

**Public Community Council Meeting
January 16, 2024, 7:30 p.m.**

7:34p.m. Sharifah calls the meeting to order

7:35 p.m. Church Updates

- A. There is a buyer for the Presbyterian Church
- B. The Caring Place will be moving between February 16 - March 16.
- C. Community Council will continue to be able to meet at the Presbyterian Church because the KHPC congregation has entered an agreement with the buyer to be able to utilize the Fellowship Hall for the next 12 months.
 - a. After that, we will be discussing with the buyers whether or not we can continue to be a partner and continue to meet there.
- D. Question from community: Will we still vote there?
 - a. We don't know yet because we have not been able to have direct conversations with the buyer until after closing. Those conversations will continue and the public will be updated.

7:37 p.m. Approval of the Minutes

- A. The community took time to review the minutes and the budget, which was presented in January.
- B. There is a sidebar conversation about a community member having difficulty logging in. Sharifah resolves the issue.
- C. Correction to the dollar amount of NSBDF grant, the actual number is \$3750.
- D. Correction to grant title: CNBDU
- E. Community asks how much is spent on postage of Newsletter
 - a. Postage has increased. About \$250 per newsletter, according to Mary Ray, who admits she hasn't looked at the bill in a few months, but that is a close estimate.
- F. Community asks about the NSP (Neighborhood Support Program)
 - a. Mary Ray explains the support from Invest in Neighborhoods, and how NSP is grant money from IIN, and that IIN also covers an insurance aggregate grant.
 - b. Sharifah offers the newsletter as an example of a program that is supported by the NSP.

7:47 p.m. Motion to Accept the Minutes with Proposed Changes

- A. Motion put forward.
- B. The Ayes carry it. The minutes pass.

7:48 Public Safety - Officer Martin

- A. Only one violent crime
- B. Auto thefts are down
 - a. One case of someone's car being stolen with holiday gifts inside.
 - b. In colder weather, be careful to not leave your vehicle unattended too long while warming it up. This is a common tactic.

- C. No other major crimes.
- D. Community member (Kesha Harris, from Orchard Lane) comes forward with question/concern; asking if Officer Martin is the one who deals with the phone calls about cars; they have a meeting coming up, but she would like to know now:
 - a. Her car has been marked several times, but she doesn't know why. Wants to know the process for reporting cars, because her car seems to be getting reported a lot.
 - i. In this case, Officer Martin has received several customer requests on her vehicle. Officer Martin tries to give time before towing a vehicle.
 - ii. Preparing to have a meeting with a sergeant, because this isn't the time or place—there was going to be a meeting.
 - iii. When a car is not moved, a person gets 48-72 hours to move the car. Officer Martin's personal approach is to give more time, in case a repair is needed.
 - iv. Harris wants to know how to address the issue with the community and why they keep reporting her car when they know she has a disability. She feels that it is an issue of discrimination, and wants to know how to deal with that.
 - 1. She does not trust police due to a terrible experience
 - 2. She wants to know what the police, and what the community can do about it, and wants it noted.
 - b. Mary Ray asks for more details about the situation, Steve Grieser proposes an in-person meeting as a follow-up because the issue cannot be resolved at this meeting.
 - i. Kesha would like her family to be present at the meeting.
 - c. Sharifah asks if a Community Council Board Member could be present at the meeting between Kesha and the police department. The meeting should be between Officer Martin, Sergeant Sellars, and Ms. Harris.
 - d. Officer Martin paused to take a call from Sergeant.
 - i. Clarified that because Ms. Harris has placed a complaint about the tagging of her car, that is in the system as a complaint against Officer Martin's case jacket, and therefore Officer Martin cannot invite the community, Ms. Harris must make the invitation.
 - ii. Ms. Harris responds by saying "I invite everyone to the meeting."
 - e. Officer Martin says that Sergeant is available for questions, should Sharifah like to reach out for contact information.
- E. Questions from Community: Asking for follow-up about the man assaulting people in the neighborhood in a ski mask.
 - a. The perpetrator was arrested and is in jail awaiting trial.

8:05 p.m. Fire - Captain Harris

- A. Just rescued a woman from a fire on Ridge Avenue. The fire was early in the afternoon, it is currently under investigation. Ladder 2 was on the scene, they had to help Engine 8

get into the building, and they found the woman off of a room from where the fire was, and they were able to get her out.

