

OTR Community Council Membership Meeting Minutes March 30, 2015

Board members attending: Peter Hames, Michael Uhlenhake, Jenn Martin, Margy Waller, Cassandra Barham, Joan Kaup, Kareem Simpson, Seth Maney, Walt Carter

Board members excused: Ryan Messer

Board members absent: Evan Hennessey, Julie Fay, James McQueen,

Board members who left before the end of the meeting: Kareem Simpson, Seth Maney,

More than 80 people attended. Many were guests. 45 OTRCC members signed in.

Membership renewal is open. Dues are \$2 per person per year. Members must renew or join and pay their dues on or before May 29, 2015 to vote in June elections.

Agenda presented. Katrina motioned to approve it; seconded by Catherine. Changes and amendments to the agenda reviewed. Agenda approved.

Consent Items. Josh reminded us about having BOT minutes sent out in advance according to our bylaws. Jenn read treasurer's report. Motion to approve minutes and treasurer report, consent items, by Kevin Morrow, seconded by Cassandra Barham. Motion passed.

Harry Black, City Manager, **shared 5 priorities**

1. Safer streets. We are now a national model and resource for community policing and data driven tactics. Lets build on that success.
2. Growing economy. People and businesses are moving into the city. Job creation. Environment that allows equal access to the opportunity to compete for city business.
3. Thriving and healthy neighborhoods. Increase citizen engagement. City manager will put two things in the 2015-2016 budgets: 1) increase NSP funding. 2) Challenge grant initiatives with 5 grants to neighborhood associations to increase social cohesion. Reinvigorate our youth programs.
4. Innovative governments. Desired processes are leaner and more efficient and measureable. Will implement a stats tool.
5. Fiscal sustainability and strategic investment. City budget must be balanced and sustainable.

Retooling city government:

- Want to invest in smart transportation.
- Enhance transparency and citizen engagement through technology.
- Focus on innovative services and delivery.
- Champion social and economic justice.
- Cultural center of the region.
- Restructure departments and processes.
- Infrastructure Marshall plan.

City-County/shared services are not a panacea but there is a place for it.

Disparity study: 70% of the city incentives have been awarded to 38 companies. The city manager wants to broaden the base of those doing business with the city.

Nomination Committee: Kevin Morrow, Katrina Lackey and Sister Monica McGloin have agreed to serve on this nomination committee. Motion made by Mike Uhlenhake to approve this committee; seconded by Seth Maney. Approved.

Ratification of letter to NorthPointe Group.

Due to a snowstorm, the February BOT meeting was held immediately before the full membership meeting on the same date. At the February BOT meeting, the majority of the attending BOT supported the project and invited NorthPointe to present to the full membership meeting. Some of BOT members left during the full membership meeting, those BOT available, including the Board of Trustees C. Barnham, P. Hames, J. Kaup, R. Messer, J. Fay. Note that M. Waller was not in this conversation though she was in the room.) at the very end of the February membership meeting, came around the table and decided to send a letter to NorthPointe explaining that although the BOT supported the development but the vote, however, was not ratified by the full membership due to a process technicality.

At the March membership meeting, Peter gave a recap of the proposal that was presented last month. When NorthPointe made a formal presentation because doing so through the OTRCC membership meeting is a monthly forum to meet with residents. The vote of the February membership meeting was 14-7 to support the development. Because of a technicality that the meeting agenda was not approved prior to the meeting, that vote was void.

Peter opened this topic for further discussion at the March membership meeting. Over-the-Rhine Community Council membership shared concerns about the removal of basketball courts, the reduced footprint for Permaganic, the suggested price points of new infill housing, and how the planned housing and anticipated design of the development will impact the quality of life for the residents living nearby. Children from the neighborhood gathered at the recreation center and spoke at this meeting to call attention to their desire to keep the basketball courts where they play. Residents also expressed disappointment that no effort was made to reach out to families of Rothenberg by NorthPointe in the interim between their presentation in February and the March meeting of the Community Council. Peter shared that R. Messer had made attempts to connect the Rothenberg Academy and the developer. OTRCC and OTR Community Housing has offered to co-host a meeting with residents and NorthPointe in the near future to discuss these concerns in more detail. The vote was 18 to 8 to rescind the letter of support that OTRCC BOT sent in February. The Mt. Auburn Community Council voted to support this project. Representatives from NorthPointe attended, observed and heard the discussion. OTRCC Board of Trustees (BOT) will send a letter to NorthPointe to rescind the original letter.

Community boundaries.

