

**Public Community Council Meeting  
February 20, 2024, 7:30 p.m.**

**7:37 p.m. Meeting Called to Order**

**7:39 p.m. Reviewing of Minutes**

- A. Motion to approve the minutes. Seconded
- B. The Ayes carry.
- C. Minutes are approved at 7:44 p.m. (2:48)

**7:45 p.m. Safety Report - Officer Martin, District 2**

- A. Overall crime is down.
  - a. The few assaults have all been between known parties.
- B. Uptick in identity theft
  - a. Do not provide personal information over the phone or online
  - b. Scams of people calling pretending to be family members in trouble needing money. Do not provide wire transfers for unknown circumstances.
- C. Auto thefts are still an issue
  - a. If you see someone in the act of auto theft or theft from an auto, do not engage. Many of these thefts are younger persons searching for firearms. Do not store firearms in your car, and do not engage with people stealing from cars.
- D. If you call the District with a question or concern, be sure to leave a phone number for follow-up
- E. Community member with question about an incident on a block of Woodford. Officer Martin did not have it on her report, but it is possible it will be on the next report.

**7:49 p.m. Safety Report - Captain Herbert, Engine 8**

- A. The Fire Safety Blitz will be coming again, and they may come to our neighborhood. They knock door to door and offer free installation of smoke detectors
- B. Students ages 14-18 can join the Cadet Program
  - a. Mon & Wed nights, Saturday mornings; come to the fire house, learn what the job is. Email [firecadet@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:firecadet@cincinnati-oh.gov) and they can send you information
  - b. Facebook: @CFDCadet
- C. Lot of local calls. Main cause is unattended cooking, space heater, or open flame.

**7:52 p.m. Treasurer Report - Laura Weisbrod (10:30)**

- A. Top Level: Not much activity.
  - a. A few donations from the Friends of Kennedy Heights through PayPal or at events.
  - b. Expenses were minimal: web maintenance and administrative expenses.
- B. 2024 Budget Vs. Actuals
  - a. Comparing what has been received or spent to what was approved for the 2024 budget YTD.
    - i. Goal to collect another \$3700 in donations

- ii. Expenses are way under right now, but more are coming
- C. Audit
  - a. Need community (aka, non-Board) volunteers to help with the Audit. Commitment should take about two hours.
  - b. Email [treasurer@kennedyheights.org](mailto:treasurer@kennedyheights.org) if you are interested in helping in this capacity.
- D. Motion to approve the Financials from Steve
  - a. Seconded
  - b. The ayes carry it. Financials approved at 7:56 p.m.

#### **7:57 p.m. Nominating Committee - Steve Greiser**

- A. This month and next month we will be recruiting individuals to join the Community Council and the Committees. The list of openings will be available soon
  - a. If you are interested, please email [board@kennedyheights.org](mailto:board@kennedyheights.org) or reach out to Steve personally at [steve@kennedyheights.org](mailto:steve@kennedyheights.org)
  - b. Committees are: Parks & Green Space, Youth Council, Communications, Hospitality, Events & Engagement, Housing & Aging, Nominating, Finance
- B. Elections will be in April so our hope is to present a draft ballot by March.

#### **7:58 p.m. Parks & Green Space & Environment - Kate Kern (16:46)**

- A. Would love more volunteers on the Committee.
  - a. Meet monthly on the same months that Community Council meets.
  - b. Take a yearly field trip. This year they will be going to an established orchard like the one we are establishing here.
  - c. If you are interested, email [kkern@kennedyheights.org](mailto:kkern@kennedyheights.org)
- B. Monthly Nature "In Our Neighborhood"
  - a. Collaboration with the Library and librarians Eric and Jennifer
  - b. Last week the outing was in Kennedy Park. Great turn out, lots of people sledding, walking, and enjoying the snow.
  - c. Next will be March 16, 2:30 p.m.
    - i. Library has registration process on their website. Search for "Nature"
    - ii. <http://cincinnati.library.bibliocommons.com>
- C. Green-Up Day will be Saturday May 18
- D. Planning some kind of opening/welcoming celebration for the Orchard
- E. Nominate your favorite tree in Kennedy Heights (email [kkern@kennedyheights.org](mailto:kkern@kennedyheights.org))

#### **8:02 p.m. No Reports from Youth Council or Communications**

#### **8:02 p.m. Events & Engagement**

- A. Sap Run is coming up in the spring. If you are interested in helping to plan it or to volunteer during the day of, please email [board@kennedyheights.org](mailto:board@kennedyheights.org)

