

**Pleasant Ridge Community Council
Meeting Minutes – October 4, 2011**

President Introduction & Comments:

Special thanks: Eric Smith and the Ridge Day Committee; Jason Chambless for the Ridge Day Parade; Brian Drapp & John Miller for Ridge Night and Tammy Reasnor & Molly Blenk for the Informants. Also thanks to Michelle Dillingham from Kennedy Heights Community Council for organizing candidate night.

Updates & News: Banners are being ordered and made. Once we get them back they will go up. Many thanks to those who donated. Early voting starts today. Everyone should have received voting information already. Next PRCC/KHCC event is meet the new Police & Fire Chiefs. PRCC will organize and we would like a volunteer to spearhead the event.

Cincinnati Police:

Officer Engelman reviewed stats of September and brought copies of a few police reports. From 10a-5p there have been several incidents of home burglaries. One such case was a break in where robbers were inside the house for 30-45 mins.

Cincinnati Fire:

A representative from the firehouse reported that at this point the plans for a new firehouse have fallen through. Land plans fell through. There are concerns among those in the fire department because of staffing issues. The entire department is short staffed by about 32 staff each day. This will likely mean that the Pleasant Ridge FFs will be taken to other parts of the city for emergencies. He also addresses internal concerns of city pressure for 3-person crews, as opposed to the recommended 4 person crews.

Pleasant Ridge Rec Center:

Christian Armstrong-Owens talked about fitness classes and a new fitness instructor. Also the Fall Festival will be 6-8p on 10/21. It will be more of a family festival/carnival than in years past. CRC is continuing "I Can Swim" project, which teaches water safety and basic swim Tu & Th from 7-8p at the Mt. Auburn Pool.

Finance Report:

Ryan Sevek Not in Attendance.

September Minutes were approved by general consent.

Safety Report:

Don Trummel reported that the safety committee has been focused on 2 main areas: block watch and good guy loitering. If you are interested in starting a block watch or joining your block watch, contact Don at Safety@pleasantridge.org. Training for block watches are held on a quarterly basis. Next Good Guy Loitering is being held on 10/14 from 5-7p. Location is at Lawndale and Montgomery Rd. GGL is a group of neighbors who 'loiter' on a community corner where criminal activity has taken place.

Schools / Churches

David Knutson reported that PRM is hosting a neighborhood open house from 6-8pm on 10/5. It includes testimonials and a school tour. PRM has fallen back into academic emergency on the most recent Ohio Department of Education report card. Report Card reflects test scores and the overall scores were pretty dismal. Students are showing great results in the classroom, but the scores don't reflect that. The 3rd Annual Spaghetti dinner is Oct 22 from 3-8p.

District A:

Maria Kreppel reported that the 4th Annual District A Music & Arts Festival will be on Saturday October 8th. Festival will begin in the Kennedy Heights Arts Center at 10am and travel to Ridge Pavilion at 12n. Events will be going on throughout the day both in Pleasant Ridge and Kennedy Heights. For more information go to www.district-a.org. The Playhouse season opener is at Kennedy Heights Presbyterian Church on 10/29. Show is recommended for 7th graders and up. Finally, AIM Cincinnati has lost their lease and is looking for a new location.

Library Report:

David Dukart congratulated Mary Anne Phalen for being the Grand Marshall at the Ridge Day Parade. Construction on the Library is well under way. The elevator will be operational in about 1 month. There are a great deal of programs in October. The 4th Annual Books by the Banks will be held at the Duke Energy Convention Center on Saturday 10/22 from 10a-2p. For more information go to booksbythebanks.org.

Beautification Committee:

Beau McGrath reported on behalf of Jason Chambless that 10/22 is Make A Difference Day from 10a-2p for the neighborhood cleanup. Meet at the Rec Center for supplies and an area to be assigned. Students who have a need for volunteer hours are encouraged to join.

Speakers:

Sharon Smith from the Mayors Recycling Challenge spoke on behalf of a new initiative to encourage even more recycling. Since the new bins have been delivered recycling participation has grown by 75%. Neighborhoods are encouraged to grow recycling within their community and monetary prizes are being given to neighborhoods and community councils to encourage participation.

TCP Update:

A request has been made to the city regarding signage for drop off in the front of the building. Wendell Robinson updated the meeting on his meeting with UC. Comments from TCP teachers in attendance stated concern for the winter months and requested using the Orion lot during times of heavy snow. Karen French, TCP principal reported that the heaviest drop off time is from 8:50-9a in the morning, she also reviewed TCP's drop off procedures in attempt to alleviate traffic flow problems.