

Kennedy Heights Community Council
Meeting of the Community Council

Minutes of the February 19, 2008 meeting

In attendance were at least twenty residents, five guests, four police officers (Capt. D. Wiesman, Lt. J. Williams, and Officer G. Engleman), and two fire department officials.

The meeting was called to order at 7:45p.m. by Ernie Barbeau, President. Ernie then welcomed everyone, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and reviewed the agenda. Minutes of the November 2007 and January 2008 meetings of the Council were available at the Registration Table. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Council's minutes for November and January; the **motion was unanimously approved.**

In light of the Treasurer's absence, the monthly report was deferred to the March meeting.

Ernie welcomed Andy Swallow of the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, who gave an overview and responded to several questions related to the levy which will be on the March 4 ballot. The levy will increase property taxes by \$9.44 per \$100,000 valuation.

The Fire Department report was provided by Lt. Sheehan of the Pleasant Ridge Fire Station.

The Police Department report was provided by Officer Engleman, Neighborhood Liaison Officer. Two reports were discussed with a copy given to KHCC: a more user-friendly monthly report, and an organizational chart for District Two. The January '08 monthly report for Kennedy Heights notes that in comparison to January '07, there has been a 50% reduction in crime! Officer Engleman and Capt. Wiesman reminded residents to be especially vigilant with vacant or for sale properties: they have become targets for breaking and entering, with the goal of stealing copper pipes. Recently, a vigilant Kennedy Heights resident noticed unusual activity at a nearby property, and called the police. That call led to immediate apprehension...the individual in question then admitted to seven other burglaries! Capt. Wiesman and Officer Engleman expressed their strong support for an active Citizen on Patrol unit; at the request of Capt. Wiesman, our Citizen on Patrol team will be meeting with him on February 27, at the Council's office.

Ernie welcomed Mark Celsor, Eastern Regional Supervisor for Cincinnati Recreation Commission. He was joined by Garry Price of Pleasant Ridge Recreation Center (PRRC). After Mark's introductory comments, Garry provided information about upcoming activities and events at PRRC. Some of our residents initiated a discussion about the need to expand after-school programs and activities at Woodford School.

Ernie welcomed Kate Powell, Vice-President of Pleasant Ridge Community Council. Kate is the official liaison person to our Council. It was noted that the two community councils are committed to expand their collaborative relationships, if for no other reason than we have similar concerns and opportunities.

Ernie reviewed the President's report:

- On the agenda was a list of the 21 conferences and meetings he has attended since the Council's January meeting.
- In behalf of KHCC, he wrote a letter of commitment to the Ohio Arts Council in behalf of the \$20,000 grant being sought by the Montgomery Corridor Arts Collaborative.
- He noted the need to identify and recruit a diverse pool of neighbors to assume leadership roles with the Board and with committees. He urged all attendees, and others, to assume responsibility in creating a diverse pool, especially for leadership in 2009.
- There is a need to develop a Boy Scout troop for Kennedy Heights. The troop should be led by two African American volunteers. Ernie asked for help in identifying and recruiting volunteers, and noted the recent article in the *Enquirer* about Troop 772, a troop sponsored by Lincoln Heights Missionary Baptist Church. (The article was available at the Registration Table).
- There will be a special presentation at the Council's March 18 meeting---discussion of a study of 14 integrated communities in Hamilton County (including Kennedy Heights and Pleasant Ridge). We hope many residents will attend that meeting. (An executive summary of the report was available at the Registration Table.)

Natalie Boyer, Vice-President for Administration, reported on the following:

- Bob Kamp, upon recommendation by KHCC, was recently recognized as one of five Invest in Neighborhood's Outstanding Neighborhood Volunteers. The recognition occurred at the Sixth Annual Dinner for the Neighborhood Summit held at Cintas's Schiff Center.
- Natalie reminded us that the 25th annual Progressive Dinner will be held on Saturday, September 20. Further details will be forthcoming.
- The annual Sap Run event will be reorganized, and will be held in April or early May. Further details will be announced at the Council's March meeting.

With the arrival of Eve Bolton, President of the Board of Education, Ernie welcomed her and Tim Kraus, President of the Cincinnati Federation of Teachers. Eve and Tim distributed a two-page information sheet, and gave an overview of the reasons for the upcoming school levy that will increase property taxes by \$233.00 per \$100,000 valuation. The extended Q&A addressed a wide spectrum of concerns, issues, and opportunities. At the conclusion of the discussion, a motion was made and seconded for the Community Council to support the levy; the **motion was unanimously approved**. Eve and Tim expressed their appreciation of our decision. Ernie will communicate our decision to relevant parties.

In the absence of Clete Benken, VP for Planning, several persons made the following report.

- Mary Ray, a member of the Commercial and Office Development Committee (CODC), reported on the engagement process for the development of yard signs and of revisiting our logo. She noted the special open-meeting of February 9 in which 12 residents attended, of the next phase in the process, and of the two-page logo survey (which was available at the Registration Table).
- Ernie noted that the Board has recently endorsed in principle the refocusing and restructuring of the CODC. The refocusing is indicated by certain realities, including the development of the Montgomery Corridor Arts Collaborative and reestablishment of the KH Urban Redevelopment Corporation (KHURC). The CODC's new focus is indicated by what may be its new name: Committee for Cultural and Economic Development.
- Ernie reviewed the focus and process for the City's Community Priority Projects for the '09-'10 budget year. We may submit no more than three priority projects that fit the

City's criteria; our priorities must be submitted by April 4. Suggestions should be addressed to Clete or Ernie.

- Ernie reviewed the second meeting of KHURC's Interim Board. The Board's roster was at the Registration Table, as well as a six-page report titled "Draft Statement of Understanding for a Collaborative Redevelopment Approach re CPS's Surplus Properties in KH." The Draft was recently approved in principle by KHCC's Board of Trustees; since then it has been distributed to key members of Cincinnati's City Council, President of the Board of Education, Darlene Kamine of CPS, and to several City department heads and staff persons. Ernie reviewed the intent and significance of the Draft. The Draft will be submitted to KHURC's Interim Board for their approval.
- Ernie noted the value of the Cincinnati Drill Down five-page report available at the Registration Table.
- Jim Zarnowiecki reviewed our role in facilitating attendance by residents at upcoming meetings of the engagement/planning process for the new Woodford School and the development of a community learning center. The next planning meeting is February 27. A summary of the January planning meeting, produced by Darlene Kamine, was available at the Registration Table. It was also noted that the two-page Superintendent Search Survey (for Ms. Blackwell's successor) was available at the Registration Table.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27p.m.

Ardell Barkley,
Secretary