

## Pleasant Ridge Community Council Meeting Minutes – February 2, 2010

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

### Treasurer's Report

Robert Ramsay distributed a report of PRCC's activity for January. He also announced that he will be stepping down as Treasurer at the end of his term later this year. Anyone who is interested in running for PRCC Treasurer should contact a member of the Executive Committee.

### Secondary Items for Neighborhood Funding

Robert Ramsay reported that the community did not use all of the NSP/NBD money that it originally agreed to use for specific projects in 2009. To maximize our use of city money, he proposed that we designate the following secondary funding priorities in case we encounter a similar situation this year (in order of priority): 1) \$1,000 to Winterfest, 2) \$1,000 to the Library's accessibility project, and 3) \$1,000 to District A. These funds would be in addition to the amounts originally budgeted.

The proposal passed by unanimous vote of the residents in attendance.

### Police Report

Officer George Engleman distributed a report of January's crime statistics for the neighborhood. He reported that there were a couple of breaking and entering attempts at stores in the business district and a shooting in the parking lot of RNS recently. A resident commented that the law is slanted in favor of liquor license holders and against neighborhoods, and that there seems to be no allowance for license holders on sites close to schools.

### Recreation Center

Kim reported that the Recreation Center is preparing for an 11-week summer day camp; the enrollment fee is \$1,000. Camp hours will be 7 AM – 6 PM.

### Principals & Pastors

Maria McDonough, Principal of Pleasant Ridge Montessori School, attended the meeting to discuss the continuing evolution of the school. PRMS is the first LEED-certified public elementary school in Ohio. The school follows the core Montessori philosophy of "following the child." The school has had to balance being a Montessori school with being a public neighborhood school. Ms. McDonough praised the work of PRMS' Local School Decision-Making Committee, the governing body that makes major decisions for the school. Anyone from the community can join the LSDMC (see Ruth Anne Wolfe or Carl Evert). In the 2008-2009 school year, the school grew from 320 students to 580 students. The school also has teacher groups called "correlates" focused on the following areas: Green & Environment, Diversity, Peace, and Academic.

### UDOD/Zoning Report

Bonnie Dixon reported that she is working with a new building inspector for the city, Andy Perdue. Residents can call Mr. Perdue at 352-1931 about problem properties (residential or commercial), and he can direct the issue to the appropriate people with the city or police department.

### PRCC Report

John McCarthy reported that PRCC is seeking new leaders for the Beautification and Safety Committees in addition to a new Treasurer. Please see a member of the Executive Committee if you're interested!

### Safety Committee Report

John McCarthy reported that there will be a Block Watch training session on February 9<sup>th</sup> at the Recreation Center. He encouraged all residents to attend. If you'd like to get involved in Block Watch or start a Block Watch on your street, please e-mail Don Trummel at dtrummel@fuse.net.

### Business Committee Report

Molly Blenk reported that the Business Committee is planning a meet & greet event for business owners in March in preparation for forming a neighborhood business association. The committee recently helped to organize a meeting to discuss citizens' and business owners' concerns about the southern business district. There will be a follow-up meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Molly also noted that a new barber shop, Blends, has opened on Ridge north of Montgomery.

John McCarthy reported that new parking signs have been posted in the business district and that new lights have been installed in the lot on Orion.

### Beautification/Clean-Up Report

Mark your calendars for the spring Clean-Up event on April 24<sup>th</sup>!

### Secretary of State Presentation

Shekar Jayaraman, a regional representative for the Ohio Secretary of State's office, attended the meeting to tell the community about the office's projects and services, including election services, voter registration, and ensuring accessibility at polling locations. The Secretary of State's Web site has a lot of useful data on the state's social health under the heading "Better Lives, Better Ohio" (see the link from the main Web site at sos.state.oh.us). The Social Health Index that encompasses this data is a good tool for civic engagement and lobbying.

### Hilton Davis Report

Marjorie Evert reported that the Ohio EPA has issued a Statement of Basis report with its recommendations for the clean-up methods it will require for Hilton Davis. The Ohio EPA will hold a meeting for public comments at the Recreation Center on February 25<sup>th</sup>. They are also accepting written comments by mail, e-mail, and fax through March 12<sup>th</sup>. After the comment period, the EPA will issue its final requirements. The statement lists

acceptable remediation measures, which are mostly focused on containment of the contamination at the site rather than cleaning it up. The statement also does not provide for funding the monitoring of the remediation measures.

Steve Simon encouraged the community to come to the February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting in large numbers and clearly express our dissatisfaction with the report.

#### Communications/Events Report

Beau McGrath announced that the Events Committee is seeking new members and a Ridge Day coordinator. Volunteers are especially needed for setting up and tearing down the festival site. E-mail Beau at [communication@pleasantridge.org](mailto:communication@pleasantridge.org) (or see him at a meeting) if you can help with Ridge Day or want to join the committee!

#### Informant Report

Josh Krekeler reported that the Spring Informant will be delivered in March. PRCC is still seeking a volunteer to coordinate newsletter distribution. Please e-mail Josh at [pridge-informant@fuse.net](mailto:pridge-informant@fuse.net) if you can help.

#### Library Report

Mary Anne Phalen reported that the Library Committee is planning to apply some grant money to the construction drawings for the accessibility project. The committee will be pursuing some new grants and hopes to raise \$150,000 in 2010.

David Dukart reported that the Public Library's collection will start "floating" this year to provide some variety in the selections available at each branch. Rather than being sent to the branch from which they were borrowed, items returned to the Pleasant Ridge branch will stay there.

#### District A

Robert Ramsay reported that the Playhouse's production of *Cyrano* at P.R. Presbyterian Church last month was a great success. He encouraged residents to support the Fine Arts Fund with personal donations and/or through workplace donation campaigns.

*Respectfully submitted by Josh Krekeler*