

Mt. Auburn Community Council

Full Council 05/20/19 Meeting Minutes

Recorded and Prepared by Carlton Farmer (Recording Secretary)

Board Members in Attendance: Sandi Allen, Shawn Baker, Stanley Broadnax, Carlton Farmer, Carol Gibbs, Steve Gibbs, Josh Gilbert, Walter Hawkins, Ryan Lammi, Anthony Thompson

Absent: Ken Farmer, Tom Rotte, Anne Shannon

Special Guests: Councilman Greg Landsman, Vanessa White (former CPS board member and Landsman's Chief of Staff)

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order by MACC President Stanley Broadnax at 7:05 PM.
2. **Safety Report (Officer Hamann)** – Officer Hamann was unable to attend the meeting. She emailed her safety report to Dr. Broadnax. 1. Last month saw a spike in theft from autos, notably around Hollister and Wellington. Officer Hamann inspected cars in that area and noticed purses, change, electronics and other items in cars. It is very important to clear valuables from cars. 2. There was also a spike in burglaries--some entered through unlocked doors, opened windows, and broke glass doors. 3. Crime generally increases in summer months. It's important to be vigilant and to call in suspicious behavior. **Questions.** Daryl: Police came to Burnet street due to a robbery. The officer that showed up said that there were a number of burglaries that day. There seems to be a specific house on the street that attracts a lot of bad actors. Broadnax: Please call Officer Hamann and report this. She can be reached at (513) 569-8679. The non-emergency police number is (513) 765-1212.
3. **Special Guests** –
 - a. **Greg Landsman (Pedestrian Safety)** - Landsman briefly introduced himself, highlighting some of the education initiatives he has worked on, noting that Vanessa White was also in attendance with him. The Pedestrian Safety meeting in Evanston in two days is an opportunity to connect concerned citizens and community groups, and make people aware of local government agencies and groups. It is at the Evanston Recreation Center at 6pm on 5/22. *Landsman passed out contact cards for his office (greg.landsman@cincinnati-oh.gov and/or 513-352-5232).* **Questions.** Visitor: The current budget proposal cuts funding for the Office of Sustainability, parks and CAT House money. Landsman: I don't believe CAT or Parks were cut. When asked to cut his budget, the director of the Office of Environment and Sustainability volunteered himself. So his role be cut. White: The city received a Bloomberg grant to help with these types of issues. Carla Walker is working with the departments to help allocate these grant funds. Landsman: It's important to note that most other big cities in Ohio have 2.5% taxes, Cincinnati has about 1.8% after tax money goes to SORTA. We are working our way out of a budget hole. And at some point we will have to address this. Daryl: So how do we find extra money for stadiums and the streetcar? Landsman: The challenge is funding projects that we think will bring the city a good ROI. The streetcar has brought in a lot of economic development, but its funding is still an issue for the city. Tax abatement is an easy way for us to "help" projects. With the stadium, the city put up about \$10 million in cash. I voted against this. I didn't agree with it. Resident: I don't get why those building stadiums can't pay their own taxes. Landsman: I think the vote to give funds to FC

