

## Pleasant Ridge Community Council Meeting Minutes – June 2, 2009

The minutes from the May meeting were approved with one correction.

New PRCC President John McCarthy reported that there was a good response to the annual fund drive and that Ridge Day fundraising is also going well. He also announced that PRCC is still looking for storage space for miscellaneous supplies (which can be counted as a tax-deductible donation).

### Police Report

Officer Engleman reported that overtime patrols in the business district have begun. The city has made some budget cuts to the health department's litter area, so they're unable to respond to residents' calls about high grass. The police are encouraging neighbors to cut high grass themselves and send the bill to the city, and also to ask City Council not to cut litter funding.

A resident moved that PRCC send a message to City Council to preserve litter department funding. The motion was seconded, and approved by a unanimous vote of the residents in attendance.

### Recreation Center

Rick McCollum reported that the recreation center is getting ready for summer. They are hosting students attending 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter at Pleasant Ridge Montessori, and have 120 kids enrolled in summer camp. The pool is open 12:30 – 7:30 Monday-Friday and 12:30 – 4:30 on Saturdays.

### Beautification Report

Janet Teske reported that there will be a tour of neighborhood gardens on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. Some proceeds will go toward the rain garden project in Pleasant Ridge Park. As part of the Metropolitan Sewer District's broader efforts to reduce stormwater runoff, the Sewer District contributed a \$5,000 grant to the project, which was used for design work.

Ms. Teske made a motion that PRCC accept the initial \$10,000 grant for the project and reserve it in a separate fund. If the money in the fund cannot be used for the rain garden in the park, then it will be used for beautification projects at the library. The motion was seconded, and approved by a nearly unanimous vote of the residents in attendance, with one vote against.

John McCarthy reported that PRCC has also received a \$10,000 grant from Keep Cincinnati Beautiful to renovate a parking lot behind the business district on Orion. The money will be used for additional lighting, beautification, and signs. PRCC will be responsible for paying for the electricity for the lights, but he is trying to negotiate for some money to rent parking spaces in the lot that would offset the electricity cost.

John made a motion that PRCC accept a \$9,200 bid to renovate the Orion lot. The motion was seconded, and approved by a unanimous vote of the residents in attendance.

Stephanie Benhase provided some reports from the Great American Clean-Up event in April and invited residents to call her about litter problems at 314-1133.

#### Safety Committee

John McCarthy reported that the Safety Committee is seeking funds from the city to support streets in Pleasant Ridge with Block Watch programs. More volunteers have been signing up for Citizens On Patrol.

#### Business Committee

PRCC Vice President Molly Blenk reported that the Business Committee is looking for more Business Ambassadors to serve as liaisons to the more than 120 businesses in the neighborhood. The committee is distributing packets to the businesses and working on helping the owners form an active community. The Business Committee meets on the second Monday of the month – e-mail [business@pleasantridge.org](mailto:business@pleasantridge.org) for details.

#### Hilton Davis

Marjorie Evert reported that the Ohio EPA is still finalizing its clean-up orders for the Hilton Davis site; when they're ready, the orders will be sent to the Ohio EPA's director.

#### Schools and Churches

Carl Evert reported that Kennedy Heights Montessori Center will be providing after-school care for pre-schoolers next year. He will also be inviting pastors from neighborhood churches to speak at future meetings.

#### UDOD/Zoning

Joe Bubnik reported that more street humps are being installed around the neighborhood. A resident pointed out that in addition to slowing private vehicles, speed humps also slow down the police and fire departments' response time. Residents can report potholes, high grass, and other issues through the City's Web site or call in reports to the Public Services department at 591-6000.

#### Communications/Events Report

Beau McGrath reported that the Communications Committee will be working on redesigning and updating the neighborhood Web site. If you have any suggestions, please e-mail them to [communication@pleasantridge.org](mailto:communication@pleasantridge.org). The Communications Committee's next meeting is at 7:00 PM on June 15<sup>th</sup> at the Recreation Center. Beau also encouraged residents to join the Pleasant Ridge, Cincinnati group on Facebook.

September 26<sup>th</sup> is Ridge Day! The next Ridge Day planning meeting will be on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### Library Report

Mary Anne Phalen reported that the library will be displaying a thermometer sign for their accessibility fundraising campaign and has received a \$6,000 challenge grant. They are requesting \$124.00 from PRCC to pay for the sign.

David Dukart reported that the library's recent event with Chuck Harmon (the Reds' first African-American player) was a lot of fun. The library is sponsoring reading incentive programs for all ages.

#### District A

Maria Kreppel asked for PRCC's approval for District A's vision statement. It was approved unanimously by the residents in attendance. The District A team is working on putting up new art at 6099 Montgomery and in A Salon Named Desire. There will be a Community Conversation at Cincy Yoga on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### Nicholas Hollan

Nicholas Hollan, a candidate for Cincinnati City Council, attended the meeting to tell residents about his campaign. He works for the American Red Cross and serves on the boards of United Cerebral Palsy and Westwood Community Council. He briefly described his campaign's focus on neighborhood revitalization, and early childhood health care and education. For more information, visit [www.nicholashollan.com](http://www.nicholashollan.com).

#### Giving Garden

BJ Gardner attended the meeting to announce the opening of an art gallery, studio space, and community education garden in Kennedy Heights in the near future. The garden will include raised beds that will be available for gardening by students and the elderly.

*Respectfully submitted by Josh Krekeler*