The city recognizes areas that overlap from one neighborhood to another to notify residents of development. Peter showed different images of OTR boundaries, past and present, and a map showing areas where community council boundaries overlap (i.e.: OTR + Pendleton; OTR + CUF; OTR + Mt. Auburn) He also showed a map of the OTR historic district. The BOT embraces the principle that OTRCC boundaries for city notifications should encompass the historic district. The north side of Mulberry is currently outside the OTRCC boundary. Peter proposed to request an administrative step to include that overlap area. Mt. Auburn asked about the overlap. Michael

Uhlenhake suggests it should include everything that has ever been considered OTR. Margy says we should amend our by-laws and in the meantime ask the city to make the change administratively. Through discussion, the community supports BOT to amend our by-laws to move the northern boundary to include both sides of Mulberry and Seitz and to request the city to include that area for us as an overlap area.

Captain John, police report on violent crimes in OTR: YTD 5 felonious assaults in OTR, arrest in four of those; within the same time last year we had 12 shootings including 2 homicides. YTD take 50 guns were taken off the street 21 from OTR. Shown mapping of robberies. Breaking & Entry and burglaries are up 90% from last year. Focused enforcement areas: 12 & Race and NEP area. Appreciate open communication and collaboration. **May 14, 6-8 at Rec Center ABC of Police and Fire. Audience participation and interaction.** Residents encouraged to attend Safety Sector meeting on the 2nd Thursday at 2p.m. at OTR Chamber and the 3rd Weds at 5:30 at Corp. of Findlay Market.

Seth, **traffic and parking report**, stated the principles that BOT agreed to:
INSERT the 3 statements

1. We adopt the definition of eligibility for affordable that Legal Aid uses. 1) *Lease or other documentation from landlord that the resident lives in subsidized and/or tax credit housing (LIHTC); or 2) SNAP benefits (Food Stamps) as shown by Ohio Direction card; or 3) Medicaid as shown by Medicaid managed care plan participation or fee for service card; or 4) VA medical assistance as shown by VA health card; or 5) Ohio Works First cash assistance shown by Ohio EPPI card; or 6) Supplemental Security Income as shown by SSI award letter or appropriate documentation.*
2. We need at least 450 residential parking spots which can be found by reducing and/or eliminating the number of flex spots
3. The city should delay installing new meters until the residents have their residential parking permits.

Josh proposed an amendment to add a 4th point that:

4. Residents will not pay for a parking permit.

Discussion about whether that is an opinion or a principle. VOTE on Josh's amendment first. Motion carries. Then vote on total amended criteria. Motion passed to include all four points. These principles will be shared with city council.

Amber Simpson, Principal, Rothenberg School. Enrollment is 449. May 15 School Carnival afternoons following the Transition morning. Keep an eye on our children.

Mathew Andrews, NEP/Grant Park area. Dept. of Transportation agreed to a bump-out to reduce the intersection, enlarge the park and pedestrian crossing. To night understand the proposal. In April he will come back to ask the community to approve the design. Is it possible to add some sidewalk trees?

Paul Grether, Dir. Of Rail Services, METRO, asking for public comment re: operating the streetcar. Not displacing any bus routes. They suggest Metro Pass will ride streetcar at no additional cost. Two meetings for input in April and can give comment on website.

www.go-metro.com

Susan Lennard, Cincinnati Neighborhood Games, a competition between neighborhoods. From chess and trivia to stein holding. Finals in CBD and OTR. Learn more at the Facebook page:

Lan Field, 3CDC, presented new drawings and schematics for the development plan for the block of **15th, Pleasant, Liberty and Race Street**. No buildings will be destroyed. Some will be renovated. Mostly this is infill. The surface lot is in the center of the block, surrounded by buildings – mostly residential, some commercial. 59 residential units of which 27 are affordable. New design reflects a lot of the feedback and comments for residents in previous meetings.

Maureen Gregory, Episcopal Senior Housing, is building 65 low-income senior housing above YMCA, efficiency, one and two bedroom apartments. Will have events there on June 12 & 13. www.Overtheedgeforelders.com

Community Engagement, Walt Carter & Margy Waller, distributed surveys at the meeting for input about meetings. Want to survey people who don't come to meetings. Fun event next month for community engagement. A lot of information is posted on Facebook. We get so much information and it's hard to give people voice and still keep the meetings to an hour or two

Future Meetings:

April 4 – Annual Mohawk Cleanup, 1:00 p.m. at 421 W. McMicken

April 18 – NEP Cleanup – 9:00 a.m. at Grant Park

April 18 – Main Street Cleanup – 10:00 a.m. Orchard & Main

April 20 – OTRCC Board of Trustee Meeting – 6:00 p.m. at AAC

April 27 – April Community Council Meeting – 6:00 p.m. at Rec Center

May 11 – OTRCC BOT meeting – 6:00 p.m. at AAC

May 16 – OTR Chamber's OTR 5K Run/Walk and Summer Celebration

May 18 – OTRCC membership meeting; introduce trustee candidates (early because of Memorial Day) – 6:00 p.m. at Rec Center

June 22 – OTRCC BOT – 6:00 p.m. at AAC

June 29 – OTRCC meeting; election of trustees – 6:00 p.m. at Rec Center

Adjourned at 8:56.

Rec Center locks up at 9.