

KENNEDY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: July 15, 2003 Opened: 07:35 PM. Adjourned: 09:25 PM. Attendance count - 42.

Noel Morgan, president, called the meeting to order and led the community in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

The minutes from June 17, 2003 were accepted, copies of which were available.

Summary of Bob Kamp's treasurer report:

Balance of \$17,950 that includes \$1,000 escrowed to Ken Sil. Payouts by KHCC of \$2,266, received by KHCC \$4,297. This yields a surplus of \$2,031 and \$5,297 available funds. Fund raising efforts to date total \$6,100+.

Police Report:

Officers Engleman, Miller (Bike Patrol) and Ward (Radar and Laser) attended the meeting. Officer Engleman reported that felonious assaults are up 75% in July. The police are currently working 2 major items and progress reports are not yet available. Several junk autos have been removed and residents are advised to continue to report. The police have a "decoy" vehicle that is visible in the high drug traffic area. The vehicle is moved every so often to show a presence in the area. Officer Ibold is addressing the issue with prostitutes attempting to distribute drugs with the involvement of the vice squad at this point. Residents believe that the Rogers Park area may be a 'pimp' location. Another resident advised that if drug offenders reside in subsidized housing, there is a hot line to call to report this and other illegal activities. Tenants may lose their section eighth status if found guilty of such crimes and landlords must evict drug dealers.

To address the complaints about the loitering, Officer Engleman explained that it is a civil citation. Once cited, a loiterer must move 500 feet from the initial citation point and can't return for five hours. Josh Swain of McHugh Place cited the following problem areas; Bantry and Iris, The Water tower and the A-Frame pony keg drive thru on Woodford. Detective Brown needs to receive a petition requesting a harsher sentence for offenders. As to cameras in the neighborhood, Officer Engleman stated that more than one is necessary, as activities will move to an area where no camera is located.

Fire Report:

There were a total of 44 responses for the month of July including 36 Emergency Medical calls, 1 refuse fire, 3 system malfunctions and various others. Details are available from the secretary. There is a focus on distributing smoke detectors to residents in apartment buildings. Call 513-357-7593 or email Captain Long for a free fire detector. Captain Long reminded residents that the fire department could address various problems and assist with referrals to the police department. Barbara Belcher of Kirkup thinks that the cars out side of the fence at Kennedy and Woodford may be an attempt to prevent a person who has been seen sitting in a lawn chair from occupying the space. Captain Long will look into this but the cars need to be moved.

HOME (Housing Opportunities Made Equal):

Representative Deb Jeter advised KH residents to be aware of predatory lending especially with the current low interest rates. She left pamphlets containing valuable information, including questions to ask when applying for a loan, guidelines for Ohio Tenant-Landlord Law, information on the Fair Housing Laws and volunteer sheets. She urged KH to have HOME community advocates for our area. The secretary has extra copies of the distributed information. Residents may reach HOME at 513-721-4663.

Noel introduced the new committee members and requested volunteers for the Seniors, Youth and Neighborhood Net workers & Welcome committees. Noel advised that even though our next meeting is in September, many persons would be busy working on the Comprehensive Plan implementation activities during the summer.

Glen Gibbons announced his intent to run for City Council to the KH council residents.

Commercial and Office Development Committee:

Van Foster, committee chair, introduced the committee members: Chuck Dragga, Richard Cooke, Jeffrey Weidner, B.J. Gardner, Jennifer Hackman, Kimberly Tidwell, Mary Ray, Valerie Butler, Missy Alexander, Jody Barkley, Dana Bateman, Kevin Moeller, Dick Coffey, Van Foster, Josh Swain, Kay Briggs, Joe Morgan and Duane Olemann.

Van told residents that the grant proposal currently being worked consists of minor and major requests. The current proposal is to request the minor grant for a market study for the development of the land at the Kennedy and Montgomery (KM) corner and the major grant for demolition and clearing of the same land. The pre application was due and completed on 6/16 and the final is due 7/21. Jim Morrel of the MMSF Company assisted with the presentation of the rendering of the proposed building for the K/M site. Proposed occupancy is for local business on the first floor with offices on the second floor with focus on creating a community friendly building.

