

Pleasant Ridge Community Council Meeting Minutes – March 2, 2010

The minutes from the February meeting were approved by general consent.

Treasurer's Report

Robert Ramsay distributed a report of PRCC's activity through February. He also announced that PRCC will soon be accepting PayPal donations through the Web site and that residents can still nominate candidates for PRCC Treasurer.

Police Report

Officer George Engleman distributed crime statistics for the neighborhood for February. He noted that criminals are stealing copper from vacant homes and encouraged residents to get active in their street's Block Watch and/or Citizens on Patrol. The next Block Watch training will be at the Recreation Center on March 23rd.

Recreation Center

Kim reported that priority registration for summer camp has begun. The camp will run for 11 weeks, and the total cost per camper is \$1,000. The center is still seeking lifeguards for the pool. Senior Olympics will be held in April – call Lynn Melsner at 352-4000 for details.

Hilton Davis Presentation

Harold O'Connell from the Ohio EPA attended the meeting to respond to questions about their recently released recommendations for cleaning up the Hilton Davis site. He said that their approach was to try to quantify the risks to the environment and human health from the contaminants at the site, and that they think their recommendations are technically sound and consistent with the terms of the 1986 consent decree. The Ohio EPA's draft recommendations are open for public comments until March 26th. Mr. O'Connell encouraged residents who comment to be as specific as possible and focus on technical issues.

Several residents expressed frustration with the recommended remediation measures, feeling that their emphasis on containment, without removing the chemicals from the ground, will hinder productive future development of the site. One resident commented that the EPA shouldn't assume that the site will never be used for anything other than industrial purposes and that if the contaminants are left in the ground, the site may eventually be abandoned altogether. Residents also felt that the Ohio EPA had disregarded the neighborhood's desire for a comprehensive clean-up, which Citizens Concerned About Hilton Davis has communicated to them clearly and repeatedly.

Brewster Rhoads, Governor Strickland's Southwest Ohio liaison, was also in attendance. He said that he recently spoke with the Ohio EPA Director, who said the agency is concerned that if they recommend a full clean-up at Hilton Davis, other communities

around the state with brownfield sites will seek similar levels of remediation through the agency. Steve Simon pointed out that the "lagoons" section of the site was cleaned up to the highest standards years ago and the Ohio EPA did not view that as a precedent it must follow throughout the state, and that the agency's concerns about precedents are irrelevant because, unlike other communities, we have a consent decree that mandates a complete clean-up of the site. Mr. Rhoads suggested that if we can find a historical instance of the kind of remediation we'd like to see having been done in Ohio, it would help support our argument for a full clean-up at Hilton Davis.

Steve Simon moved that PRCC officially approve the 5-point Community Cleanup Plan that was submitted to the agency at their public meeting on February 25th. The motion was unanimously approved by the residents in attendance.

Business Committee Report

Molly Blenk reported that the Business Committee did little over the past month due to the snow. The committee is still seeking Business Ambassadors to work with businesses around the neighborhood.

Safety Committee Report

Don Trummel is the new chair of the Safety Committee. If you are planning to attend the Block Watch training on the 23rd, please e-mail Don at dtrummel@fuse.net.

Beautification/Clean-Up Report

The Spring Clean-Up Day will be from 8 AM – 12 PM on April 24th, with a focus on the southern business district. PRCC is looking for someone to serve as the new chair for the Beautification/Clean-Up Committee. Please see a member of the Executive Committee if you're interested.

Principals & Pastors

Reverend Eileen O'Reilly, who has been Pastor at All Saints Episcopal Church since August, attended the meeting to tell residents about the church. The church is located on Grand Vista, behind the library. The Episcopal Church has always been a place of sanctuary, respite, and fellowship. The church is hosting a community dinner on St. Patrick's Day that is open to the public. The church is also planning to serve free community dinners on the last Wednesday of every month, beginning on April 28th. Their weekly services are at 8:00 and 10:30 on Sundays.

Events & Communications

Beau McGrath reported that volunteers are needed to contribute baked goods for the Clean-Up Day on April 24th. He also invited residents to send him comments on the recent changes to the Web site (www.pleasantridge.org). John McCarthy noted that it's not too early to sign up to volunteer for Ridge Day.

District A Report

Maria Kreppel reported that over 250 people attended the Playhouse in the Park's performance of *Cyrano* and that the Playhouse is featuring its work in Pleasant Ridge and

Kennedy Heights in its Fine Arts Fund campaign this year. There will be an *Eth-no-tek* performance at Kennedy Heights Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM on March 20th.

Library Report

David Dukart announced upcoming workshops that will be held at the library on Lego building (March 13) and wilderness skills (March 22). Diane from the Library Committee reported that the library needs to move ahead on the accessibility project or risk losing some of their grant money.

Informant Report

Josh Krekeler reported that the Spring Informant will be ready for distribution by the middle of the month.

Respectfully submitted by Josh Krekeler