

## Kennedy Heights Community Council

Minutes of the Community Council Meeting of September 18, 2007

The meeting began at 7:45p.m., with 17 residents and eight guests being present. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Ernie Barbeau, President of KHCC, reviewed the agenda. He noted that due to the Secretary's illness, distribution and approval of the minutes for the June meeting of the Council would be deferred to the October 16 meeting.

Kevin Holt, Treasurer, reviewed the two-page Treasurer's Report dated 9-11-07. A MOTION was made, seconded, and approved to accept the Report.

There were three presentations on the theme of Community Assets in or for our Neighborhood. During each presentation several questions and comments were made by residents.

1. Dr. Maria Kreppel, Chair of the Montgomery Corridor Arts Collaborative of Kennedy Heights (KH), Pleasant Ridge (PR), and Silverton. This is Maria's second visit to our Council. With a large map, Maria discussed how art related businesses positively impact economic development. She also distributed a one-page document titled "Marketing Study for the Citizens' Planning Committee of PR, KH, and Silverton." Several KH residents are active members of the Committee. The Collaborative is studying various art district organizational models for our three neighborhoods. The Collaborative hopes to launch our Art District during the last quarter of '08. Ernie noted that this was the first time the three neighborhoods have joined hands for a common cause.
2. Jerry Lippert of Hamilton County Park District reviewed services and programs available from the District. (Jerry is a Naturalist at Winton Woods Park.) During the presentation he distributed three brochures.
3. Don Spencer, an icon and an activist for decades, urged our neighborhood to support the county referendum concerning the new jail. He emphasized that the value of the current proposal is its emphasis on rehabilitation, instead of warehousing. Mr. Spencer then noted concerns about the City Manager's proposal that the Park Board decrease its budget for '08. Mr. Spencer noted the probable consequences of significant reduction in the Board's budget. The Avondale and West End community councils have voted to support his opposition to the proposed cut. A MOTION was made, seconded, and unanimously approved for our Council to communicate to the City Manager and the Mayor our opposition to the Park Board's budget being cut.

Lt. Joe Williams of the Cincinnati Police Department's District Two, introduced Sgt. Sylvia Morales, who was recently assigned from District Three to our district. (Sgt. Morales is a 28-year veteran, and is one of a handful of Police Officers who speaks Spanish.) Officer Andre Miller was also present. Sgt. Morales reviewed several statistical reports about arrests, reported crimes, and calls for service; those reports were subsequently given to Ernie. Sgt. Morales is impressed with the very low level of criminal activity in our neighborhood. She reminded us not to leave our autos unlocked or to leave anything of value in our autos.

Jennifer Hackman, Vice President for Planning, and Clete Benken, Chair of the Commercial and Office Development Committee (CODC) presented two important items that directly impact the future viability of our Montgomery Road Business Corridor. (The Corridor consists of both sides of Montgomery Road between Tyne and Coleridge Avenues.) During our discussion, they

distributed a one-page summary of a proposed motion, and had copies of an eight-page document titled "Chapter 1437. Urban Design Overlay District" (UDOD). Jenn and Clete reviewed the intent and key elements of a Urban Design Plan (UDP) and of a UDOD, and, Implementation Priorities. Our CODC has extensively studied those documents. Thirteen of the City's 52 neighborhoods have adopted an edition of those documents that is compatible with their neighborhood. (Three of those neighborhoods are Clifton, Hyde Park, and Pleasant Ridge).

During the latter part of August our CODC extended an invitation to our Corridor's 33 property owners to attend an open house. (Attached to today's agenda was a copy of the invitation letter.) The intent of the open house was to provide information about the UDOD and UDP. The event was held at the Kennedy Heights Arts Center (KHAC) on September 6. The following owners were present: Dr. Dana Bateman, George Kalomeres, Bill Frunk, Roger Bien, and Mary Ray representing KHAC's Board. Several significant ideas were raised during the open house. At KHCC's Board meeting of September 11, the CODC made recommendations related to the UDOD the UDP, and Implementation Priorities. The recommendations were approved by the Board (7 to 0, with one abstention).

After some discussion of Jenn and Clete's report and our Board's recommendation, a MOTION was made, seconded, and approved that KHCC petition the City to establish an UDP and UDOD for our Business District. All residents voted in favor of the motion, no resident voted against, and no resident abstained. Following approval of our UDP and UDOD by the City's Planning Commission, our CODC will petition the City (on behalf of KHCC) to change the CC-M zoning at the west end of our District to CC-P, in order to ensure that future developments is complimentary to the neighborhood's vision of that district. In closing this agenda item, Ernie noted that it is difficult to underestimate the value and significant of the decision we have made.

Clete reported on the development of new yard signs for advertising Council events and meetings. The services of Erik Brown of Brownstone were instrumental in creating the yard sign, with the first set of 25 signs for last week's Progressive Dinner. Upcoming yard signs will be created for meetings of the Community Council, and special events.