- B. Fire Safety Discussion Point is home heating safety
 - a. Make sure you are heating your home safely.
 - i. Do not use your stove to heat your house.
 - ii. Be careful with space heaters. They are notorious for being over amped/
 - 1. Do not plug into an extension cord
 - 2. Do not plug into an overloaded outlet
 - iii. Get your HVAC serviced before summer and winter.
 - iv. Make sure you have a properly functioning or properly ventilated system.
 - v. Get your fireplace serviced at the beginning and end of the season.
 - vi. Use a fireplace screen
 - vii. If you have a wood stove, have a protective plate beneath the wood stove to protect any combustibles that may come in contact.
 - viii. Be careful using an extension cord.
 - 1. Make sure it is not frayed, bent, or close to water
 - ix. Do not overload outlets.
 - b. Get a smoke detector
 - i. Call the Fire Department 357-7585
 - ii. Cincinnati-oh.gov go to Fire→Fire Prevention and you can make requests for inspections or fire detectors
 - iii. david.harris@cincinnati-oh.gov
 - c. Mary Ray adds that you should make sure you have a street number clearly visible from the street, and that if you don't, to reach out to the home repair program and they will help make sure there is a street number on your house.
 - i. Email homerepair@kennedyheights.org or call 513-202-4345

8:12 p.m. Treasurer Report - Mary Ray, on behalf of Treasurer Laura Weisbrod

- A. Not many expenditures in November or December. Most expenses came from the October 60th celebration
- B. Some income from Friends of Kennedy Heights. Thank you for your support.
- C. We ended the year under budget.
- D. Laura is still working on the AIG grant report

8:15 p.m. Presentation of 2024 Budget - Mary Ray, on behalf of Treasurer Laura Weisbrod

- A. Every year the Board presents a budget. We are funded in part by the city through two grants, and local fundraising:
 - a. Neighborhood Support Program (NSP) - approximately \$9500
 - b. AIG - the interest on a big pool of money that is doled out. \$800-\$1000.
 - c. We also do an Annual Fund campaign
 - d. Sap Run
 - e. Donations for t-shirts and yard signs
- B. We are anticipating a shortfall on our annual income due to the loss of our major fundraiser Bob Kemp, who will be stepping back from his usual door.

- C. We are recommending drawing on our savings account in the amount of \$4000
 - a. We have \$44,000 in the savings account, which is money that has come from various sources, especially from Friends of Kennedy Heights and there is no formal plan to spend it.
- D. Expenses are expected to be:
 - a. \$500 administrative - stamps, stationery, web maintenance
 - b. \$200 conference fees
 - c. \$500 Hospitality - usually a meal at our meetings, or one meeting with pizza, etc.
 - d. \$10,000 Newsletter - \$1500 per issue
 - e. - Events and Engagement, free community activities
 - i. Sap Run
 - ii. Play in the Park
 - iii. Undetermined fall event
 - iv. Winterfest
 - v. Juneteenth
 - f. \$2000 Parks & Green Space - activities, awards
 - g. \$2000 Common Orchard - startup funding; trees are planted, next are the brush and bushes to go under the trees.
 - h. \$100 Safety
 - i. \$1000 Neighborhood Mini-Grant Program
 - i. Have already received the requests that total this amount
 - j. \$ Membership of partner organizations like CUFA, Green Umbrella

8:20 p.m. Motion to Approve Budget

- A. Motion made. Seconded.
- B. The ayes carry, the 2024 Budget is approved and accepted.

8:21 p.m. Committee Reports - Parks & Greenspace - Kate Kern

- A. Pleasant Ridge Library will be co-hosting with KHCC a series of nature walks that will begin Saturday. They will be monthly, beginning at 2:30 p.m.
 - a. Please register in advance: <http://cincinnati.library.bibliocommons.com>
 - b. Where can we store this information?
- B. Wanting to have another Fall Event in Drake Park. Can apply for funding through the Parks Department, so perhaps this Committee dovetails with the Council for the fall event.
- C. May 18th will be Green-Up Day.
- D. Mary Ray jumps in to mention a program: "Roots to Boots"
 - a. From Keep Cincinnati Beautiful. Partnering with Cincinnati State for recent graduates of CPS.
 - b. Participants will attend a series of activities, and then in the fall you will start classes at Cincinnati State on horticulture and landscaping, etc.
 - c. If you know any young people interested in this, cost was not advertised, but they will help you with paperwork. You are eligible for financial aid like a college student, though it is a certificate program not a college degree.

8:26 p.m. Communications Committee - Amber Zeigler

- A. January February issue just hit mailboxes. Next one should be forthcoming.
- B. Deadline for content for March/April is February 1.

8:27 p.m. Hospitality Committee - Jane Patty

- A. Reminder that everyone sign in
- B. If anyone would like to join the Hospitality Committee, which is currently only a committee of two, please email board@kennedyheights.org

8:29 p.m. Housing & Aging in Community - Steve Greiser

- A. Kennedy Heights was contact by Paint the Town, an offshoot of Give Back Cincinnati
 - a. Every year in June they do a blitz to paint as many houses as possible.
 - b. They asked if Kennedy Heights could be a partner in 2025.
 - c. They would like to present at February meeting, and then we would need to be ready to help identify houses (the whole house) that need an exterior paint job. Bigger job the better.

