

Pleasant Ridge Community Council

Meeting Minutes – April 7, 2009

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

PRCC Elections

Steve Simon reported that the PRCC's Nominating Committee has nominated John McCarthy as President and Missy Montgomery and Molly Blenk as Vice Presidents for the PRCC Executive Board. No other candidates were nominated from the floor; the election will be held at the May meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Robert Ramsay distributed a report of PRCC's financial activity from January through March and the monthly balance sheet for March.

Police Report

Officer George Engleman reported that District 2 received a low number of service calls from Pleasant Ridge in February. RNS was robbed on March 9, and the robber fired shots in the air as he left the store. Officer Engleman suggested that residents take photographs of their property and record the serial numbers of important items as a precaution in case of burglary. More block watch groups are forming. If you're interested in organizing a block watch on your street, call 979-4465.

Recreation Center Report

Rick McCollum reported that 90 children have enrolled for summer day camp at the center so far, including some disabled children. Joe Cornelius and Anthony Hill from the Youth Council reported that the Youth Council has been busy organizing several activities, including basketball, volleyball, and job readiness training.

2009 NBD Allocation

Steve Simon reported that the Executive Board has recommended the following allocation of Neighborhood Business District funds for 2009:

\$3,500 for beautification projects, including additional planters in the business district
\$3,000 for extra security services, to be administered by the Business Committee
\$1,250 for marketing and signage projects for the business district
\$500 for Winterfest
\$500 for the library
\$250 for administrative costs

A motion was made and seconded to accept this recommendation. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of all residents in attendance.

Soap Box Derby

Doug Newberry reported that Mayor Mallory is offering a \$10,000 prize in the Mayor's Cup Challenge for this year's Soap Box Derby if 100 cars enter, and encouraged Pleasant Ridge to try to enter a second car. The Nativity car that won the Mayor's Cup for Pleasant Ridge last year was on display during the meeting. The race is open to children ages 8-13; more information is at www.cincinnatisoapboxderby.com.

District A

Maria Kreppel reported that the Playhouse in the Park is staging the play *Theory of Mind* at ballet tech cincinnati on April 19th.

Library Report

Mary Anne Phalen presented Pleasant Ridge Library librarian David Dukart with a commendation from PRCC in recognition of his 25 years of wonderful service as a librarian, 16 of which have been at Pleasant Ridge. She also reported that Molly Malone's is hosting a fundraiser for the library on April 23rd. The library will receive 15% of the bar and food receipts that evening.

Communications/Newsletter Report

Josh Krekeler encouraged residents to read the weekly e-mail bulletins of neighborhood events and to sign up to help deliver the Informant around the neighborhood. Submissions for the pleasantridge.org Web site can be mailed to pcc@pleasantridge.org or robertjramsay@gmail.com.

Events Report

Beau McGrath reported that past PRCC Vice President Ken McWhorter has volunteered to coordinate Ridge Day this year. Ridge Day will be at the Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church on September 26th. There will be a planning meeting at the church on April 14th at 7:00 PM.

UDOD/Zoning Report

Bonnie Dixon reported that she has requested speed signs and a flashing light on Lester to help with school traffic. New UDOD/Zoning co-chair Joe Bubnik introduced himself and reported that more speed humps will be put in on some streets later this spring.

Schools and Churches Report

Carl Evert reported that the Board of Education is having a workshop for families and educators on building inclusive environments on April 16th.

Ruth Anne Wolfe reported Dr. Evert is receiving an award from the League of Women Voters in recognition of his leadership in promoting green construction. Congratulations!

Hilton Davis Report

Marjorie Evert reported that the final clean-up orders for the Hilton Davis site have been drafted. They will now be reviewed by the Ohio EPA and submitted for public comment. The Ohio EPA will likely hold a public meeting in the neighborhood related to its decision on the Hilton Davis clean-up plan some time in the next few months. Watch the weekly "What's Going On" e-mail bulletin for details.

Clean-Up and Beautification

Janet Teske reported that the Beautification Committee has secured funding for the design of rain gardens for Pleasant Ridge Park; the gardens will trap more rain water and clean the water that passes through. The next step will be to apply for funding for the construction costs. A rain garden will also be planted at Pleasant Ridge Montessori on May 2nd. The spring Clean-Up/Green-Up Day will be from 8-noon on April 25th. To get involved in these and other innovative green projects around the neighborhood, call Janet at 731-2113 or 314-1756.

Business Committee

John McCarthy encouraged residents to patronize two restaurants that have recently opened in the neighborhood – The Loving Café and Rasheeda’s Café 2. Sharif Abdullah from Rasheda’s Café attended the meeting and thanked the neighborhood for giving him and his staff such a warm welcome.

Safety Report

Safety Committee Chair Lynn Watts exhorted residents to get involved in keeping Pleasant Ridge a safe community by joining Citizens on Patrol and joining or organizing a block watch group on their street. The Safety Committee’s next meeting is at noon on April 24th at Molly Malone’s.

RNS

Steve Simon asked residents to attend a Vibrant Neighborhoods Committee on liquor license renewals at 6:00 PM on April 20th at City Hall to express objections to renewing RNS’ license.

Protect Our Water

Marjorie Moseley reported that the City Manager is working on a plan to re-organize the Cincinnati Water Works into a Water District, which could decrease accountability to city government, lead to a decline in service quality, and allow water rate increases without City Council’s approval. A feasibility study on the proposal is due to be released in early May. Ms. Moseley encouraged citizens to call the City Manager and City Council about the plan and to visit her group’s Web site at www.natiprotectourwater.org. (PRCC Secretary Josh Krekeler has also publicly advocated against the Water District plan.)

Respectfully submitted by Josh Krekeler