

Pleasant Ridge Community Council Meeting Minutes – January 5, 2010

The minutes from the November 2009 meeting were approved by general consent.

Treasurer's Report

Robert Ramsay distributed a report of PRCC's activity through the end of 2009.

Police Report

Officer George Engleman distributed a report of December's crime statistics for the neighborhood and announced that Bellewood Avenue has received its Block Watch signs. District 2 Captain Doug Wiseman reported that serious crimes went down significantly in 2009, thanks in part to the Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence. He stressed that community involvement is the key to safety in neighborhoods and throughout the city, and encouraged residents to join a Block Watch and/or Citizens on Patrol. The district is not expecting to receive any budget money for overtime duty this year. A resident asked whether the city has looked into smart phone applications that would allow citizens to make online complaints via mobile devices. Captain Wiseman said he hadn't heard about anything like that, but that he would be interested in exploring it.

Future Block Watch training sessions will be held at the Recreation Center on February 9th, May 11th, August 10th, and November 9th.

Recreation Center

Rick McCollum reported that the Cincinnati Recreation Commission is offering free memberships in January and February. In March, all memberships will convert to citywide memberships that can be used at any Recreation Center in the city. Memberships are \$10/year for seniors, children, and teens and \$25/year for adults. Gary Price from the Pleasant Ridge Recreation Center has been appointed as an arbitrator and investigator for the EEOC this year. The center has purchased some car seats for transporting youth athletes.

Principals & Pastors

Dr. Nicholas Yoda, pastor of Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church, attended the meeting to introduce himself to residents and discuss the church. He has been with the church for a year and said that he is still learning the church's culture. The church's activities are grounded in evangelism, to get people involved in Christianity. He asked the residents in attendance to think about how we can become what we're called to be, and said that his position involves balancing the church's roles of being an institution of leadership in the city and working with individuals.

Safety Committee Report

John McCarthy reported that there will be a Safety Committee meeting on January 26th at the Recreation Center to discuss strategies for counteracting crime in the southern

business district on Montgomery. He encouraged all residents to attend. He also asked residents to contact Don Trummel at 841-1256 if they're planning to attend a Block Watch training session.

Business Committee Report

Molly Blenk reported that the Business Committee is still looking for more Ambassadors to visit business owners in the neighborhood and talk about their concerns. Some of the Ambassadors will be speaking at future PRCC meetings. The committee is planning a meet & greet event for business owners in February in preparation for forming a neighborhood business association. Molly also announced that Cincinnati Bell Wireless will be helping us get free wifi coverage in the business district.

John McCarthy announced that a new shoe repair shop has opened in the building across from Nativity School on Ridge and encouraged residents to go say hi.

Beautification/Clean-Up Report

Janet Teske reported that the Mill Creek Watershed Council has the money for the plans for a rain garden in the park. The city's Parks Department sent a plan to the Metropolitan Sewer District at the end of December and is waiting to hear from them.

Hilton Davis Report

Marjorie Evert reported that the city has included consulting fees for the consultant on the Hilton Davis project in the 2010 budget. They are still waiting for the report from the Ohio EPA.

UDOD/Zoning Report

Bonnie Dixon reported that demolition has been approved for a building on Montgomery that has been a persistent problem over the years. The I&O Railroad will be fixing the tracks that cross Lester Road.

Communications/Events Report

John McCarthy announced that Will Menz' Pleasant Ridge video, which was entered in the city's "You 52" video competition, has been posted at www.pleasantridge.org. The results of the competition should be announced soon.

Informant Report

Josh Krekeler reported that residents should submit articles for the Spring Informant to him by February 1st. PRCC is still seeking a volunteer to coordinate newsletter distribution. Please e-mail Josh at pridge-informant@fuse.net if you can help.

Library Report

Mary Anne Phalen reported that the Library Committee is working with the Public Library for funds for construction drawings (approximately \$26,000) for the expansion project. The committee received \$18,000 in December!

District A

Maria Kreppel reported that the Playhouse's season in Pleasant Ridge and Kennedy Heights is continuing with their production of *Cyrano* at P.R. Presbyterian Church on Saturday, January 23rd. Maria encouraged residents to contact her with any and all ideas for how District A can continue to build the community. Plans are taking shape for the Art Museum to use part of the old Kroger building at Kennedy and Montgomery for an outreach and storage space.

2010 Budget Vote

John McCarthy reported that the neighborhood received a total of \$14,000 from the city's NSP and NBD funds in 2009, but that the amount has been reduced to \$7,000 for 2010. He proposed that the community apply for 2010 NSP and NBD funds as follows:

NSP: (\$5,000 total)

Hilton Davis: \$750

Beautification: \$1,250

Web site: \$1,000

Informant (newsletter): \$1,550

Recreation Center: \$200

Library: \$250

NBD: (\$2,000 total)

Police Detailing: \$750

District A: \$1,000

Business District Flags: \$250

A vote was called, and the proposal was unanimously approved by the residents in attendance.

Respectfully submitted by Josh Krekeler