Clete and Jenn also reported that we are in the initial phase of reviewing signage for our neighborhood. We expect this to be a conversation process of at least six more months. Five preliminary identity concepts were on display; we expect more concepts to be developed. The process will include discussions with the Community Council, the Board, attendees at the Town Hall meeting tentatively scheduled for February '08, artists affiliated with the Arts Center, consultation with Erik Brown, etc.

Included in the agenda was a report from Ernie of the nine conference and meetings he has attended since August 7 as President of KHCC.

Ernie noted that the Board has approved a proposal for KHCC to sponsor a Meet-the-Candidates and Ballot Issues program. The program will be held on Tuesday, October 23, 6:30-p.m.-9:00p.m., Fellowship Hall, KH Presbyterian Church. (See our webpage and upcoming newsletter for further details.)

Ernie also noted an important 8-page document at the end of the Program Sheet that was distributed at our Progressive Dinner of September 15: *Volunteer Opportunities for our Neighborhood's Development*. He urged residents to utilize the document as a basis to identify and recruit residents to serve as volunteers for our neighborhood.

By consensus the Council accepted the Board's recommendation that the November meeting of the Council be rescheduled from November 21 to November 27 (due to Thanksgiving).

Natalie Boyer, Vice President for Administration, updated us on the success of our 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Progressive Dinner. Natalie served as the Dinner's Team Leader. Approximately 125 persons participated and 75 persons served as volunteers who sold tickets, organized and hosted the reception at the Geier Apartments, hosted dinner at their home (13 families), prepared desserts (25), organized the Silent Auction, provided items for the Auction, and, set up and cleaned up the Fellowship Hall where the Auction and desserts were provided. Natalie expects a net of about \$2,000.00. We will soon begin planning for our 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner!

Kevin, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that several persons have expressed an interest in being elected or re-elected to the Board. He continues to look for candidates for Vice-President for Planning, Treasurer, and Member-at-Large. Elections will be held at the November meeting of the Community Council. During the meeting, one resident expressed interest in being a candidate.

Duane Holm provided a report from the Education Committee.

- A brainstorming session about the new school for Woodford Academy and the development of a Community Learning Center (CLC) was held on August 8 for KH representatives selected by our President. The session was called and led by Sharon Siereveld, Chair of Woodford Academy's Local School Decision Making Committee. Seven KH representatives were present. We continue to expect the design and planning phase for the new Woodford and a CLC to be transparent, and to actively involve our residents and the Council.
- The KHCC Board approved the allocation of \$100.00 to Woodford for the purpose of purchasing school uniforms for those parents who cannot afford the fee.
- A few weeks ago the Principal of Woodford Academy informed the President of the Kennedy Heights Montessori Center (KHMC) that their relationship would be terminated by June 2008. The decision was unexpected. The KHMC has been part of Woodford's campus more than 20 years. The KHMC has been a significant asset in our neighborhood for forty years. Our Board has discussed this unexpected development with representatives from the KHMC's Board. We will actively assist the KHMC to remain in Kennedy Heights.
- John Parker School's students are now temporarily housed at the old Shroder School. Approximately 66 KH students attend Parker. The Parker's Principal has been very responsive to discussions with our Education Committee. For instance, Parker's After School program is now accessible to any KH student, including Woodford students. This is the first time that a school in KH has provided such a program to our neighborhood's students. To access Parker's program call 363-2900.

Ernie noted our continuing interest in establishing a boy scout troop in KH. But, we must first have two adult volunteers. Any one interested in being considered, or of knowing someone who might be interested, contact Ernie as soon as possible.

Judy Barbeau, Chair of the Landscape Award Committee, gave a final report about this year's awards. The process began in May. Twenty-four nominations were received, probably the highest number of nominees ever received. Nominees came from Aikenside, Congreve, Davenant, Iris, Kinoll, Orchard, Red Bank, Rogers Park, Valley View, and Zinsle. In early July the four member committee of Vicki Bishop (Kirkup), Michele Dragga (Red Bank), Carolyn Thompson (Dogwood Lane), and Judy (Kinoll) visited all of the nominees. The five winners

were selected on basis of color, texture, design and maintenance. The winners are the Adams's (6345 Iris), Grieser's (5866 Red Bank), Horton's (3707 Aikenside), Puthoff's (3625 Aikenside), and Wright's (3815 Aikenside). The landscape winners had our attractive yard sign placed in their landscapes for five weeks, were presented with a personally engraved acrylic crystal award to keep, and their landscapes showcased at last weekend's Progressive Dinner, and each winner will be featured in upcoming editions of our newsletter.

During our meeting's Old and New Business section, a resident expressed concerns about the two street vendors on our Montgomery Business Corridor. Ernie noted that he already has communicated those concerns to a District Two police officer.

Ernie urged those present to bring a neighbor to future meetings of the Council.

Attached to today's agenda, were informational items related to KH Montessori Center's second annual rummage sale, Enquirer article about our neighbor and writer Sharon M. Draper, KH Arts Center, Cincinnati Park Board, City of Cincinnati's Recycling Program, and Cincinnati Park Board's Fall 2007 ReLeaf Program.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:20p.m.

Judy Barbeau, Acting Secretary