

# Pleasant Ridge Community Council

## Meeting Minutes – September 2, 2008

Approval of the August meeting minutes was deferred due to the length of the agenda.

### Fire Report

Lieutenant Tom Lepera from the Engine 8 firehouse reported that smoke detectors and a limited number of CO2 detectors are available at the firehouse for residents who need them in their homes. The company made 139 runs in July. 10 were fires, 94 were EMS responses, and 35 were non-fire responses. Lt. Lepera cautioned residents that the department was averaging 200-300 runs per day over the summer and that EMS responses may involve a delay to wait for an ambulance, especially on hotter days.

### Police Report

Detective Kinney from District 2 attended the meeting to discuss the robbery and assault of three teenaged residents at Walgreens on August 17<sup>th</sup>. He reported that the district is conducting a long-term investigation to identify the offenders in the incident and a few other robberies that they believe are related.

Community members discussed their concerns about safety in the neighborhood. Several solutions were suggested:

- Form block watch groups to supplement police patrols. Any street that collects signatures and e-mail addresses from at least half of the residents on the street can receive training and get Block Watch signs. Contact Officer Engleman at District 2 at 979-4465 for more information.
- Join the neighborhood's Citizens on Patrol group. After three training sessions, participants do periodic nighttime walking patrols in problem areas. The local COPs need more people to sign up to support additional patrols.
- Keep properties well-lit at night, and consider installing light timers or motion sensors.
- Call the police dispatch line at 765-1212 to report any suspicious activity. They will respond to all calls.
- A "Take Back the Night" event later in the month.
- Property owners being more assertive about keeping loiterers out of private lots.

A neighbor asked about the cost of a security camera. Lieutenant Williams said that the cameras run from \$8,000 -15,000 apiece, but that they are only effective if a series of them is covering a broad area. They are intended as investigative tools rather than deterrents to crime. Lt. Williams noted that additional walking patrols are being assigned to the Pleasant Ridge/Kennedy Heights area. Officer Engleman also asked residents to call him to report gang graffiti.

### Treasurer's Report

Robert Ramsay distributed a balance sheet and income statement for August and thanked Marjorie Evert for helping to keep an eye on the Hilton Davis budget.

### Recreation Center Report

Rick McCollum reported that the Recreation Center is planning to develop additional programs for teens.

### Montgomery Corridor Arts Collaborative/District A

Eric Bertelson attended the meeting to tell residents about the District A street festival that will be held on October 11<sup>th</sup> along Montgomery Road, between Pleasant Ridge Montessori School and the Kennedy Heights Arts Center. 20 music and entertainment acts will be performing throughout the day, and several artists will be displaying and selling their work in the lot at the Ridge Pavilion. Kate Powell noted that this is the first joint project between Pleasant Ridge and Kennedy Heights in a long time.

The community previously voted to use \$4,000 of Neighborhood Business District funds from the city for a Pleasant Ridge-Kennedy Heights business directory. The labor for that project was donated, so Ms. Powell called for a vote to contribute the funds to the October 11<sup>th</sup> event instead. The motion was made and seconded, and approved unanimously by the residents in attendance.

More information and a calendar of events are online at [www.district-a.org](http://www.district-a.org).

### Safety Committee Report

Bonnie Dixon reported that residents on Glengate Lane have applied to the city for installation of street humps.

### UDOD/Zoning Report

The Lillian Galloway studio next to the 5/3 Bank branch on Montgomery has been torn down for the expansion of the bank's parking lot. Kate Powell reported that one of the neighborhood's "problem properties" discussed at a meeting several months ago has been scheduled for demolition, and that further discussions will be held with the city about another.

### Schools Report

Carl Evert announced that the formal dedication ceremony for Pleasant Ridge Montessori School will be held at 9:00 AM on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. He also thanked the police for their prompt removal of graffiti on the traffic control box at Montgomery & Lester. Dr. Evert has been monitoring the corner during the school's dismissal period and has observed no problems at RNS. A resident reported that the school will be part of the "Green Energy Ohio" tour on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Events Report

Steve Simon announced that PRCC is considering adding another annual event, possibly a "Shop at the Ridge" day. Winterfest is scheduled for Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> this year.

### Communications Report

A resident asked about the publication schedule for the Informant. Steve Simon explained that the last issue had been delayed at the post office due to a communication failure between PRCC and the post office, and assured residents that the next issue would be completed and delivered quickly.

### Library Report

Mary Anne Phalen reported that the library is finalizing designs for its renovation plan and needs additional contributions. They have \$102,000 out of a goal of \$400,000. The plan includes adding more restrooms and an elevator to ensure accessibility. She urged residents to help keep the library strong, because it's a valuable and well-used community resource. She asked everyone at the meeting to respond to the survey about the library that will be included in a forthcoming "What's Going On" e-mail.

### Clean Up and Beautification Report

Janet Teske presented an updated renovation design plan for Pleasant Ridge Park, featuring rain gardens and a pervious concrete walking path. Ms. Teske said that funding for the renovation will come primarily from residents and businesses, and asked PRCC for a letter to the county to request other funds for the project. She is also exploring additional funding options. 80% of the plants in the rain gardens will be native species. The gardens will be an education and demonstration site for students and adults in the neighborhood.

### Business Committee Report

James Devaney reported that ambassadors from the Business Committee will approach businesses that have a particular problem with loitering to discuss what to do about it. The next Business Committee meeting will be on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Please e-mail James at vp@pleasantridge.org to join the committee. Steve Simon reported that he'd gotten some questions recently about businesses that have closed in the business district. This does not represent a trend, but was a matter of some businesses relocating or refocusing their operations for individual reasons. The Earth Toy Mall, for example, does the bulk of its business through the internet and collectors' magazines, and did not have enough walk-in traffic to maintain its retail space.

### Hilton Davis Report

Steve Simon reported that the community should act now to urge the Ohio EPA to require that the final clean-up of the Hilton Davis site fulfill the conditions of the consent decree between Kodak, the EPA, and Citizens Concerned About Hilton Davis. The Ohio EPA may approve Kodak's plan to cap the property without cleaning up the pollutants in the ground, which would be insufficient. CCHD will be sending 500 residents' signatures to the OEPA director and the Governor, and will also be soliciting letters and phone calls.

### Metro Event – Pleasant Ridge Rides Day

Kate Powell reported that Metro is offering a one-to-one match for Pleasant Ridge residents who ride the Metro on September 16<sup>th</sup>. She proposed that PRCC contribute \$500 for refreshments as part of the event. There were no objections from the residents in attendance.

*Respectfully submitted by Josh Krekeler*