams: Yes, it's called "Second Look." You need to contact us, and we can help with that appeals process. Also, all of these products will stop any fees associated with fees due to code violations from the city. (Left handouts at the front table.)
6. **Stephanie Sweitzer (Water Works)** - Stephanie is a representative from Greater Cincinnati Water Works and will be attending our meetings on a regular basis. Rotte: Is there is a 15-year timetable for replacing all the lead service line replacement program? Sweitzer: Yes. There is about 15,000 of them. Lead lines were stopped being used as water service lines in 1927. If your home was built before 1927, please go on our website and check your address. You can do so at lead.mygcww.org. She left some pamphlets on the table at the front of the room.
7. **June MACC Minutes** - *Anna Linders made a motion to approve the minutes. Ken Farmer seconded. Motion carried.*
8. **Treasurer's Report** - Resident: What are NSP funds? Broadnax: Neighborhood Support Program. It is funding that is available to each neighborhood. Residents can propose projects to their community council to procure some of these funds. S.Gibbs: Can you explain what the process is to access funds that we still have from this year? Broadnax: We have funds available for beautification that need to be spent by the end of August. Ingram: Do we have a process in place for next year so we can get more neighborhood projects? Linders: In the past, we have held

a meeting and have placed this in the newsletter. I would recommend that we do a newsletter specifically for NSP funds. I think this would be the most effect way to get this information out to as many residents as possible. Allen: Is there a way that we could have regular reports on these funds throughout the year? Broadnax: I think that is a good idea. We will bring that up with the Finance Committee. *Anna Linders motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Stephen Gibbs seconded. Motion carried.*

9. **Board Report (Stanley Broadnax) - 1.** The Clifton Community is preparing a request for a Central Entertainment District. These districts come with 15 liquor licenses. These proposals often include areas outside of a specific neighborhood. C.Gibbs: This application is for Burnet Woods, so they should not be encroaching on our neighborhood. **2.** Some demolitions are taking place on Ringgold Street. **3.** The Port Authority will be coming to talk to us in the next few months. They have been buying vacant properties throughout the city, including Mt. Auburn. **4.** Fire Escape Ordinance. If you own a property that has a fire escape, it will need to be inspected. The city is starting with properties that were built prior to 1920. The owner will have to get an engineer to inspect your fire escape. Some are paying \$329 to get this inspection properly accomplished. Carol Gibbs: Moved to approve Board Report. Rod Browne seconded. Lammi: 2 Minor corrections: Deborah Ooten was listed as both in attendance and absent. And under adjournment, Cathy Ingram has an extra last name. Motion carried.

10. **Old Business**

1. **Mt. Auburn Day (Rod Browne) - Saturday August 12th.** We have food and entertainment covered, but we need volunteers for activities and games. Resident: I am a nursing student at Christ Hospital. I haven't heard anything about being involved, but we would be interested. C.Gibbs: A volunteer employee group from Christ Hospital has contacted us about being involved in Mt. Auburn Day. There are flyers on the table at the front of the room. There is contact info on the flyer that you can use if you would like to volunteer.
2. **Stagger Lee's (Walter Hawkins) -** We have been unable to get someone from Stagger Lee's to contact us. They will have to submit a change request when they want to move their liquor license. I called Stagger Lee's directly and asked to talk to the manager. I asked him about their plans to relocate their liquor store to the corner of Highland and McMillan. This person stated that they have changed their minds about moving their store to this location. I think we have to take this with a grain of salt. C.Gibbs: Have they requested the appropriate zoning for the apartments? Hawkins: My understanding is that it is zoned for a convenient store and apartments. C.Farmer: Did you ask this store manager if he could request that a representative of Stagger Lee's come to MACC? Hawkins: No, I didn't think he was the right person to
3. **Uptown Properties Community Advisory Group -** C.Gibbs: I have sent Uptown a list of people that signed up to be a part of this Advisory Group. Allen: Who is on the list? Broadnax: Anyone who is interested can sign up to be on this committee by talking to Carol Gibbs after the meeting. Resident: What is this group? Broadnax: It is an advisory committee of community people who will give advice to Uptown Properties on facade options for the development down Wellington Place at Inwood Park.

11. **New Business -** None.

12. **Adjournment -** Anna Linders motion to adjourn. Anthony Thompson seconded. *Meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.*