

Minutes

Present: Maurice Wagoner, Mike Bootes, Danny Klingler, Bob Sehlhorst, Stefan Athanasiadis, Kelly Strickland, Key Beck, Walter Carter, Thomas Fields, Julie Fay, Bill Cappel, Amy Silver

Absent: Anthony Bradford

Motion to accept the agenda. Walter moves, Stefan seconds.

Discussion to add the following topics to agenda: voter registration (Mike), city election candidate poll (Mike), by-law revision (Mike), Racial Equity event (Kelly), Systems ie email (Danny), Basketball tournament update (Walter).

All in favor with the revisions to agenda.

1. Music Hall Pedestrian and Traffic Issues-Maurice invited Oscar Bedolla from the City to come to OTRCC to discuss this project, he did not hear back from Oscar. There was discussion about the need to invite someone from DOTE to have a conversation with OTRCC about how to move forward with the next phase of this neighborhood project. Danny made a Motion: to ask city representative and Otto Budding to come to next OTRCC meeting to discuss the music hall pedestrian bridge project. Stefan seconds. Motion passed.
2. Sale of land at 1512-1520 Republic St. The city did not approve the sale of the land-wants the developer to meet with OTRCC before moving forward. Lisa Diedrichs is willing to come to meet with the BOT in the month of September. Peter Hames has been in communication with Lisa and shared this with the BOT. The BOT will invite Lisa or a member of the development team to the September BOT meeting. There was discussion about making sure that neighbors of the land, the Joseph House, are aware of this project. Danny made a Motion: that the BOT send a letter to City Council members that it is our understanding that the developer (interested in 1512-1520 Republic St.) is going to postpone the request for sale of the land until they meet with OTRCC in September at the BOT meeting. Stefan seconds. Discussion: there was concern from a few members about passing up on opportunities of investment in vacant lots and empty buildings. There was concern about discouraging developers. There was discussion for the need for the city to talk to OTRCC about the process for public land in Over-the-Rhine to be sold-can we get the city to come and talk through this process with us? There was also discussion around affordable housing and the importance of inclusionary zoning from a city ordinance so we as a council have more leverage around all of the upcoming development on public land. Vote called. Motion carries.
Peter encouraged the BOT to send a letter to Oscar at the city to speak with the BOT regarding the development process.
3. Neighborhood Support Program (NSP) Key had some updates based on his taking over NSP. Final council reports need to be in to the city by September 31st which means we need to get reports back from participating groups by the end of August. There are some issues around groups who were approved for NSP funds not completing their project. We need to connect with all NSP people so we can finalize if they are in fact going to spend the money or do we as a community council want to request a transfer of funds to another project

such as communication or membership? If we don't spend the money we have to send it back. There was discussion about how to spend our remaining money. Matt Jacobs emailed John with NSP to see if we would be allowed to purchase a printer for OTRCC use. Amy will purchase stamps and other membership items. Key will continue to work on gathering reports. Key will also see if Rothenberg's Gems program could use more funds before the deadline.

4. CRA Tax Abatement Workshop. Julie agreed to be a delegate to this workshop that Maurice was made aware of. There was discussion about the complication of tax abatements and the need for our community to continue to use them and also the need to maybe enhance them to include money set aside for the development around affordable housing. There was concern expressed around portions of the abatement being taken out for the streetcar, schools, etc and how more coming out for affordable housing would be hard on small developers-but it would be worth considering and exploring. Danny made a motion: That Julie and Matt be OTRCC delegates to the CRA meeting and that they would advocate for the renewal of the abatement city wide and that issues of affordable housing, mixed use abatement and the complicated nature of applying for tax abatements can discourage its use. Amy seconds. Motion carries-Bob votes against.
5. OTRCC work program/Committees: Maurice shared the data collected from the surveys taken at the July meeting. There was a lot of good feedback given at the July meeting and there was discussion about how to break into committees to better tackle the issues that the OTRCC wants to address. Board members are not required to chair these committees but they can if interested. The committees will be as follows
 - a. Economic Development
 - i. Julie, Stefan and Key are interested in this committee
 - b. Public Services and Safety (this will also include issues of trash and blight)
 - i. Bob is willing to chair this committee
 - c. Outreach and Engagement
 - i. Walter and Key are interested in this committee
 - d. OTRCC organization structure and Operations
 - i. Danny and Amy are interested in this committee. Danny will Chair.
 - e. Parking, Transportation and Complete Streets
 - i. Stefan is interested in this committee

Board members chairing or willing to serve on these committees will share with the full community council the purpose of these committees and will circulate sign up lists at the August meeting. Tables will be set up like they were in July to generate conversation. These committees will report back at board meetings on their work.

6. Mike Boots-shared his interest in informing the membership of voter registration. Mike also volunteered to generate a list of questions for all candidates running for city council so members of our community council can see clear answers from candidates. Mike is willing to spearhead these efforts and will circulate a draft list of candidate questions at the August Meeting.
7. Kelly-shared that the OTR Community Church is applying for funds to bring the Racial Equity institute to Cincinnati and they are looking for groups to co-sponsor the events. If OTRCC sponsored we would be able to send a few delegates to the training. Amy moves that OTRCC be a sponsoring group of the training put on by the Racial Equity Group brought by the OTR Community Church.
? seconds. Motion carries.

8. Danny- a google group has been set up for board members. This group will be password protected. This will allow a community member to email the entire board with anything. The email address is OTRCCBOT@googlegroups.com. There was discussion about the need for processes to be in place around snail mail pick up and handling-Stefan will pick up mail and get to Maurice. Current officers will be added as signatories to the checking account. Maurice and Danny are current signors. The committee around organizational structure and Operations will address other issues.
9. Walter-the downtown bowl will now take place on 8/19 starting at 8am. The events will be at Ziegler. Pool passes were donated so participants will be able to use the pool too. Walter invited everyone to stop by.

Motion to adjourn-Danny. Bob seconds. Meeting adjourned 8:20pm

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