

Pleasant Ridge Community Council Meeting Minutes – July 6, 2010

No minutes from the May meeting were available; they will be submitted for approval at a future meeting.

Treasurer's Report

New PRCC Treasurer Ryan Sevek distributed an income and balance statement for the year to date. He also discussed plans for moving PRCC's accounts to PNC Bank.

Police Report

Captain Paul Broxterman, the new District 2 commander, reported that burglaries have risen in the district recently and that copper thefts are a large part of the problem. Sergeant John Cordoba from District 2's investigative unit asked residents to keep an eye out for people entering abandoned homes and foreclosure properties. Officer George Engleman recommended keeping a dog in the house as an effective deterrent to burglars and also reminded residents to turn on outside lights at night and keep their garages locked.

Recreation Center Report

Rick McCollum invited residents to attend a kids' Olympics event on Saturday, July 17th. Volunteers from P&G will be doing renovation work in and around the center on July 29th. The center will also be getting a new sign, and the old sign will be moved to the other side of the tennis courts.

Pleasant Ridge Development Corporation Presentation

Adam Pratt from PRDC attended the meeting to tell residents about the group and its plans. PRDC is trying to encourage economic development in the neighborhood. One of their main goals is establishing a Community Entertainment District in the main Montgomery Avenue corridor. They hope to attract more restaurants, which are good for leading to other development.

Bryn Lewis reported that PRDC wants to improve public perceptions of Pleasant Ridge as a walkable, convenient, and safe neighborhood. 40% of the retail spaces on Montgomery between Lester and the old BP site are currently vacant. Establishing a clear vision for the future of the area will help PRDC apply for grants and charitable donations.

Please contact PRDC at prdevcorp@gmail.com with questions, comments, or suggestions.

Safety Committee Report

Don Trummel reported that PRCC has budgeted money for 5-6 weeks of extra weekend night patrols. There are currently 13 active Block Watch groups, and more are forming. The Safety Committee meets on the 4th Friday of the month at Molly Malone's - they are looking for more members!

Business Committee Report

New PRCC Vice President Deb Chambless reported that there will be a "Pleasant Ridge Shop Hop" event on the weekend of July 23-25. Businesses around the neighborhood are offering discounts for the event. More details will be posted on the Web site and in the weekly e-mail bulletin.

Hilton Davis Report

Steve Simon reported that Citizens Concerned About Hilton Davis members will meet with state and Ohio EPA officials on July 22nd about the EPA's recommendations for the site clean-up plan. Also, nationally-known environmental activist Lois Gibbs from New York will be coming to the neighborhood to discuss Hilton Davis on July 29th (details to be announced).

Zoning Report

Carl Evert reported that the proposed cell phone tower at Burger King was denied, thanks to strong community opposition to the plan.

Churches Report

Carl Evert reported that he is working with Father Paul Deluca at Nativity to organize a non-denominational Thanksgiving service for the neighborhood.

Events Report

Beau McGrath reported that Ridge Day will be on September 25th. Planning is going well, but more volunteers are needed. The District A festival will be in early October. To volunteer for either event, e-mail Beau at communication@pleasantridge.org.

Library Report

Mary Anne Phalen reported that the library has raised \$247,000 so far for its accessibility renovation, and still needs \$116,000 more. They are continuing to seek additional grant money.

District A Report

Maria Kreppel reported that District A was profiled on the Channel 48 show "Focus", airing this week.

"Good Guy Loitering" Presentation

Brian Lee attended the meeting to present the idea of "good guy loitering" events as a way for neighborhood residents to help reduce crime. At these events, neighbors who are concerned about criminal activity at a spot in the neighborhood gather at that spot and socialize for an evening. These events build community among the neighbors and deter criminals. They're only part of broader, long-term efforts to reduce crime, but neighborhoods that have tried them have seen that they do help. Mr. Lee encouraged Pleasant Ridge residents to plan some "good guy loitering" nights.

Cincinnati Water Works Presentation

Steve Hellman from the Cincinnati Water Works attended the meeting to discuss the city's plan to transform the Water Works into a regional public water district. A charter amendment that passed last year said that city residents would have to vote to approve the creation of a water district. Mr. Hellman noted that residents' water bills mostly pay for sewer and stormwater costs. The growth that the water district structure will allow, he said, will protect low water rates for all customers, because usage is down in the city, but infrastructure costs are fixed. Residents raised some concerns, including that expansion could lead to a strain on the Great Miami aquifer and that service quality could be lower under a water district. There will be a meeting at the Cintas Center on July 28th where all residents will be able to comment on the plan.

Respectfully submitted by Josh Krekeler