Cincinnati was the wrong move. But I do think that when something gets voted on and approved, we have to band together and try to make things work. Sarah Vogt: Can you talk a little about those that might be displaced by the FC stadium. Landsman: Their housing will be covered and about \$2,500 toward their moving costs. Council has been working very closely with the residents to get them where they need to be as it comes to housing. My office will continue to work on this specific issue. Baker: Can you give us an overview of the upcoming Pedestrian Safety summit in Evanston? Landsman: Firstly, we want to make sure people know what we are trying to do to address pedestrian safety concerns. We also will discuss some potential tools we could implement. Secondly, we want to connect people from different neighborhoods working on similar pedestrian safety issues. C.Gibbs: About a year and a half ago, we identified a few dangerous intersections. We requested repainting, paddles, widening of the crosswalk, etc. We have had mixed results. Landsman: Contact me in particular about Young/Dorchester, we would like to help make sure this gets done. Lammi: Some of the issues around pedestrian safety seems to be that there is not an established plan for pedestrian safety when DOTE reworks or refurbishes a road. I think having a list of pedestrian rules would help clear up issues. Landsman: I agree. We'll look into that. If you know of any cities who have something like this, please share that information with us. Currently our charter says no red light cameras, not speed cameras unless the officer is holding the camera and that officer then issues the ticket. There is a charter amendment in the works that would remove the portion requiring that officer personally issue the ticket. I think this would be an important change. Hawkins: Just a note, our city agencies and organizations tend to work in silos. There needs to be someone or some ones looking at the big picture. Landsman: I hear what you are saying, we have changed the way data was reviewed. For example, now CPD and DOTE review the data together rather than separately, as they were doing. We are working to repurpose some money to establish a Pedestrian Safety Czar to oversee all of this. Hughley: Why was the Center for Closing the Health Gap funding cut? Landsman: I want to restore funding for the Center for Closing the Health Gap and some of the other agencies that received cuts. Healthcap has a new director and they fall under our new accountability program for city contracts. I believe that we should begin getting better results from all organizations that received funding or support from the city. On a side note, we have to be vigilant that improvements and investments in neighborhoods don't only benefit those that are already doing well. Other cities have figured out how to do better at this than we do as a city. We have been working with the administration and council to rework our comprehensive development framework so that our city works better for more of its residents.

4. **Previous Month's MACC Full Body Minutes** – *Carol Gibbs made a motion to approve all three sections of the pack. Joshua Gilbert seconded. Motion carried.*
5. **Board Report** –
 - a. Broadnax noted that we have two applicants for one vacant board position, so the board approved temporarily amending the bylaws to temporarily permit one extra board member (until the election this coming fall). *Steve Gibbs made a motion to approve this temporary amendment. Angeletta Metts seconded. Motion carried. Carlton Farmer made a motion to approve appointing both Sarah Vogt and Alice Williams to the board. Shawn Barker seconded. Motion carried.*
 - b. Election process committee will be headed up by Anna Linders, who has done this before. If you are interested in helping with the election, please talk to Anna Linders, Dr. Broadnax or a board member.

- c. We need to amend NSP budget, moving leftover monies to Communications. *Joshua Gilbert made a motion. Steve Gibbs seconded. Motion carried.*
 - d. DOTE coming in June to talk about liberty street. We can also ask them about Dorchester and Sycamore.
 - e. Mt. Auburn Day is 8/10 from noon until 4pm. We will be giving out school supplies, registering voters, etc. If you are interested in having a tent or presence at Mt. Auburn Day, please contact Dr. Broadnax.
 - f. Angeletta Metts asked for an update on the Model Group plans for Dorchester/Eleanor. Dr. Broadnax said that he would reach out to them and bring an update to the June MACC meeting.
 - g. *Motion to approve board report Steve Gibbs. Ryan Lammi seconded. Motion carried.*
6. **Treasurer's Report** – *Steven Gibbs made a motion to approve. Joyce Hughley seconded. Motion carried.*
7. **MACDC Report (Carol Gibbs) -**
- a. At 9:00 AM on 5/22 a memorial bench is being dedicated outside of Taft Elementary. The bench is in memory of a Taft Elementary teacher who was recently killed in an automobile accident.
 - b. Passed out flyers for free summer breakfast and lunch locations.
8. **Old Business -**
- a. none
9. **New Business -**
- a. Shawn Baker: The next mailing that comes from the MACC will include a form to update voter registration.
 - b. Walter Hawkins thanked Councilman Landsman for staying through the end of the meeting to field any additional questions.

Adjournment – *Shawn Baker made a motion to adjourn. Steve Gibbs seconded. Motion to adjourn carried at 8:12 PM.*