

Pleasant Ridge Community Council Meeting Minutes – September 1, 2009

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

Treasurer's Report

Robert Ramsay reported that the library and Ridge Day are continuing to raise money. Police overtime patrols in the business district have ended. No money has been allocated for block party reimbursements, because PRCC did not receive the grant this year that was used to reimburse streets in 2008.

Fire Report

Lt. Tom Lopera reported that Engine 8 responded to 140 calls in August (115 medical runs, 20 non-fire runs, and 5 fires). The company is out of smoke detectors for now, but will be getting more in the fall.

Police Report

Officer George Engleman reported that Block Watch groups are forming on several streets in the neighborhood. Residents interested in organizing a Block Watch for their street should call Officer Engleman at 979-4465. Copper thefts from vacant houses and thefts from cars remain persistent problems.

Lieutenant Williams reported that 18 District 2 officers will be laid off if the city cuts the budget for the remainder of the year as expected. The patrol slots will be mostly filled by people from other areas. The district is re-balancing officers' vacation days to minimize the impact on service.

John McCarthy encouraged neighbors to become more proactive about preventing crime by joining a Block Watch group and/or Citizens on Patrol.

Recreation Center

Rick McCollum reported that the Recreation Commission lost 71 staff members due to city budget cuts. They are currently working to expand their programs for seniors, including ceramics and Tai Chi. The after-school program for Pleasant Ridge Montessori students will begin on September 14th.

Schools Report

Carl Evert reported that PRMS will have a meeting about the school's performance in 2008-09 at 6:30 PM on September 10th in the school cafeteria.

Safety Report

John McCarthy reported that the overtime patrols over the summer were very well-received, and helped improve the perception of safety in the neighborhood. The Safety Committee is seeking additional money to pay for more patrols. The committee meets on

the 4th Friday of every month at noon at Molly Malone's. If you witness a drug deal, please call the non-emergency police number at 765-1212 and give as many details as you can provide.

Business Committee Report

Molly Blenk reported that the Business Ambassadors will be delivering Informants to businesses in the neighborhood. The Business Committee is still trying to organize a get-together for business owners. Molly also encouraged everyone to support Pleasant Ridge businesses.

Library Report

Mary Anne Phalen reported that the Library Committee has raised \$12,000 this summer! Rick Ryan, the Public Library's Library Services Manager for the East Region, attended the meeting to encourage residents to support the library levy that will be on the ballot this November as Issue 7. If the levy does not pass, the library faces a deficit of several million dollars over the next two years.

Beautification/Clean-Up Report

Janet Teske reported that 3CDC representatives have noticed the attractive planters in the business district. The Beautification Committee needs to present a design for the rain garden project for the park by the end of December to get funds from the Metropolitan Sewer District. Marvin's Organic Gardens is donating the design work, and is working on the design with guidance from the Cincinnati Park Board.

Hilton Davis Report

Marjorie Evert reported that the Ohio EPA is still working on draft recommendations for their final clean-up orders for the Hilton Davis site. When their recommendations are approved, there will be a 60-day period for public comments.

Communications/Events Report

Beau McGrath reported that the Nativity Festival will be this weekend, followed by Ridge Day on September 26th. Marjorie and Carl Evert will be the Grand Marshals for Ridge Day. Other events coming up include PRMS' Spaghetti Dinner on September 25th and the District A Festival on October 10th.

Beau also noted that BP is following the rules concerning the former BP site on Montgomery. The tanks were removed in late 2007.

Joe Bubnick suggested that residents consider forming a runners/walkers club. More details will be forthcoming in the weekly What's Going On e-mails!

Informant Report

Josh Krekeler reported that the Summer issue has been printed, and brought bundles for streets where copies hadn't been delivered yet. The submission deadline for the Fall issue will be October 1st.

District A Report

Maria Kreppel reported that District A will celebrate its one-year anniversary with a First Birthday festival along Montgomery Road between Pleasant Ridge and Kennedy Heights on October 10th. The celebration will feature four children's book authors and nine bands. The Playhouse in the Park will be presenting a full season of performances at various venues in Pleasant Ridge and Kennedy Heights between October and April.

City Planning Presentation

Cameron Ross from the city's planning department attended the meeting to discuss the project to update Cincinnati's Comprehensive Plan. The updated plan will integrate current and future planned projects. Neighborhoods' vision plans will also be important guides to the city plan. The city is holding a series of public meetings to prepare for updating the plan and is seeking broad citizen input. The 2010 Neighborhood Summit will focus on city planning. For more information about the project, please visit www.plancincinnati.org.

Laure Quinlivan Presentation

Laure Quinlivan, a former Channel 9 reporter who is running for Cincinnati City Council, attended the meeting to encourage residents to support her candidacy.

Respectfully submitted by Josh Krekeler