◆KH Community Council voted unanimously to support the adoption of the rendering and floor plan for the building at the Kennedy and Montgomery site and that the pursued grants be used for a market study and demolition & clearing of the Kennedy and Montgomery property where the current buildings, NuVue, Mr. Kelly's and Richie's are located.

It was announced that Buddy Jackson secured financing to purchase the property where the Richie's is located.

Stop the Cave:

Todd Stommel, chair of the beautification committee, was appointed head of the ad hoc committee to "Stop the Cave". He will be calling on residents to work on the committee and sign petitions to express KH's opposition and intent to boycott the placement of a steel building that will sell alcohol at that site. Noel has already sent a letter to various city officials and Mr. Jackson expressing these views of the council.

Litter Magic:

Jeffrey Weidner reported for wife Joanie: 35 bags of litter and 3 tires have been collected. Litter Zone captains are requested to call and report the number of bags of litter that they have collected. All reported counts would be used to account for the \$500 grant that was awarded to assist with this program. More volunteers are needed and welcome.

Volunteerism& Fund Raising:

Kathy Spoon requested suggestions for the "Citizen of the Year" award along with a brief reason for the person's nomination.

The Progressive Dinner will be held on September 19. Please contact Kathy if you want to be a host family. The need is to seat for dinner, 6 people in addition to the members of the household. Also contact Kathy if you have items to donate for the silent auction.

Mary Rae and Richard Cooke joined Kathy to urge residents to support the KH ARTS Center. Mary told residents that the historic building is the original mayor's mansion of Kennedy. Residents can support this community effort by obtaining CDs from the Columbia Savings Bank where an additional \$25,000 is needed. The team reported that \$15,000 was collected at Ridge Day. Richard said that the purchase of CD's should be viewed as a way to increase property value. Various residents pointed out that many think this is a private venture and that the message needs to be sent more strongly that this is a community effort. Charles Clingman moved that the community purchase a CD for \$1,000 to support the Art Center.

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◆ A motion that Kennedy Heights Community Council supports the Kennedy Heights Art Center effort by purchasing a CD for the amount of \$1,000 from Columbia Savings Bank was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

◆ It was also resolved by unanimous vote that KH Community council authorize president Noel Morgan to send requests to various individuals and business requesting support for the KH Arts Center in the name of the KH Council.

Community Coordinator by Kay Briggs:

Kay Briggs reported Kennedy Ave. residents would be holding their third Block Watch meeting on Wednesday, 23 July, 7:00 pm, Kennedy Heights Presbyterian Church, lower level. The goal is to have at least 85% of Kennedy Ave. residents involved in the movement.

The Hill Top Apartments are now under new ownership and several issues have come up involving fence repair, and trespassing on to Glen Edge Lane properties. Kennedy Heights residents have expressed concern for their safety, and a lack of response from Hilltop Management to address their concerns. A meeting was held with Hilltop Management, KH residents, Kay Briggs and Josh Swain in an attempt to proactively resolve the problems. Noel will write letters to address keeping the fence in tact.

Kay has received phone calls from residents concerning gunfire on Kennedy Ave., poorly maintained properties, litter, drug-activities, abandoned cars etc.

Recreation:

Melissa Smith from the Recreation Commission said that Ridge Day was a successful event. Announcements include the Kroger Family Program at Hartwell on 7/20; Pleasant Ridge Swim Derby on 7.23 from 11 AM to 3 PM for kids less than 12 - free lunch. PR is now registering for day care before and after school hours in the fall.

Community Event:

Regis Jones of "513" is sponsoring a religious concert featuring Christian Rap on August 9 at the Furniture Fair site. Music will start at 3 PM and the concert goes until 9 PM. The Caring Place, JTM and In God's Hands will provide "free" food. Regis asked for the KH community support and involvement from area churches.

President Noel Morgan adjourned the meeting.