8:30 p.m. Safety Committee - Pat MacVeigh

- A. Nothing to report

8:31 p.m. Community Partners - Development Corporation

- A. In November meeting, we voted on the NSBDF grant funding. We wrote \$1900 for a senior resource guide, which does not qualify because it technically has to be in the Business District.
 - a. Modifying it to be a four-sided sign to be at the corner of Kennedy and Montgomery
 - b. Designing the sign currently, and it will have removable panels to share update
- B. Motion to approve this change. The motion is seconded.
- C. The Ayes carry. The plan to change use of funds to a four-sided sign is approved.

8:32 p.m. Community Partners - Cincinnati Recreation Commission - Christian

- A. Glow Pickleball Party - February 23, 6-8pm
- B. Valentine's Ball - Family Fun Night - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- C. Tumbling Practice on Wednesdays, 4:30 - 6. Free.
 - a. There will be meets. Feb 1, 8, 15 all at 4:30 p.m.
- D. Starting a Book Club, the "Spicy Book Club."
 - a. Reading *Kiss Her Once For Me* by Allison Cochran

8:34 p.m. - Community Partners - Woodford School - Ashley Davis

- A. Applications are open for Magnet schools.

8:34 p.m. - Community Partners - Shroder High - Pam Wilder

- A. Still in need of tutors for basic math skills during the day.

- a. There is training and a background check, so must apply soon or wait until next year.
- b. Sharifah reminds you that as long as you graduated from high school, you are qualified to be a tutor.

8:36 p.m. Community Partners - Pleasant Ridge Library - Jennifer

- A. Nature Walks - don't miss it! Don't have to stay the whole time.
- B. Winter Checkout Challenge
 - a. Like a reading challenge, but for adults. Challenges you to explore different library resources and you can win a tote bag or a mug
- C. Ancient Stories and Stars
 - a. UC's classics department will talk about how the night sky inspired Greek stories and then if the sky is clear they will do stargazing. Pre-registration encouraged.
- D. Human Library
 - a. April 13
 - b. The idea is to break stigmas against conversation. If you have ever felt marginalized and are willing to have 1:1 conversations about it, please sign up to be a "Book"
 - i. Examples: atheists, abortion doulas, abuse survivors, priest
 - c. Volunteers would sit and have a 15-30 minute conversation with a Reader who can "check you out" and ask questions of you
 - i. There is training to make sure that Readers are respectful and do not cross boundaries you are not willing to cross

8:42 p.m. Community Partners - Arts Center - No Member Present

8:42 p.m. Community Partners - The Caring Place - Sharifah Tafari

- A. Closing date for the sale is February 16. We will have 30 days from that date to vacate the building.
- B. Planning on moving sometime between the first and second week of March. They will need lots of volunteers to help pack.
 - a. Call at 513-841-1499 or email caringplc@yahoo.com
- C. If you have a lot of boxes in good shape, please hold onto them for the Caring Place. Just drop them off any Tuesday or Thursday from 9-2, or contact Sharifah and she can come pick them up.
 - a. sharifah@kennedyheights.org
- D. Will also need people to help unpack and organize when they move into the Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church
 - a. There will be professional movers for the appliances and shelving, but other than that they will need community support.
 - b. Move-in date is still TBD, so stay tuned. Likely early March.
- E. Still accepting winter hats, scarves, pajamas, coats, boots, new underwear and socks, as well as pots and pans and linens for bed, bath, and kitchen.
 - a. Not accepting regular clothing or housewares.

- b. When they move they will not be able to have the boutique, so they will not be accepting furniture or housewares.
 - i. They will still take requests in case they have a client actively waiting for the item, but the items cannot wait in The Caring Place.
- F. No longer servicing Hamilton County, back to only PR, KH, Golf Manor, Silverton
 - a. Always have to bring a piece of mail that is no more than 30 days old in order to receive services.

8:46 p.m. Open to Public Comment

- A. No comments needed.

8:47 p.m. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

- A. Motion made. Motion Seconded.
- B. Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Kennedy Heights Community Council

8:12 PM

(513) 357-7585

david.harris@cincinnati.oh.gov

Mary Kidd Ray

8:13 PM

homerepair@kennedyheights.org - email if you need house numbers!

or call 513-202-4345

Kate Kern

8:25 PM

to register for walk in KH Park: <http://cincinnati.library.bibliocommons.com>

Kennedy Heights Community Council

8:26 PM

<https://www.facebook.com/KeepCincinnatiBeautiful/>

Mary Kidd Ray

8:27 PM

<https://www.facebook.com/kennedyheightsdc.org/posts/pfbid0nHqcC1QSAEbv6uLBHrMqwqhGMkQcpnTVEDrXseAswfiHYgaPi9W6vX56Dm15zQGNl>

Amber Ziegler

8:31 PM

Link to sign in: <https://forms.gle/PuCi3MiHyRDz5vUs5>

Christian Armstrong

8:36 PM

Pleasant Ridge Recreation Center Spicy Book Club is reading Kiss Her Once for Me by Alison Cochrun. Book Discussion at a later date.

Christian Armstrong

8:39 PM

Teens til 8, Black History Hoops at the Pleasant Ridge Recreation Center, 6:30pm - 8:45pm on February 16