Membership meeting Minutes
June 22, 2020

1. Motion to approve the agenda. Carissa moves. Margy seconds. Motion carries.


3. Treasurers report. Motion to approve April and May report. Mike moves approval. Bonnie Seconds. Motion carries.

Mike made a plug for voter turnout in the upcoming election. Peter asked a question about using the AIG funds to fill the NSP gap for 2020. Mike said that would help some but it won’t fill the full gap. We will use some of it for sure. We have a year membership for Zoom, purchased in June for the community council. Motion carries.

4. NSP-Key Beck

We had to have a 25% mandatory reduction and had to update our paperwork with the city to reflect our new budget. One of the NSP projects won’t happen due to the restrictions of Covid (roller skating for example). All the paperwork has been updated with the city so we are waiting to get the funds deposited into our account from the city. Please send Key any receipts from your project so you can get reimbursed.

5. Peaslee-equitable development rubric-Jenn and Joele

Jenn gave overview of the process that Peaslee has been on in the development of this rubric. There are 4 main categories that are rated. From this the rubric Peaslee has devised a policy framework for how this can be used. There are certain projects that are small that wouldn’t be run through the rubric-example, 4 unit building. This is to be used on large projects that are getting public incentives.

Why are they taking to community councils-a framework like this is helpful to community councils in the here and now to make the cities process better and smoother for the communities as they hear from projects. 2. There is power in the democratic voice of community councils. This can be used at the city hall level and community council buy in would be helpful to get this used at the city level. This helps makes the case to the city that this approach has value.

Short term gains for the council to use the rubric-practical uses of the rubric; gives you access to information that we wouldn’t have otherwise-if we don’t ask things of developers we won’t know some of these things. This would help us learn about what public subsidies are begin used by developers and what we can do with these subsidies in the neighborhood. This tool can help grow the transparency and community knowledge. The rubric lays out measurable equity benefits. This tool sets an expectation of quality community engagement from a developer when they are seeking a vote.

Peaslee is working on creating a guidebook for community councils to utilize these tools.

Key moves approval of the motion support the Peaslee Equitable Development rubric. Danny seconds.
Discussion-John Walter shared his perspective that this is a huge wet blanket on development in Over-the-Rhine. John brought up the WIlkommen project as an example of his concerns. It would be terrible for the city. Jenn shared that they wilkommen would have easily passed (meet the thresholds Peaslee is recommending) the rubric picking up a couple of points such as a few more community engagement events. Margy shared her perspective that we as a community council get to decide how to implement the rubric and how to use it as a tool. There was some great discussion from many members of the council with their perspectives and thoughts. (this secretary was not able to collect all of the comments as there were zoom meeting logistics to manage)

Josh would like to offer a friendly amendment to Keys motion. Offering a motion that we as a Community Council endorse and adopt the rubric and require developers to fill out the questionnaire and rubric. Margy seconds. Margy shared that the new Elm and Liberty developer has been asked to complete the questionnaire. They shared no qualms with doing the questionnaire.

Walnut hills council has endorsed the rubric and are working out the details on how to use it. Lower Price Hill, Evanston and Northside are all looking at it.

Amy called the vote-28 in favor, 1 abstaining, 2 opposed. Motion carries.

6. Past Council business needing approval.

Motion to approve letters send out from the board over the past 3 months –discussion about approving the letters in lump. Peter moving approval of all 7 letters. Michael seconds. no discussion. Motion carries unopposed.

7. Operations and structure. This committee has been working on this process and structure (meeting format) . This committee is next revisiting protocol (last looked at in 2017) . This will include language around this new meeting format.

8. Parking and Transportation-Margy

Continue to monitor what is happening on liberty street. There is going to be funding for some streetscaping. Matt Jacob is keeping tabs on that. There will likely be changes to Central Parkway streetscaping. Inviting someone from the city to come to the committee to talk about central parkway during game days. In July a rep from a FCC fan group will come to talk to the council about their hopes/plans and to get our feedback as we are their new neighborhood. Talked about the feedback we have already given to the city re: street closures for restaurants-they are planned to stay in place through September.

9. Housing and Economic Development –Julie. Most recently have been working on the rubric and hearing from Peaslee.

Request from Wilkommen Project-requesting a variance for a window bump out that will be over the sidewalk on the 2nd+ stories.

Kara Palmer will be leaving the city. Finished her work on the updates to the housing study and will update the committee in July. Next committee meeting is Tuesday July the 7th at 6pm.

Danny brought forward some concern over a development project at 1518 Race Street-an issue we voted on in 2017. This project is coming before the city council after going before Greg Landsman on Wednesday-skirting the typical process (have been denied 2 times by the HCB). An unprecedented approach to getting around the normal processes. Danny encouraged people to send an email to express concern. Vicky also shared her experience and concerns over this process.
Peter—Imagination Alley. The city has put out an RFP to engage someone to manage this space. They would program this alley and would be responsible for maintenance. There may be other restrictions. There has been no contact with the community on this RFP. Peter and Bonnie have both asked the city to withdraw this request. Peter asked that people let the city know our concerns. Maurice asked about sending a letter from concerned resident’s together—not a council vote as we are not able to vote on it tonight.

Danny asked that we put this on the agenda for the Economic Development and Housing agenda. Julie said yes as long as people don’t fuss about the meeting going long 😊 as things are piling up for the agenda.

10. President update—working on Finlay Park and the issue of it being fenced for nearly 2 years. It was fenced in the name of renovation but it nothing has been done. Maurice has been doing a lot of engagement around this issue. It’s time for the fence to come down. The kids and people need to use the park—it needs to come down.

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Peter moves. Danny seconds. Motion carries.