

Pleasant Ridge Community Council

Meeting Minutes – March 3, 2009

The minutes from the January meeting were approved by general consent (the February meeting was canceled due to inclement weather).

PRCC Elections

Steve Simon reported that he and Vice Presidents James Devanney and Kate Powell will be stepping down at the end of this term. The PRCC's Nominating Committee has nominated John McCarthy as President and Missy Montgomery and Molly Blank as Vice Presidents. Additional nominations will be accepted at the April meeting, and the election will be held in May. Please see Steve or another officer if you or someone you know would be interested in serving.

Treasurer's Report

Robert Ramsay distributed reports showing PRCC's financial activity for February.

Police Report

Captain Wiseman from District 2 commended Pleasant Ridge for our high level of community involvement, as shown by consistently good attendance at monthly PRCC meetings. He encouraged residents to apply their neighborhood spirit to keeping an eye out for suspicious activity and letting the police know about it. The District's non-emergency number is 765-1212. Joining Citizens on Patrol is another excellent way to get involved without making a major time commitment.

Officer George Engleman provided February's crime statistics for the neighborhood. He said residents should call him right away if they notice anyone entering a vacant property. He also announced that March is "Lock It or Lose It" month, designated to encourage everyone to keep cell phones, GPS devices, and other small items attractive to thieves hidden or in the trunk when leaving them in the car.

After the Police report, a resident noted that the plastic bags of coupons delivered on Saturdays are delivered by the Enquirer, and anyone who does not wish to receive them can call the Enquirer's delivery number at (800) 876-4500.

Recreation Center Report

Rick McCollum reported that the Recreation Center is extending its historic partnership with the Blue Ash YMCA and Pleasant Ridge Montessori into June for students attending "Fifth Quarter" at PRMS. The center will also be expanding its ceramics program and adding tai chi classes for children.

2009 NSP Allocation

Steve Simon reported that the Executive Board has recommended the following allocation of Neighborhood Support Program money for 2009:

\$4,000 for the Informant

\$1,500 for maintenance and development of the pleasantridge.org Web site

\$1,500 for legal services related to Hilton Davis

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

Safety Report

Pete Engel reported that Citizens on Patrol is looking for neighbors to join the group. The next training for Citizens on Patrol is March 12th, 19th, and 26th. Applications are due on March 5th. The training session after that is May 7th, 14th, and 21st (subject to change). The application deadline for the May session is May 1st. The trainings are from 5:30-9:30 at the Police Academy downtown. The only other commitment is the monthly meeting and one patrol per month, at minimum. The more people we can get, the more patrols we can do! Anyone who would like to sign up can call Pete at 774-7742.

John McCarthy announced that Lynn Watts will be the new head of the Safety Committee.

Business Committee

On behalf of the Pleasant Ridge Development Corporation (PRDC), Robert Ramsay reported that PRDC has been re-organizing itself over the past couple of years so that we can more aggressively pursue city funds available for neighborhood business districts. PRDC owns the parking lots at Mullaney's and behind the Gas Light Café on Orion, and Mullaney's has offered to buy their lot. Robert asked if the community would authorize PRDC to negotiate the sale since PRDC has not yet fully organized itself as an independent group. After some discussion, including suggestions that PRDC require that the lot remain a public lot and that the town center structure at Ridge & Montgomery be excluded from the sale, a motion was made and seconded to grant PRDC the authority to negotiate the sale. The motion passed by a vote of 20 for to 1 against.

Clean-Up and Beautification

Stephanie Amos reported that the self-watering planters in Pleasant Ridge helped the neighborhood win first place in a recent Keep Cincinnati Beautiful contest. She encouraged all residents to attend the next biannual Green-Up/Clean-Up event on April 25th. Pleasant Ridge Montessori is planning a clean-up event around the school for students on the same day.

Janet Teske reported that the Metropolitan Sewer District has accepted the first phase of the design for renovating the Pleasant Ridge Park. The renovation will feature rain gardens along the southern edge of the park, which 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. Janet also reported that two rain gardens are planned for Pleasant Ridge Montessori. One will be installed by Pleasant Ridge Youth Council members, and the other is an Eagle Scout project for a Boy Scout at the Presbyterian Church. To get involved in these and other innovative green projects around the neighborhood, call Janet at 731-2113 or 314-1756.

Hilton Davis Report

Steve Simon reported that 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. We will provide updates at the next PRCC meeting and through the weekly "What's Going On" e-mail as the plans develop.

Schools and Churches Report

Carl Evert reported that he is seeking support within the CPS community for a proposal to have all 60 of the Local School Decision Making Committees in the system appoint an environmental committee. Each committee would manage the recycling program at its school and monitor air quality and energy use at the school.

Ruth Anne Wolfe reported that PRMS' Kindergarten enrollment day is on March 12th, and that the PRMS Foundation is holding a party/fundraiser at the Kennedy Heights Arts Center on April 14th.

UDOD/Zoning Report

Steve Simon introduced the new heads of the UDOD/Zoning Committee, Bonnie Dixon and Joe Bubnick.

Events Report

Beau McGrath reported that Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church has volunteered the use of its site and facilities for Ridge Day this year.

Communications/Newsletter Report

Josh Krekeler reported that the Spring Informant will be delivered to residents in a few weeks, and that volunteers are still needed to pass out the newsletters on streets that don't have street captains yet. The submission deadline for the Summer issue is May 15th. He also encouraged residents to read the weekly e-mail bulletins of neighborhood events and get their neighbors signed up as well.

Library Report

Mary Anne Phalen announced upcoming events at the library in March. She also emphasized that the library's accessibility project will help the library survive through future budget cuts in the Public Library system.

District A

Maria Kreppel announced that the District A 2009 street festival is being planned for October 10th.

Pleasant Ridge Care Center

Eric Plummer from the Pleasant Ridge Care Center attended the meeting to let the community know that the center, a nursing home on Verulam Avenue, has done extensive renovation of the building and is expanding its staff. They have found sites with more appropriate services for the sex offenders who had been staying there.

Respectfully submitted by Josh Krekeler