

Mt. Auburn Community Council

March 21 21, 2023

Mt. Auburn Community Council – February

Tonight's Agenda

1. **Call to Order and Moment of Silence** –7:03 pm
2. **Safety Report (Officer Maggie Bower)** – Car thefts are significantly down. Kia and Hyundai are offering an update to owners to prevent auto thefts. Officer that was doing overtime with parking vehicles has retired. Any parking complaints entered will come directly to Officer Bower. Penny Stocker mentioned that updates are not available for her car yet but they will give you a rebate steering wheel lock if you call in.
3. **Special Guest Speakers and Presentations**
 - a. **Proposed sale of Cumberland Street by the City to Kingsley Hotel Organization** – Darryl Frazier mentioned that citizens routinely call the police on drug dealing activity and nothing is every done about it. Cinedum Ndukwe introduced himself and mentioned that they had hired a new hotel manager Josh. Josh shared that Cincinnati Police were contacted because someone staying at the hotel was robbed at gunpoint over the weekend by three individuals. Christian raised the issue that other options should be explored beyond a sale of the street. Concerns were raised regarding permanently privatizing a street. Mark O'Brien mentioned that there has always been crime in the area and some of the crime is coming from within the hotel. He strongly objects to the sale. Mark O'Brien was also upset about not being notified. Carol and Chinedum both stated that the meeting was being orchestrated through the Planning Department. Kevin Berry asked if any neighbors were in support of it or if all neighbors were opposed to the sale. One neighbor that is a tenant of Chinedum was in favor of it. Christian mentioned that cutting back overgrowth and increased lighting could be an additional crime deterrent. There are extended stay residents living in the hotel. Mark raised concerns about parking on Helen Street as well as the apartment going up across Reading which has a shared parking agreement with the hotel. 30 parking spaces are allotted for the apartments across the street that are being built.
 - b. **Talbert House** – They are looking for a letter of recommendation / endorsement from the neighborhood. Need the letter by April the 3rd. This is for auditing purposes. 86% employment rate. Helps criminals enter back into society. Tami moved that we provide the letter of endorsement and Christian seconded.
4. **MACDC Report** – Railing for Flatiron was supposed to be delivered but it was not. Construction on Auburn Avenue will be finished by December. 4th of July fireworks will occur on July 2nd. This is the 2nd annual firework show. There will be an in person meeting in Inwood Park in May.
5. **Board Report (Steve Gibbs)** – Tami approved and Carol seconded.
6. **Previous Month's Full Council Meeting Minutes** – No minutes

7. **Treasurer's Report** – Ending balance of \$3,340.90. One outstanding check. \$1,703.13 available to the council right now. Will hopefully be augmented when Tami and Steve present for the NSP funds tomorrow. Landscaping, benches, enhancing school properties, 4th of July firework celebration, open air council meeting, possible newsletter, Christmas tree lighting. Total of \$9,872.
8. **Old and Unfinished Business** – No old business
9. **New Business and Announcements** – No new business
10. **Adjournment** – Tami moved that we adjourn. Lee seconded.

Mt. Auburn Community Council Board Meeting

3/13/2023 Board Meeting Minutes (Zoom)

Recorded and Prepared by Ken Farmer

Board Members Present: Ken Farmer, Daryl Frazier, Carol Gibbs, Steve Gibbs, Tami Hendrickson, Richard Hildebrandt, Alice Williams, Lee Wilson

1. **Call to Order and Moment of Silence** – 7:04 PM
2. **Proposed Sale of Cumberland Street by the City to Kingsly Organization** - Steve mentioned that the proposed sale of the alley behind the Reading Road hotel to the Kingsley folks. They want to buy this alley to close it off to local dope dealers, and to permit them to install a back yard behind the hotel for long-term hotel residents... frequently visiting nurses who want to cook out. Carol recommended that Kingsly offer access to this area for neighborhood groups.

The City is open to the prospect of selling it to Kingsly. However, objection from several people, primarily tenants of a nearby building, have been raised. One neighborhood resident, Scott Godby, submitted a letter to the City opposing the sale and stating that he represented the residents of Mt. Auburn. Steve noted that this was not the case, and that Scott neither cc'ed us on this, nor made any earlier attempt to discuss this with either the Council or the CDC. In general, we have supported the hotel's development, including its earlier tax abatement request, and now that they be allowed to purchase this alley. However, the objections raised caused the City to pause and get more community input. A community meeting is being scheduled – 6:00 p.m. on April 6th at the hotel. There appeared to be around five or six board members who said they would be attending.

Carol noted that she had at first objected to the sale because she wanted to make sure the right of way will not be impeded, especially for emergency vehicles. Those issues have been addressed and she is now in favor of the sale. The area is being used to deal drugs with residents of Anna Louise Inn. Daryl agreed and is also in favor of the sale. He noted that there was a person riding his bicycle around Mt. Auburn that is working with the distribution of drugs.

3. **NSP** - A copy with a list of all approved items on it was displayed to the group, totaling \$9,872. This has been properly filed. Steve noted that Alice's benches had made the list. She

asked if the list, which had various items bundled together under category headings appropriate for NSP, included all that people requested, for example, flowers, etc? Steve confirmed that it did. MACC and the CDC, with whom we collaborated on this, filed close out reports for the National Activation Grant. This was originally announced as a two year program, but will not return in 2023. We intend to fund the Inwood Park fireworks out of NSP, instead.

