

Kennedy Heights Community Council
General Membership

Minutes of the Meeting held on September 21, 2004

The meeting, chaired by Noel Morgan, President, began at 7:05p.m. and ended at 9:50p.m. There were approximately 56 persons present (see Attendance Sheets).

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by introductory comments by Noel. A copy of the agenda was distributed.

The Secretary, Ernie Barbeau, noted that copies of minutes of the following meetings were available: General Membership meeting of June 15, and Board of Directors meeting of July 13, August 10, Special Meeting of August 31, and September 14. Ernie also noted the availability of a one-page document that listed five motions for consideration by the General Membership, or as stipulated in the Constitution.

Motions Passed

* A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved that KHCC allocate no more than \$1,000.00 to assist an individual homeowner with very basic housing conditions, and after careful review and recommendation by the Housing Committee (motion from the Board meeting of August 10). During the discussion the proponent of the motion, Charles Clingman, noted that the allocation would be based on KHCC having the funds, the allocation was to provide a low-income homeowner with services and supplies (not cash), and the allocation would be a one-time event (the homeowner would not be eligible for another allocation). Additional policies and procedures need to be developed. Bruce Long, chair of the Housing Committee, gave an overview of the volunteer work that had been accomplished for an elderly homeowner on Kennedy Avenue, and of the need for volunteers who could paint the exterior of her house.

* A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved that KHCC develop a Adopt-a-Family Program for the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday (motion from the Board meeting of September 14). NeCe Basset and Karen Thomas, were the proponents of this motion.

* A motion was made, seconded, and approved by 28 persons and opposed by five, that KHCC support the upcoming public school renewal levy (motion from the Board meeting of September 14). During the discussion that led to the vote, several residents passionately spoke for and against the levy.

* A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved that KHCC inform Board of Education members that residents are very concerned about how money is being spent and that they expect the Board to exercise fiscal responsibility.

* A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved that the Membership adopt the financial report.

The Treasurer, Bob Kamp, gave a verbal report. As of September 14 the Council had a balance of \$17,108.00. Approximately \$2,400.00 was raised at the Progressive Dinner's Silent Auction.

An update from the Kennedy Heights Arts Center was provided by Jim Zarnowiecki, a member of the Center's Board.

Joanie Wiedner, Coordinator of Litter Magic, reminded residents that the next clean up will be held on Saturday, October 23. Encourage your neighbor to join you in making a difference. Litter Magic volunteers have been improving our community for the past five years.

Karen Williams of the Pleasant Ridge/Kennedy Heights Recreation Center gave a detailed overview of scheduled activities for the next two months. She also noted that the Recreation Commission may have its funds significantly reduced.

Karen Thomas, chair of the Council's Recreation Committee, encouraged residents to participate in the Barry Larkin Appreciation Day, to be held at the Great American Ball Park on October 2. A bus will be provided; for tickets or information call 841-1499 or 351-9991.

Noel updated residents on the Beverage Cave. The liquor license permit has been denied but the Jackson's have appealed, and that hearing will be held in Columbus. We will be securing a bus so that many persons can attend the Columbus hearing, which has yet to be scheduled. The City of Cincinnati had been sued by the Jackson's on issues related to the zoning standard of Interim Development Control; the arguments by attorneys representing the Jacksons and the City of Cincinnati have been heard by Common Appeals Judge, and a decision is expected in the next few weeks.

Juanita Harper, the new principal of Shroder Academy, gave an energetic report, noting that the Academy has 640 students who are expected to provide 50 hours of community service! It was also happily noted that Shroder is one of eight local public schools whose performance has 'gone up a notch': Shroder is now an Effective School!

Clyde Otis, a 35 year resident of our community, briefly spoke about the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program and of the program's monthly meeting at Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church. He urged our residents to participate in the program.

A representative from the Dr. O'Dell Owens Campaign, who had previously contacted the Community Council, made some comments about Dr. Owens's interest in being elected as the County Coroner.

Following an introduction by Van Foster, chair of the Council's Commercial and Office Development Committee, representatives from the firm of Kinzelman Kline and Grossman made an excellent twenty-minute Power Point presentation about their preliminary but significant findings and recommendations for the Montgomery Road business corridor. Two schematic designs were also available for viewing. During the discussion with residents several questions, observations and ideas were expressed.

By request of the President residents accepted the following two motions previously adopted by the Board of Directors as emergency measures, during the Special Meeting held on August 31.

* That the Board recommend that the Kennedy Heights Montgomery Road Commercial Corridor covering properties on Montgomery Road between Coleridge Avenue and Tyne

Avenue be changed from CC-A, Commercial Community-Auto, to CC-P, Commercial Community-Pedestrian.

* That the Board approves the Urban Design Overlay Guideline document developed by the Council's Commercial and Office Development Committee, with amendments adopted by consensus.

The Safety Report was provided by Josh Swain, Amy Krings of CPOP who distributed a two-page report, Police Officer Engelman, and others.

1. For the past nine or so months there has been an increase in prostitution activities on Rogers Park Place (RPP). One of the prostitutes resides at an apartment complex on Montgomery near RRP. The 21-unit complex is owned by an Indian Hill resident. RPP residents believe that three prostitutes and at least one pimp, and an "associate", are involved. The police have made some arrests, and more are expected. RPP residents need more volunteers to be on the street so to create difficulties for the prostitutes, pimps, and johns. RPP residents have demonstrated courage and persistence in taking photos and in initiating other activities so to discourage prostitution. Some units in the apartment complex need additional maintenance and repairs.
2. Residents have observed drug activities on sections of Kirkup and Iris, and especially brazen activity along the woodside area of Aikenside and Kennedy. The latter area may need additional street lights.
3. The CPOP initiative is focusing on drug problems between on Kennedy between Woodford and Northdale. Over the past three weeks some discussions have occurred with the Park Board and the City's Transportation and Engineering Department about the particularly significant problem at the Kennedy Avenue bridge.
4. Citizens on Patrol currently has 30 volunteers, but could utilize more volunteers.
5. Police Officer Engelman reported that Valleyview residents are establishing a Block Club. Officer Engelman also commented about the community's prostitution and drug problems and encouraged the community to persist.
6. Noel suggested that we hold a Town Meeting for the primary purpose of discussing safety issues. Residents applauded the idea.

Ernie Barbeau
Secretary
September 24, 2004