

Pleasant Ridge Community Council
Meeting Minutes – May 5, 2009
“Farewell, Steve Simon” Edition

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

Treasurer’s Report

Robert Ramsay distributed PRCC’s monthly balance sheet for April.

Police Report

Officer George Engleman reported that there was good turnout at last week’s block watch meeting. He will be looking further into a report of a resident with a knife spotted on a neighbor’s porch. He also cautioned residents not to leave valuable items such as GPS devices in plain sight in parked cars and noted that vacant houses for sale are attractive targets for copper thieves and squatters. To report high grass, call 591-6000.

A resident reported that coupon bags are being distributed by two companies: The Enquirer (800-876-4500) and Red Plum.com (731-1200).

Recreation Center Report

Rick McCollum reported that the center’s summer day camp is full. The pool will open on June 1, and refreshments will be sold during pool hours. The center is wrapping up a successful after-school programming partnership with Pleasant Ridge Montessori, which they expect to continue next year.

2009 NBD Allocation

Steve Simon reported that the city has reduced the allocation of Neighborhood Business District funds to \$7,000 per neighborhood. As a result, the Executive Board recommended the following revised allocation of Neighborhood Business District funds for 2009:

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

PRCC will endeavor to provide the amounts previously proposed for Winterfest (\$500), the library (\$500), and administrative costs (\$250) from existing funds.

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

Invest In Neighborhoods Grant

Invest In Neighborhoods is offering grants of up to \$2,000 for miscellaneous neighborhood projects. Steve Simon recommended that if Pleasant Ridge wins a grant,

we continue our tradition of using the money to reimburse streets for summer block parties (up to \$50 per street, for streets with street captains only).

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

PRCC Elections

The following new officers were nominated for the PRCC Executive Board:

John McCarthy as President

Missy Montgomery and Molly Blenk as Vice Presidents

Mr. McCarthy and Ms. Blenk were elected by a unanimous vote of the residents in attendance. Ms. Montgomery was elected by a nearly unanimous vote, with one vote against.

Youth Council Report

Timothy Nelson, representing the Pleasant Ridge Youth Council, reported that the group has approximately 15 members and has some good activities going on.

Safety Committee Report

Robert Ramsay reported that 10 streets were represented at the recent block watch meeting. If you are interested in starting or joining a block watch group on your street, please call Safety Committee chair Lynn Watts at 703-4265. The Safety Committee meets on the fourth Friday of every month at Molly Malone's at noon.

Steve Simon reported that not enough data has been collected to oppose RNS' liquor license. He encouraged everyone to call District 2 whenever you observe any illegal or questionable activity around the store. He testified about RNS at a recent city hearing, and plans to meet with the owner again.

Business Committee Report

John McCarthy reported that the Business Committee has nearly completed its Business Ambassador packages, but is still seeking additional ambassadors. The committee will be ordering more parking signs for the neighborhood and also has parking maps that business owners can distribute. The Business Committee meets on the second Monday of every month at 7:00 PM (e-mail John at president@pleasantridge.org for the location of the next meeting).

A resident mentioned that he recently heard a rumor that the Ridge Club may merge with the Kenwood Country Club. The rumor was confirmed as only a possibility at this point by another resident who heard similar speculation around the hot tub.

Clean-Up and Beautification

Janet Teske reported that the Beautification Committee has received \$10,000 for PRCC from the Bischoff Foundation (through the Mill Creek Watershed Council) to help fund the rain gardens being planned for the Pleasant Ridge Park. She solicited advice from attendees on how PRCC should direct the use of the money, and will follow up at next

month's meeting. Beautification Committee members will be participating in a garden tour around the neighborhood on June 7th, which is a fundraising event organized by the Wines & Vines Garden Club. Proceeds from this event will also support the park rain gardens. To get involved in green projects around the neighborhood, call Janet at 731-2113 or 314-1756.

Hilton Davis Report

Marjorie Evert reported that she has reported her findings from the recent groundwater report from the Hilton Davis site to environmental consultant Henry Cole, who will forward them to the Ohio EPA. She had no further news to report on the final disposition of clean-up orders for the site.

Schools and Churches Report

Carl Evert reported that he is planning to invite pastors and principals from local churches and schools to speak about their institutions at future community meetings. He reported that a rain garden has been planted at Pleasant Ridge Montessori School, with help from the Mill Creek Watershed Council and UGive Cincinnati. There are also plans to plant raised garden beds at the school as part of a program sponsored by Xavier.

The community congratulated Dr. Evert on his receipt of a Daniel Ransohoff Award for Civic Activities from the League of Women Voters in recognition of his leadership in promoting green construction.

UDOD/Zoning Report

Bonnie Dixon reported that she recently met with a city inspector about a problem property on Montgomery Road. The city will attempt to take over the property and condemn the building.

Events Report

Beau McGrath reported that there will be a planning meeting for Ridge Day on May 6th at Molly Malone's. Mr. McGrath will be the head of the revived Communications Committee and invited residents to submit items for the Pleasant Ridge Web site by e-mail at communications@pleasantridge.org.

Communications/Newsletter Report

Josh Krekeler reported that the submission deadline for the Summer Informant is coming up. He will be working with Michelle Boyles on a description of Street Captain duties and will bring a list of streets that still need Street Captains or volunteers to pass out Informants to the next meeting. A resident suggested posting the newsletter online in addition to distributing printed copies.

Library Report

Mary Anne Phalen reported that the library's recent fundraiser at Molly Malone's was a great success; the library collected almost \$3,000. They may do another event this fall. The library is also working on a challenge grant and other grants. Ms. Phalen thanked the Beautification Committee for planting the flowers in front of the library.

David Dukart reported on upcoming events at the library this month.

District A

Maria Kreppel reported that the Playhouse's recent performance of *Theory of Mind* at ballet tech Cincinnati was well-attended and brought together leaders of four autism-related agencies, and that there is a strong possibility of future collaborations with the Playhouse. She distributed a list of upcoming District A events. She is also working on getting some art to place in the open storefronts at Montgomery & Ridge.

City Council Candidate Tony Fischer

Tony Fischer, who is running for Cincinnati City Council, attended the meeting and praised Pleasant Ridge's corporate spirit. He is a Cincinnati native and has served in the Army. His two major priorities for the city are to increase the responsiveness of City Hall and other city service departments and to expand the tax base by bringing people back to Cincinnati. Residents who are interested in learning more about him and his campaign can visit his Web site at www.votetonyfischer.com.

Au Revoir, Steve!

Past PRCC Presidents Dr. Carl Evert and Pat Fischer praised retiring President Steve Simon for his openness, patience, good humor, and effective leadership during his term. The neighborhood has made a lot of positive progress over the past few years, thanks largely to Steve's efforts. We'll miss him, and we're happy to know that he'll still be working to improve the neighborhood.

Announcements

Steve Simon reported that PRCC is looking for a site to store miscellaneous supplies; any business owner who can provide such a site can count it as a tax-deductible donation.

The next PRCC meeting will be held on June 2nd rather than July 7th. There will be no meeting in July.

Respectfully submitted by Josh Krekeler