#### **8:03 p.m. Hospitality**

- A. Reminder for people to sign in, both as a virtual attendee and in-person

## 8:03 p.m. No Reports from Housing & Aging or Safety

### 8:04 p.m. Community Partner: Kennedy Heights Development Corporation

- A. Development Corp met last month, and a project they have taken on is the Home Repair Project. Volunteers, under the supervision of a manager, help with basic repair projects through the neighborhood for neighbors who cannot complete it themselves.
  - a. Funds are always a need.
    - i. The program currently receives grants from Home Base, which can be used to pay for the salary of a coordinator who met with homeowners, assessed projects and prioritized.
    - ii. Also need funds for materials, supplies, and contractors. Guardian Savings has supported this in the past. Have a current request for \$50,000 to be spread across five years. Current funds have been used up, and KHDC doesn't have funds to continue.
    - iii. Requesting a "forgivable loan" from KHCC for \$5,000
      - 1. Ideally, those funds would be returned once the grants are received
      - 2. But if the grants are not received, then they don't have the money, and the loan would hopefully be forgiven.
      - 3. Motion to consider for a month. Voting to occur next month.
      - 4. Community member asks about how this affects the budget
        - a. There is no current line item in the budget for this, but the idea would be that the \$5,000 would come out of the \$42,000 in the KHCC savings account.
- B. Neighborhood Business District Improvement Program
  - a. This grant is being used to demolish the block on Montgomery to make room for the senior housing project.
  - b. March 8 deadline to consider pre-applications for potential grants, but we do not have clear projects to propose.
    - i. We've discussed a mini-park/parklet at the corner of Montgomery and Kennedy. This particular grant is only for Business Districts, which is limiting in our neighborhood since our business district is so small (From the laundromat on Tyne to Big Papa Auto, or the edge of Silverton)
    - ii. Another idea is purchasing the property across from the laundromat, sometimes called the Green Corner. It isn't in great shape, and the owners are asking a lot for it.
      - 1. Used to be a gas station, so developing the property beyond the small building that is there may be difficult with hazardous materials.
  - c. If there are any other ideas of ways to improve the Business District, please share them ASAP for the pre-application process. Email [Patrickmkhcc@gmail.com](mailto:Patrickmkhcc@gmail.com)

**8:10 p.m. Community Partner: CRC - Christian Armstrong (29:09)**

- A. Open Pottery Studio, Monday - Fri, 10am - 8pm.
  - a. Self-led class, so you need knowledge of a pottery wheel. Others will fire the pieces.
- B. Karate on Mondays and Wednesdays 6-8:30
- C. Yoga on Mondays and Wednesdays 6-7
- D. Friday, February 23, Glow Pickle Ball 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
- E. Now that it's getting warmer, please keep eyes on the outdoor pickle ball courts
  - a. Concerns about people not sharing again.
- F. Question from community: Can you reserve the pickleball court for a one-day tournament?
  - a. This would require reaching out to the Athletics Department, based out of North Avondale recreation center.
  - b. There is a fee for the permit, Christian estimates less than \$20

**8:13 p.m. Community Partner, School: Woodford Academy, Principal Caitlin Donner & Ashley Davis**

- A. Woodford is a magnet school from preschool to 6th grade. Families interested in attending have to apply through the magnet lottery.
  - a. Most openings are PreK, K and 1, but there are openings in all grades.
  - b. Due March 1.
  - c. Two upcoming information nights: February 28, 5-6 (virtual); February 29, 5:00 at the school.
  - d. Families are welcome to take a tour or have students shadow for an entire day.
  - e. Currently running a referral raffle so that if any current staff or students refer a family that ends up applying, there will be a raffle for \$100 among those referrals.
  - f. If you miss the March 1 deadline, you can still enroll but must do so in person at the school with the paper form.
- B. Question from the community: We've been hearing a lot of rumors about upcoming changes to Cincinnati Public Schools. Can you describe how these will impact Woodford?
  - a. There have been a lot of different things said in School Board meetings so far, and no clear decisions.
  - b. Communication received after the most recent Board meeting indicated a severe lack of engagement, so the Superintendent has indicated that there will be no changes next year.
  - c. Need to increase enrollment, so we are trying to get the word out about Woodford to boost enrollment.
  - d. Please tune into Board Meetings, attend Board Meetings. It makes a difference if you show up and voice what you believe your community needs.
- C. Question from the community: Is Woodford no longer Paideia?
  - a. No, the focus now is Arts and Culture. This is the only school with an Arts and Culture focus other than SCPA.
    - i. Every 5th and 6th grader chooses an instrument.