4. **3. AIG check** - Steve reminded the group that Mt. Auburn did not get an AIG check this past year. Tami and Steve both scoured the records and could not find a check. The situation was that when Josh became treasurer a year or so ago there was a brief period during that transfer that communications between him and previous council officers did not disclose a necessary filing date for the AIG funds. As that filing date was missed, Mt. Auburn was removed as a recipient of AIG money for that year. Additionally, Invest in Neighborhoods failed to notify us that we had been dropped from the program. We only became aware of this about three weeks ago when Tami and Steve went looking for this check. Since then, things have been rectified, and we should receive an AIG check from Invest in Neighborhoods this year. I should be about \$900.
5. **4. Fig Alley** - In the ongoing dilemma of whether what we are calling "Fig Alley" is in Mt. Auburn or in CUR, Jack Martin, the President of CUF, sent a letter to City Council in support of the name. Even though MACC has formally ceded the property west of Vine Street to CUF, the City still sees that property as being in Mt. Auburn's jurisdiction. The City's rationale is that Mt. Auburn cannot disavow property. Steve said he is willing to do whatever is needed to move this along. However, since both MACC and CUF are in favor of the alley being renamed "Fig Alley," the City might possibly agree to do so. Time will tell.
6. **5. Cark Westmoreland naming of a park** - Lee asked Carol what is going on with Westmoreland's name being attached to a street, park, or a part of a park. Carol said that with the park having a new director has slowed a bit. The director wanted to wait a few months to see what is the exact process for doing this. Carol asked him to respond by April. The Westmoreland family has indicated that the naming of something would be acceptable if the naming at a park does not work out.
7. **6. Agenda for MACC next week** - In addition to the normal list of agenda categories. Two items also need to be mentioned. (1) MACC meeting in Inwood Park this May. We are working on ordering pizza for the meeting at the shelter house. (2) Tami is still trying to correct an error at MACC's bank (PNC). They are aware that they wrote a check for reimbursement to NSP for NSP funds not spent on the last cycle. PNC represented that check as a deposit rather than a withdrawal.
8. The meeting adjourned 7:30 p.m.
9. **Previous Month's Full Council Meeting Minutes** – N/A
10. **Treasurer's Report** – N/A
11. **Old and Unfinished Business** – N/A
12. **New Business and Announcements** – N/A
13. **Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn by Tami at 8:16. Roger seconded.

2/21/2022 – February Meeting Minutes (Zoom)

Mt. Auburn Community Council – February

Tonight's Agenda

1. **Call to Order and Moment of Silence** – 7:03 pm
2. **Safety Report (Officer Bower)** – There was one homicide last Wednesday – a young lady in the Malvern Apartments. The homicide division is leading the investigation on this, so unable say much now. More info later. Carol Gibbs said the people at Riddle House have video of the getaway car. Officer Bower said there is a plan to upgrade security around this section.
3. **Auto thefts still problematic.** Police has been getting in touch with people in areas of auto thefts and asking for information and any available video. Also auto break ins are up. Most of cars being stolen or being broken into are Kias and Hyundais. Some insurance companies are refusing to insure certain years of those models. John Spencer said he said car stolen in his area by an actual tow truck. This happened on Walker Street about three weeks ago and they have video. Officer Bower will look into this and John will send his video to Officer Bower.
4. **Missing sign.** Carol Gibbs said there is a missing stop sign coming off Reading Road at Kinsey right and Highland Steet. Officer Bower said a service request will be put in.
5. **Traffic Blitz.** From January 30 to February 10, the police had a Traffic Blitz for the 5-district area which includes Mt. Auburn. They gave out 1,248 speeding tickets, 82 tickets for having no license. Total of all tickets for traffic-related offences was 1,577. These numbers are for all five districts (not Mt. Auburn specifically).
6. **October shooting.** Andy McLaughlin said he had given a report to the police about the October shooting on Walker Street. It involved fourteen 9mm shots, two vehicles shot, and people stealing stuff off people's steps. No one contacted him back as they had promised. Office Bower will look into this.
7. **Special Guest Speakers and Presentations**
 - a. **Uptown Rentals** – 248 William Howard Taft Road, student housing, market rate, there are enough parking spaces proportionally, will include co-working room, package facility, fitness room, clubroom, grilling area. The University has not to Patrice's knowledge considered purchasing the building. Has any consideration been made to not making this exclusively student housing? People who are not students typically do not like four bedroom units. There will be a variety of housing units available. Asking for support of a conditional use for residential units on the first floor. John made a motion. Tami seconded.
8. **NSP Funds** – NSP Fund proposals. Lee proposed to receive funds to clean up Park Place. Christian woodchipper. Bamboo cutting. Lee asked about Five Points and the Christmas tree if we should be paying for a private business. Lee was reminded that the property is owned by the City and not privately held. Lee requested partial reimbursement for the usage of our area by the park residents and park users for \$2,100. John Spencer made the motion to approve the list with \$500 changed from MAGIC to Lee's proposal, and moving Walker Street Public Garden money and \$300 from newsletter to Bamboo cutting on Main Street Steps and Andy McLaughlin seconded. The vote was unanimously in favor of approving the recommended use of NSP Funds.
 - a. **Fig Alley** – Renaming of steps but it is not actually part of Mount Auburn.
9. **MACDC Report** – Family 4^a of July picnic this year. Concerts starting on the first of June every Saturday. Dry Cleaner and Church being torn down soon. Probably end of April. 5

commercial outlets on first floor with 2 floors of apartments above it. Neyer holdings. Foto Focus building is under construction at foot of Sycamore Hill

10. **Board Report (Steve Gibbs)** –
11. **Previous Month's Full Council Meeting Minutes** –
12. **Treasurer's Report** – \$9,909.28 at end of December. Bank balance as of today \$1,703.13. Carol made a motion to send funds back to NSP. Alice seconded. AIG Money was funded in 2021 but no money was used so no funding was received in 2022.
13. **Old and Unfinished Business** – No old business
14. **New Business and Announcements** – No new business
15. **Adjournment** – Lee made a motion to adjourn and Carol seconded.