

September 15, 2025

## MACC Meeting Minutes

Scott B. (standing in for Lee who was out of town) called the meeting to order at 7:05pm at Taft Elementary.

Addendum (available digitally in the addendum) provides attendance report and handouts

### **Police report**

- This last 28 days has been different for Officer Chip because he has been in training for SWOT.
- From a neighborhood standpoint, the last 28 days have been really bad. There were 14 auto thefts, consistent with issues across the city. A neighbor asked about arrests. The officer does not have that data, but believes it is mostly youth.
- Officer Chip noted that a bright spot was that there were no robberies. The strangulation was from one person who knew another and was arrested. There were no homicides in the last 28 days.
- A neighbor asked why the numbers are up given school is back in session. The officer noted that we are in line, though above, with prior year trends.
- Another neighbor asked about the focus in other areas of the city and the potential impact to our neighborhood. The officer noted, as a personal opinion, that most criminals will not make the effort to come up the hill. People who are coming down the hill from college areas would be the area of concern from his standpoint. Officer Chip noted to please report anything so that he can assess if he needs to articulate further needs.
- A neighbor asked about the use of drones and he noted that he believes it is very effective as a tool.
- A neighbor noted about the University of Cincinnati's police department and their ability to extend support into Mt. Auburn while City police are attending to other areas. Officer Chip noted that, based on significant issues when this was tried as a full collaboration a few years ago, this will not be pursued in the future in a strong way.

- Officer Chip noted that if we would like support for October 18th neighborhood cleanup day to reach out to him so that he can get approval to be there.

### **Other planned visitors**

- Steven Pryor did not attend the meeting so his agenda item was skipped.

### **Review of Minutes**

August minutes were presented for approval. There was a motion and a second to approve the minutes. The August minutes were approved with changes.

### **Treasurer's report**

- As of September 3rd, the available balance was \$10,335.59. The available balance after restrictions (\$8,016.11 of AIG and NSP) was \$2,319.48. There was a motion and a second to accept the Treasurer's report and it was approved to accept.

### **NSP Project updates**

- The neighborhood cleanup will be held on October 18th. University of Cincinnati students will not be joining as had been hoped, but other collaborations are being worked.
- Olivia provided an update about the Book Swap. It will be held on Saturday, September 27th from 1:30 - 4:30pm. The location is being finalized and will be held at the Corryville Library. A flyer is attached. Neighbors are asked to bring a book you have, share what it has meant to you and learn about books brought by others. The library will also provide books.
- The Fall festival will be held on Saturday, October 11th. It will be similar in nature to the 2024 event. There is work to acquire pumpkins. The event has been advertised through the City at the City's request.
- The Mt. Auburn gateway sign continues to be underway. The neighborhood is asking for \$5,800 from VTICA with a target of March 2026 for installation. A neighbor asked about the signage. Mark O'Brien explained the topper that will be put on the existing stones using the Mt. Auburn logo, together with a Mt. Auburn quote by Charles Dickens. They are building it around the stones, versus removing and replacing the stones.

- A neighbor asked about the VTICA funds and it was explained that the VTICA (Voluntary Tax Incentive Contribution Agreement) funds are provided by developers. This is the first year that Mt. Auburn can draw from the fund, which is estimated at \$56,000. Community Councils, Development Corporations and Chambers of Commerce can request grants. There are 2 45 day windows (one in fall and one in spring) to submit grants. If we ask for more than \$50,000 at a time, it would have to go through City Council first. Mark O'Brien noted that Carol Gibbs confirmed the gateway sign was a good use of funds for the neighborhood.
- The holiday decorations in the park will be lit after Thanksgiving and will stay in place until the first weekend in January. Saturday, December 6th will be the hot chocolate and candy cane event.
- The communications mailer and mailing list is being created and will be sent as funds allow. A Staples program is being explored for support in distribution. The hope is to get to 1,000 residents.
- In October we will be voting on new members. So long as there is a quorum of members in good standing, the ballots will be distributed and a simple majority is required per by-laws. Candidates provided speeches at this meeting. This is a Trustee cycle and next year is the Officer cycle.
  - Alicia DeVore spoke of her interest and capabilities to support MACC in the Treasurer's role.
  - Darryl Frazier spoke of his interest and capabilities to support MACC in a Trustee role.
  - Senator Catherine Ingram spoke of her interest and capabilities to support MACC in a Trustee role.
  - Freeman McNeil spoke of his interest and capabilities to support MACC in a Trustee role.
  - Mark O'Brien spoke of his interest and capabilities to support MACC in a Trustee role.
  - Darnell Walker spoke of his interest and capabilities to support MACC in a Trustee role.

## **New Business**

### Sycamore retaining wall City note

- A printed copy was provided of the City email MACC received regarding the retaining wall on Sycamore. The wall needs to be replaced because it is falling. They are starting the work, but the majority will happen next summer.
- Mark O'Brien noted that VTICA funds would be a great use for new signage.

- Senator Ingram noted that funds should not come from NSP because there are other funding avenues.
- A neighbor noted that there are artists through area universities and other sources who could be partners in the new sign development.
- Another idea is to take good pictures before the wall is demolished.
- A neighbor requested seeing if it is possible to save a piece of the original mural for community display in another area.
- There will also need to be work on all aspects of the new signage. Mark O'Brien noted, for perspective, that the Avondale sign is \$65,000 roughly. Senator Ingram noted there are a variety of signs around the city for various neighborhoods.

DeMarco Kinamore introduced himself as the Taft resource coordinator. He also provided an update about the WRAP program, which is a new program to serve as a hub for students and families with housing instability. The group is called Project CONNECT. A neighbor asked about the families coming in for services being in contact with the students taking classes.

Mark O'Brien asked Patrice Eby about updates to Chick fil A site.

- There are no updates because work won't be getting done until March of 2026.
- One change that is hoped for is to move the bus stop on Highland 30 feet beyond the driveway to deal with congestion.
- The other request is a 25-miles per hour speed limit sign.
- DOTE would not approve the "no left turn" that was requested by neighbors until there are demonstrated issues.

A neighbor announced that on October 17th (though mentioned Saturday, so perhaps it is October 18th) there is an event at Jackson Hill Park between 12:00 - 3:00pm. Pastor Walter Dobbins is getting honored.

Darryl noted that Mt. Auburn Day was this past weekend and there was a shooting at the event. He noted the late evening timing contributed to the issues. MACC needs to establish that it does not sponsor Mt. Auburn Day. It cannot control neighbors gathering in Jackson Hill Park, but it is important to be clear that there is no sponsorship.

Senator Ingram asked what development is happening at Auburn Avenue and Dorchester. She noted we need to know what is happening and need to make sure the CDC is providing updates.

Mark O'Brien noted that the board is discussing use of Hopkins Park. One thought is live music events.

Mark O'Brien also asked attendees to try to get others to attend meetings and participate on committees. Senator Ingram noted that we could add flyers in student mailboxes. The Taft coordinator also noted he could support

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.