- ii. Partner with KHAC for Artists in Residence, walking tours to KHAC
- D. Question from the community: How do you convince parents to choose your school? Do you have stats you can provide about performance?
  - a. Ashley admits she is new to Woodford, but is from Silverton. Aware of the way that Woodford is tucked away in the corner and has trouble standing out from Silverton and PRM.
  - b. It is a magnet school, so anyone from anywhere in the district can attend.
  - c. Have strong supports for students in the deaf and hard of hearing community
- E. Question from the community: When you say "Arts" focus, do you mean fine arts?
  - a. Yes, it is a fine arts focus. There are before and after school options for clubs and enrichment. Art teacher has been commissioned by KHAC to create an outdoor artscape.
- F. Question from the community: What is a magnet school?
  - a. A magnet school exists so that families can find the school for them without being bound to their Neighborhood school, where your school is definite by your zipcode. Offers geographic diversity in the school population (though we do pull a lot from Kennedy Heights and Silverton area because it is so close).

**8:25 p.m. Community Partner, Schools: Shroder High, Pam Wilder (44:00)**

- A. Middle school will be presenting *Madagascar Jr* in the second week in March.
- B. Looking for opportunities for community service.
  - a. Students may help the Caring Place move, but if there are other community opportunities please let her know.
  - b. Neighborhood Clean Up day is coming, so that will be an opportunity for both Shroder and Woodford.

**8:27 p.m. Community Partner: Library**

- A. Reminder to check out the Winter Reading Challenge. Stop into the library

**8:28 p.m. The Caring Place (46:00)**

- A. Building has been sold to Mercy Hill Church.
- B. Caring Place will be moving out on Monday, March 4.
  - a. Will need volunteers for help moving Saturday, March 2 at 10am.
  - b. Student volunteers will kickstart packing on Friday.
  - c. Moving company will move on Monday.
  - d. Tuesday, March 5, will be move-in to the Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church and will be unpacking.

**8:30 p.m. Paint the Town - Rob Porter &**

- A. Paint the Town has been around for about 29 years, it's a branch off of Give Back Cincinnati, which goes around to different neighborhoods in the city to redevelop the houses in the area.
- B. Paint the Town is the biggest initiative, a one-day blitz that paints 15 houses or so.

- C. No hard or fast guidelines except that it must be owner occupied. Will often select homes owned by veterans, elderly, or people with disabilities.
  - a. All supplies are provided, including food and water for volunteers (breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and a social function at the end to celebrate success).
- D. Question from Community: Do they select the houses, or does the community?
  - a. They ask for help identifying the homes, and to have a liaison with the community who knows people and can help give neighbors the confidence that this program is legit.
  - b. Ultimate, the Board of Directors selects the homes from the list of applications. Is determined by a variety of factors based on the needs of the home.
  - c. Cannot paint a natural brick home; cannot paint vinyl; there are limits to how many "trim only" houses need work; limits to how many large houses they select (full third floor is difficult).
  - d. Commit to painting the house. If there is time, they can paint a garage.
  - e. Base color and a trim color. No fancier than that.
- E. Right now they are selecting communities for 2025. One dozen to two dozen houses; it depends on how many sponsorships and volunteers
- F. Once they've selected the area, they will be able to invite people to view this summer's project in Lincoln Heights which will answer a lot of questions
- G. Communities are selected according to enthusiasm of the community, availability of a community liaison
  - a. Hoping to have community select by April or May
  - b. Project will occur in Lincoln Heights this year on the second weekend of June
- H. Question from community: How picky are they about sticking to strict border of Kennedy Heights?
  - a. Can't go all the way to Norwood, but it can be flexible.
  - b. The hardest part is getting the applications out to the people and getting them returned in time to assess which houses are truly eligible.

#### **8:41 p.m. Comments Open to the Public**

- A. No comments brought forward

#### **8:41 p.m. Motion to Adjourn the meeting**

- A. Stever motions.
- B. Michele seconds.
- C. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

#### **CHAT**

You

7:38 PM

Greetings! If you are attending virtually and have not already signed in, please do so by following this link:

<https://forms.gle/39HGq1HNz33Jtbxm8>

Hover over a message to pin itkeep

Carren Herring

7:38 PM

Carren Herring

You

7:38 PM

Carren, please click on the link and use that form to sign in

Greetings! If you are attending virtually and have not already signed in, please do so by following this link:

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You

7:50 PM

Greetings! If you are attending virtually and have not already signed in, please do so by following this link:

<https://forms.gle/39HGq1HNz33Jtbxm8>

Laura Weisbrod

7:57 PM

For anyone interested in assisting with the audit for 2023, please reach out to me directly at

treasurer@kennedyheights.org

Carren Herring

8:03 PM

Christian,

Can we reserve the pickle ball courts first a one day tournament

Ashley Davis

8:20 PM

Yes the M.

Kaitlin Dauner

8:26 PM

Go Shroder!!

Kaitlin Dauner

8:27 PM

Woodford would be interested!