

Minutes

Kennedy Heights Community Council

1/15/2013

7:30pm

Meeting called to order by Michelle Dillingham

Introduction of neighbors and new council members

Fire Report

Officer shared statistics from 2012. Reminded residents to be careful of space heaters. Also reminded residents that there is a paramedic on every engine in the city.

Police Report

-Offer Engelmann shared stats from Dec. 15-Jan. 13 Numbers are still increasing on thefts involving large air conditioning units. Shared the number to call if an inoperable vehicle is on the street: 979-4465. Several residents inquired about removal of dead animals in their yards. The general number to call for city services is 591-6000.

He also shared that the city funded "walking" program ended December 31.

Treasurer's Report- Sarah Stamper

-Sarah shared a final report of all 2012 expenditures and a tentative budget for 2012. Clete Benken motioned to approve the draft of the budget. MOTION APPROVED

VP for Administration Report- Jim Zarnowiecki

Jim shared a report outlining specific programs and events for the Kennedy Heights Community. He shared a tentative calendar of monthly events and current chairs for each committee. Committees include: Finance/Development, Communications, Events, and Health and Safety.

VP for Planning Report- Clete Benken

Cultural Center: Bids are coming in for the Cultural Center project on the corner of Kennedy and Montgomery. Kennedy Heights Development Corporation hopes to select a contractor by second week of February. There will be artists' studios (through the KHAC), special collections from the Cincinnati Art Museum, and the Kennedy Heights

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Montessori Center. The Center has recently received a large donation of \$100,000 from Fidelity Investments. Fundraising efforts will continue in earnest early in 2013. The Art Museum plans to be in the center in June and the Kennedy Heights Montessori Center will be in by August.

Former Shroder Property: Clete shared an update on the status of the property and recognized the working group of Kate Kern, Vannessa Williams, Karen Thomas, Dave Snyder and Caitlin Siegel Hartzler for their contributions in creating the position statement that was approved by council. The Shroder building has recently been sold at auction. Council will stay involved in the communication process as plans develop. There are no other efforts by the working group planned for now.

Redbank Road Bike Lanes

Representatives from the Cincinnati Department of Transportation and Engineering (DOT) shared three alternative options for bike lanes on Red Bank Road during an Open House Meeting from 6:30 to 7:30. Community Council provided an opportunity for each attendee to voice opinions regarding the proposed reduction or removal of on-street parking, rider safety, and the ability of the various options to serve the needs of less experienced cyclists, children and recreational riders. Several Red Bank Residents voiced concerns regarding the reduction or removal of parking along Red Bank. Representatives from Pleasant Ridge cited the current safety issues for cyclists face on local streets. Representatives from Madisonville Community Council, Cincinnati Public Schools and Queen City Bikes attended to share plans for the expansion of the bike lanes and explain the advantages and disadvantages of the options.

Options 1 and 2 propose to provide painted bike lanes along the curb at both sides of the street extending continuously from Woodford Road to the south to the corporation boundary near Ehrling Road. Option 2 differed from Option 1 by providing parking along the southbound side of the street near the intersection of Woodford Road. The 2nd option was developed by DOT in response to concerns raised by Redbank residents prior to the November 20th Community Council Meeting.

Option 3 was developed in response to the Red Bank residents continued objection to the loss of curbside parking. The 3rd option depicted a single “climbing lane” along the east side of the street. The climbing lane would only accommodate northbound riders and there would be no bike lane on the southbound side of the street.

Representatives of DOT and Queen City Bike noted that dedicated Bike Lanes are more likely to be used by less experienced cyclists and children.

Frank Henson and Nern Ostendorn of Queen City Bike also shared their hopes for the increased usage of bike lanes as facilities are completed and discussed the “Safe Routes to School” federal program to increase physical activity among children by creating safer options for walking or riding to school.

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Michelle Dillingham concluded the open house meeting by thanking attendees and noted that there will be no further action taken on the bike lanes before the February 19th council meeting.

Communications Report-Christine Schumacher

Christine shared the continued efforts of the New Neighbor program. She shared details about a meeting at the Kennedy Heights Arts Center on March 5th from 7-8:30 to inform and encourage residents about different events and committees with which they can get involved. The goal is to increase awareness and involvement in community issues and events. The goal is also to increase communication with Pleasant Ridge residents. One of the communication tools is our Kennedy Heights Newsletter. The deadline for submissions for the March/April newsletter will be Friday, February 8th.

Announcements:

Next Council Meeting: February 19th, 7:30pm