

Pleasant Ridge Community Council Meeting Minutes – October 6, 2009

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

Treasurer's Report

Robert Ramsay distributed a report of PRCC's activity through September. He noted that Ridge Day was especially successful this year.

Police Report

Officer George Engleman reported that crime in the neighborhood is down about 30% from last year. There were no problems at Ridge Day.

Captain Doug Wiseman reported that the police department has avoided layoffs for this year, but that the city's projected \$51 million budget deficit for next year could mean trouble for them. Burglaries and thefts are the biggest crimes in Pleasant Ridge and District 2. The district now has a dedicated burglary squad. Captain Wiseman encouraged residents to call 765-1212 to report any suspicious activity.

Nativity Presentation

Father Paul Deluca from Nativity Church and Nativity School Principal Bob Herring attended the meeting to discuss Nativity's history in the neighborhood. Nativity Church has been at its current location since 1917 and has 715 families as members. Nativity School opened in 1921. The school focuses on global education, and participates actively in international exchange programs. There are 411 K-8 students at the school.

Ridge Day Parade Award

John McCarthy presented a customized trophy to representatives of Woodmont Avenue, who won the Best Street Float award for their Oktoberfest-themed float at Ridge Day.

Recreation Center

Rick McCollum reported that the Recreation Center is seeking donations of booster seats and/or money to buy booster seats so they can transport their under-8 athletic team members to competitions at other centers. Donations can be dropped off at the center, and are tax-deductible.

Business Committee Report

Molly Blenk reported that attendance at Business Committee meetings has been good. The Business Ambassadors are continuing to visit businesses around the neighborhood. There will be a get-together for business owners around the beginning of the year. John McCarthy noted that the former home of the National City branch on Montgomery is now for sale. There is no news about future business district tenants.

Boulevard Banners Proposal

Matt Kemper attended the meeting to discuss his interest in working to replace the street banners in the business district along the north side of Montgomery. They are an important part of the neighborhood's image, and the current banners are torn and faded. Matt proposed that PRCC fund the purchase and installation of 15-20 new banners between Pleasant Ridge Montessori and the library, which would cost approximately \$2,900-\$3,400. The banners would last four years or longer, depending on the weather. The city has approved the plan. Residents discussed which logo would appear on the banners. A neighbor volunteered to donate the labor to install the banners. Much of the existing hardware for hanging the banners could be re-used. A motion to take down the old banners now passed by general consensus. John McCarthy suggested forming a subcommittee to review the options. Molly Blenk suggested that the Business Committee could discuss asking businesses to pay part of the cost.

Anyone who is interested in getting involved in the project should e-mail Matt at mattandrachel2000@yahoo.com. Matt will plan to make a formal presentation at the November meeting.

Fire Report

Firefighter Griffith from Engine 8 reported that the company attended Ridge Day and several block parties and was warmly received everywhere. He advised residents to check the batteries in their smoke detectors, review fire escape plans with their families, and be careful when using space heaters as the weather grows colder.

Beautification/Clean-Up Report

Ruth Anne Wolfe reported that the Fall Clean-Up Day will be on October 24th. A resident encouraged people to pay attention to the area around Swift and Attica at the southwestern corner of the neighborhood. More diligent litter pick-up and general maintenance in this area would improve the impression of Pleasant Ridge for people coming up Montgomery from Norwood. He also noted that the former Mills Fence lot has been particularly neglected. John McCarthy will discuss problems at that lot with the city.

UDOD/Zoning Report

Bonnie Dixon reported that the city will be demolishing a problem property on Montgomery, but we don't know when. Also, the city's staff for cutting high grass has been reduced to 2, so their response time may be slow. Robert Ramsay reported that Bellewood will be applying for speed humps.

Library Report

Mary Anne Phalen reported that the library volunteers have been concentrating on the levy campaign, and encouraged citizens to volunteer on Election Day.

Informant Report

Josh Krekeler reported that the Fall/Winter Informant is being finalized, and should be ready for distribution around mid-November.

District A Report

Maria Kreppel distributed programs for District A's First Birthday festival on October 10th. She also noted that District A is the only area in which the Playhouse in the Park will be presenting performances at different venues for the upcoming season (between October and April).

Candidate Forum Announcement

John McCarthy reminded residents that PRCC will be hosting a forum for Cincinnati City Council candidates at Pleasant Ridge Montessori on the evening of Tuesday, October 15th.

Tax Levy Issue Presentations

Sharon Hannon from Ohio Valley Goodwill attended the meeting to encourage residents to vote Yes on Issue 5, the MRDD Services tax levy. The levy provides 73% of the Hamilton County MRDD Board's budget. This levy would raise property taxes \$1.26 per month per \$100,000 of value.

Patrick Nugent, the Museum Center's Director of Major Giving, also attended the meeting to encourage residents to vote Yes on Issue 6, the Museum Center tax levy. The Museum Center has maintained a balanced budget since 2004.

Respectfully submitted by Josh Krekeler