

Pleasant Ridge Community Council Meeting Minutes – August 4, 2009

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

No police report was presented at the meeting, as neighborhood officers were attending the National Night Out.

Treasurer's Report

Robert Ramsay reported that KKG has forgiven PRCC's \$2,500 debt from the visioning project in 2006. However, the City of Cincinnati has notified us that a \$4,059 check was issued and cashed twice (also in 2006). PRCC will have to repay that amount this year.

NSP Manager

PRCC is required to elect a Neighborhood Support Program Manager to coordinate our annual application for NSP funds from the city and serve as a contact for NSP issues. Tony Lane, a local CPA, was nominated to replace Michelle Krummen, who had been serving in that role. Mr. Lane was unanimously elected by the residents in attendance.

Recreation Center

Rick McCollum reported that the recreation center's summer camp program is going well. The center will continue its partnership with Pleasant Ridge Montessori School to provide after-school programming for PRMS students during the upcoming school year. Zumba (Latin dance) and Dynamic Movement (movie-style staged combat) classes have started at the center. The Pleasant Ridge Piranhas swim team won the city championship – congratulations!

Safety Report

John McCarthy reported that the Police Department is facing some budget crunches, but also expects to receive some economic stimulus money. This has been a fairly safe summer in Pleasant Ridge, although there are still reports of problems at Glengate. The Safety Committee is hoping to recruit more Block Watch captains.

RNS

Having determined that challenging RNS' liquor license would be too challenging, PRCC has decided to work with the store to help them find ways to be a positive part of the community. The manager is willing to make some changes in their stock, and John McCarthy solicited residents' ideas about what the store could do to encourage more people from the neighborhood to shop there. Some of the comments offered were:

- The store has too much beer, wine, and cigarettes, and not enough groceries.
- More staple items such as bread, milk, and soda would help.
- The store could stock some nicer mid-range wines.

- The store should work with PRMS on ways to bring parents into the store, such as sponsoring snacks at a PTO meeting and stocking school supplies and PRMS spirit wear.
- Ridge Day will be a good opportunity for the store to enhance its image in a positive way.

Hilton Davis Report

Marjorie Evert reported that she hasn't heard anything new from the Ohio EPA about their final clean-up orders for the Hilton Davis site; when they're ready, the orders will be sent to the Ohio EPA's director.

Business Committee Report

Molly Blenk reported that the new parking signs for the business district will be up very soon. The major public lots are at Mullaney's, Walgreen's, and on Orion across the street from the lot behind the Gas Light Café. The Business Ambassadors have made initial visits to businesses in the neighborhood. The Business Committee is still looking for more volunteers to serve as ambassadors. They are also working on ways to attract new businesses to the neighborhood, discussing market research possibilities, and trying to build a strong unified community among the businesses that are already here.

Business Committee meetings are held on the second Monday of the month, usually at the Recreation Center. E-mail business@pleasantridge.org for details.

Schools and Churches Report

Carl Evert reported that PRMS Principal Maria McDonough will be speaking at the September PRCC meeting. Future speakers will include representatives of Nativity Church and Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church.

UDOD/Zoning Report

Joe Bubnik reported that fellow UDOD/Zoning volunteer Bonnie Dixon has been working to resolve issues with a property on Montgomery that has been a persistent problem. The building will probably be demolished.

Communications/Events Report

Beau McGrath reported that the Communications Think Tank has started its project of redesigning and updating the neighborhood Web site. There will be a page on the site for each PRCC committee. If you have any suggestions, please e-mail them to communication@pleasantridge.org.

Beau also discussed the YP Kitchen Cabinet's "You 52" video competition. All city neighborhoods are being invited to create a 60-second promotional video about their neighborhood intended to attract young professionals to live there. The videos will be shown on the Fountain Square Jumbotron, and the winning video will air on Channel 9's "Newsmakers" program.

September 26th is Ridge Day! The entertainment will include a magician, the McGing Irish Dancers, an African dance troupe, and Madcap Puppets. You can register entries for the Ridge Day Parade, or sign up to volunteer, by e-mailing parade@pleasantridge.org.

District A is presenting a program called “All Shades of Green” at the Green Corner Studios, Kennedy Heights Arts Center, and ballet tech cincinnati from 4-8 PM on August 8th.

Informant Report

Josh Krekeler reported that the Summer issue is in the layout stage. The deadline for the Fall issue will be October 1st.

Library Report

Mary Anne Phalen distributed an impressive list of the Library Development Committee’s recent work. She noted that volunteer support from dedicated neighbors and in-kind donations have kept the committee alive. The Library Committee is selling Molly Malone’s coupons as a fundraiser (two coupons for a \$5.00 discount on a pizza [\$10.00 total savings] for \$5.00). The Pleasant Ridge Library’s accessibility campaign will not only help the library serve the entire community, but will also make it much less likely that the library will be closed. The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County will face a \$16 million total budget deficit for 2009 and 2010 unless the levy that will be on the ballot this fall passes.

Candidate Night?

John McCarthy asked for residents’ opinions on whether PRCC should organize a night for local political candidates to come answer questions from the community. Tom Phalen supported the idea, but advised that we be sure to spread the word about the event and keep candidates to a strict time limit.

Rookwood Pottery Presentation

Chris Rose attended the meeting to tell residents about Rookwood Pottery’s plans to re-start its pottery business in Cincinnati, starting with architectural and large-scale commercial work. They have rented a block of warehouses in Over-the-Rhine and will be building an arts campus there, which will also include a restaurant, a museum, and community space. They will be bringing in national and international artists.

Respectfully submitted by Josh Krekeler