

OTR Community Council Membership Meeting February 23, 2015

Trustees attending: Ryan Messer, Pres; Seth Maney, VP; Joan Kaup, Secy, Peter Hames, Cassandra Barham, Mike Uhlenhake, Margy Waller and Julie Fay.

Trustees absent: Jenn Martin, Treas; Walter Carter; Kareem Simpson, Evan Hennessey, James McQueen

Motion to approve Minutes and Treasury Report as consent items by Mike Uhlenhake and seconded by Seth Maney. Approved.

Rick Kimbler and Maureen McDermott of North Pointe Group presented the **Rothenberg Row** project located at Main, Mulberry, Schiller and Hughes across from Rothenberg School. The project is to develop (delete "to") lots and supporting infrastructure, such as plumbing, sidewalks, curbs, driveways, and lights for 21 plots available to individuals to buy. The individuals who buy the lots will be able to design and build single-family homes. The expected price point for the units is \$400,000 to \$600,000. The plan also includes eight work-force housing units in an existing multi-unit building. NorthPointe is working with Permaganic program and will incorporate their garden into the Rothenberg Row community. This project is on vacant lots. No existing buildings will be removed. No people are being displaced. A basketball court will be removed, but the city will apply the value of it against \$250,000 budget needed to make the improvements in Grant Park. The lots are designed to repeat the rhythm of buildings in the area and will invite new infill construction. Single-family homes allow for more families to stay in the neighborhood.

This is our forum for families and neighbors to learn about what is happening in their neighborhood and to give voice to the conversation like the one we're having with NorthPointe. OTR Foundation is our partner who oversees the historic conservation.

Martha Dorff made the motion for membership to ratify the Board's recommendation to support the creation of lots and infrastructure for 21 single-family homes built in compliance with OTR historic requirements and associated processes. Motion seconded by Kevin Morrow. Show of hand vote: Favor – 14, Opposed – 7, Abstain – 4

Josh Spring pointed out we were in violation of two technicalities from our by-laws:

1. the agenda was not approved at the onset of the meeting
2. the membership was not notified in advance they would be asked on to vote .

At the end of the membership meeting, the attending board members, Ryan, Joan, Cassandra, Peter and Julie agreed to withdraw vote from the meeting. They also agreed that the board will write a letter of support for NorthPointe and

indicate that this support was not ratified by the full membership because of a technicality on process, not on the value of the project itself. Mike and Seth left the membership meeting early but they voted in support of the letter in the BOT meeting. The letter will be written quickly to meet the deadline of Feb 7<sup>th</sup>.

**NEP Program** – Budget is \$250,000 for lighting, safety items, fitness and playground equipment and landscape. We still need \$95,000 to meet the goal within the next seven days.

Marissa Burroughs [Marissa@KeepCincinnatiBeautiful.org](mailto:Marissa@KeepCincinnatiBeautiful.org) 513-352-4388, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, actively engaged in the NEP and Grant Park renovation. Asking for volunteers and leaders on Sat. April 18 from 9a – 1p. Meet at Grant Park, 65 E. McMicken St at 9 a.m. Notify Marissa in advance. Light breakfast and lunch provided for volunteers.

Captain Michael John, reported on NEP area. Increase in thefts and assault in this area. Increase in AC thefts and thefts from autos. 600 arrests in 2012; increased to 800 arrests in 2014. Focused on proactive police enforcement and drug arrests in the NEP area including evidence based initiatives, 15 minute hot spots, police overtime, and walking patrols. Most of the people arrested in OTR do not live in OTR.

Jason Richards, OTR Recreational Center: Visit their website for hours and scheduled activities [otr@cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:otr@cincinnati-oh.gov) or call them at [513-381-1893](tel:513-381-1893)

Barbara Bell, Rothenberg Preparatory Academy: School was closed last week for weather. Currently they have 448 students. Students will test for the next three weeks. Then please volunteer and get engaged with the school and students. <http://rothenberg.cps-k12.org/>

Mary Clare Reitz, On the Map: Share stories about your experiences in OTR. Sign up for guided walks and talks on April 11 and 12, 10a – noon, to get to know your neighbors and share your stories. Sign up at the mobile kiosk or meet at 10a.m. at Buddy's Place, 13<sup>th</sup> & Vine Streets.

Gerald Checco, Dir., Dept. of Public Services:

1. New trash policy and program starts April 5 – collect trash in 4 days, and focus on dumping and bulk pickups on the 5<sup>th</sup> day (Fridays). Family can have multiple carts that are lift-able carts. Contact 591-6000 to request an exemption from using carts if you have a disability, stairs, etc. Call 591-6000 to schedule free bulk pickups up to 5 items. Carts are available free if you go and pick them up
2. Private lot abatement – Will do citations and fines of lots that are littered and neglected.

3. Street sweeping – Looking at improved systems to do street cleaning less often but more effectively. Perhaps people on foot blowing the trash into the center of the streets and then collect.

The amount of trash is a signal that a neighborhood is in disarray. Asked for comments and calls from neighbors and Citizens on Patrol to let them know about littered lots and graffiti. Keep City Beautiful manages graffiti removal program for city. Note: 13<sup>th</sup> and Main is very heavily tagged with graffiti.

Like them on FaceBook <https://www.facebook.com/CincinnatiPublicServices>

Please contact Ryan Messer if you'd like to serve on the Nomination Committee to create and implement the plan to conduct the upcoming election of Board of Trustees in June. [ryanmesser@yahoo.com](mailto:ryanmesser@yahoo.com) [513-254-3523](tel:513-254-3523)

Future OTRCC Meeting Dates:

March 30

April 27

May 18 (Because of Memorial Day we will meet on May 18)

June 29