

Kennedy Heights Community Council
Meeting of the Community Council

Minutes of the March 18, 2008 meeting

In attendance were fifteen residents, three guests, and eight police officers (including Capt. Doug Weisman, Lt. Joe Williams, Sgt. Sylvia Morales, and Liaison Officer George Engleman).

The meeting was called to order at 7:40p.m. by Ernie Barbeau, President. Ernie then welcomed everyone, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and reviewed the agenda.

Our meeting began with a special presentation by two representatives from The Cincinnatus Association---Brandon Weirs and Jonathan Williams. Brandon provided a Powerpoint presentation of key findings from their recent study titled Stable Integrated Communities of Hamilton County. Kennedy Heights was one of the fourteen communities involved in that study. The ensuing discussion with our residents was active; we could have continued for another hour.

Ernie recognized Doug Newberry, a neighbor and President of the Cincinnati Soap Box Derby. Doug brought an actual Derby car with him! Doug noted that the Derby returned last year after being inactive for twenty-five years, and that the Mayor is offering \$5,000 to any Council that sponsors a winner. Doug urged the Council to participate by finding the means to raise \$680.00 to cover the cost of car kit, wheels, shipping, and entry fee. Ernie noted that the Board has concluded that we do not have the funds in our budget, but it would do so if a neighbor would volunteer to lead the fundraising effort and to participate in the Derby's half-day workshop on April 20 at the BMW Store on Stewart Road. Doug can be reached at 885-1373.

In preparation for the next presentation, Ernie noted that the City of Cincinnati has for the past several years asked Community Council's to submit neighborhood capital priorities that fall within the jurisdiction of the City's biannual budget. Two years ago, we recommended that Drake Park be repaved; the City agreed with the \$150,000 project; that project was completed this past fall. By April 4 we need to submit no more than three capital priorities; the Board has tentatively identified three possibilities---streetscaping for a section of our Montgomery Road Business Corridor, bus shelters/benches, and repaving of Northdale Place.

Ernie noted that Steve Johns, Director of Citizens for Civic Renewal (CCR), made a presentation at the Sixth Annual Neighborhood Summit concerning an interesting CCR initiative---Enhancing Community Engagement for the '09-'10 City Budget. Based on CCR's intent of selecting thirteen neighborhoods to participate in the initiative, Ernie suggested that KH would like to participate. Ernie then introduced Steve who proceeded to distribute a two-page handout (City of Cincinnati Community Priority Request Plus) and made a presentation about the initiative. The initiative is co-sponsored by The Cincinnatus Association, League of Women Voters, Urban League of Greater Cincinnati, and Woman's City Club. The initiative involves a 30-minute facilitated group process of residents who discuss their perspective of what should be the priorities of the City's budget. That process will occur at the April 15 Community Council's meeting.

Officer Engleman was recognized for the Police Report. He reviewed the statistics for February, of referral to the City concerns about the need to repair Northdale Place, and two important documents that were available at the Registration Table (RT): announcement concerning District Two's National Night Out of Tuesday, August 5, 6:00-9:00p.m., at Armleder Park; and Tips for Detering Thefts.

Ardell Barkley, Secretary, noted that Minutes of the February meeting of the Council were available at the RT. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the February meeting; the **motion was unanimously approved**.

Kevin Holt, Treasurer, presented the monthly financial report (copies were available at the RT), dated March 10. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report; the **motion was unanimously approved**. Kevin also noted that the Board's recently agreed to underwrite four \$50.00 scholarships for the KH Art Center's Summer Art Program for Children. The scholarships will be awarded to residents, based on need or excellence.

Kevin reminded residents of the need to identify prospects for consideration by the Nominating Committee to serve on the Board as officers and as members-at-large. The Committee will be submitting its slate early next fall.

Ernie reviewed the President's report:

- On the agenda was a list of the nineteen meetings and conferences he has attended since the Council's February meeting.
- Ernie recently wrote a letter of support to the Ohio Arts Council for KH Arts Center's grant proposal.
- Michele Dragga has resigned as Interim Chair of the Beautification Committee.
- There is a continuing need to identify two adults to serve as volunteer leaders and as the preliminary step in reestablishing a Boy Scout troop in our neighborhood.

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

- Sap Brunch will be held on Saturday, April 19, 10:30a.m., at the Fellowship Hall, KH Presbyterian Church. Suggested donations are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children.
- The 25th Annual Progressive Dinner will be held on Saturday, September 20.

With the absence of Clete Benken, Vice-President for Planning, Ernie gave the following report:

- The engagement process for reviewing our logo is continuing; we expect to have the various design models on our webpage some time over the next few weeks.
- The Commercial and Office Development Committee is now refocused. Its new title reflects that change---Arts and Economic Development.
- Ernie noted that three potential developers have recently visited the Kennedy-Montgomery site owned by CPS; one developer withdrew their proposal, the second developer concluded the site was too distant to I-75, and the third prospect has us on their list of potential sites.

Michele Dragga, Coordinator of our Citizens on Patrol Program noted that we only have a handful of active volunteers and that Capt. D. Weisman, Commander of District Two, is encouraging us to significantly expand the Program. Michele noted the availability of an excellent Police Department training program for COPP volunteers.

Duane Holm of the Education Committee reported the following.

- Kennedy Heights voted for the recent school levy: 56.1% of our voters said Yes. The Community Council was probably the only Council in the City that publicly supported the levy.
- The design and planning meetings for the New Woodford School and Community Learning Center met on February 25 (a summary of that meeting was available at the Registration Table), a bus tour of two recently opened new schools will be held on March 15, and the next planning meeting will be held April 1, 6:30p.m. at Woodford School.
- At the Registration Table was a copy of the Superintendent Search Survey, a survey produced by Cincinnati Public Schools.

Ernie noted that the Board of the KH Urban Redevelopment Corporation held a meeting in February. The meeting focused on matters related to housing in our neighborhood, Kennedy-Montgomery property, and a City administrative hearing related to a Beechview Circle property.

Deadline for submitting articles for the April issue of our newsletter is March 28.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ardell Barkley, Secretary