

Kennedy Heights Community Council
Meeting of the Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on June 17, 2008

In attendance were approximately 23 residents and six guests (noted below). The meeting was called to order at 7:40p.m. by Ernie Barbeau, President. Ernie welcomed every one, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and reviewed the agenda. At the Registration Table were several documents: a packet that included the agenda for tonight's meeting, rendering of the Bateman Building Enhancement Concept, redevelopment ideas proposed since 2003 for the southeast corner of Kennedy and Montgomery, and, a flyer about the neighborhood's 2008 Landscape Awards program; copies of the Treasurer's Monthly Financial Report; and, copies of minutes for the Council's May meeting.

The Police Department report was provided by Office George Engleman, who was introduced by District Two Commander, Capt. Weisman. Also, Capt. Weisman introduced Sgt. Turner, who was recently appointed as Sgt. Morales successor; Sgt. Morales recently retired. During Officer Engleman's presentation he distributed a copy of the District's KH Crime Report for May, and a copy of a two-page document on physical security for home owners and businesses (such as burglary prevention, doors and locks for exterior doors, spring latch, single cylinder deadbolt double cylinder deadbolt, overhead garage doors, hasps, and sliding glass door).

Jim Zarnowiecki of the Arts Center introduced the neighborhood's Soapbox Derby driver--Khari Hunter, and his mother, Lori Hunter. District Two secured funding for the Council to participate, and Khari is the neighborhood's first participant. The car was built in two days and it was decorated by the Arts Center. The derby is for children between the ages of 8-17, and will be held Saturday, June 19 on Gilbert Avenue, near Eden Park. Khari and District Two were given a round of applause. (P.S. Khari made a valiant effort; the winning neighborhood car, from Pleasant Ridge, was awarded the Cincinnati Cup and \$5,000. Twenty-seven of the 63 registered cars were from neighborhoods.)

The Fire Department report was given by Lt. Lepedra, of Engine 8, Pleasant Ridge.

In the absence of the Secretary, Ernie presented the minutes for the Council May 20 meeting. A motion was made, seconded to approve the minutes; the **motion was unanimously approved.**

In the absence of the Treasurer, Ernie presented the Treasurer's monthly Financial Report. A motion was made, seconded to accept the report; the **motion was unanimously approved.**

Ernie presented his report as President. He briefly commented on several items noted on the agenda, with particular emphasis on the Street Festival of Saturday, October 11, sponsored by the Montgomery Corridor Arts Collaborative. Further details will be available on our webpage, and in our newsletter's September issue.

Natalie Boyer's report as Vice-President for Administration focused on our 25th Progressive Dinner. The Dinner will be held Saturday, September 20. We will need fifty or so volunteers, and expect to have a very meaningful celebration of this unique neighborhood event. Further details will be available on our webpage; a special notice will be mailed to all neighbors some time in August.

After Ernie made some introductory comments about foreclosures and the reality that our neighborhood has been affected, he introduced our Immediate Past President, Noel Morgan. In Noel's role as an attorney with Legal Aid Society, Noel has been extensively involved with many foreclosure clients, and knowledgeable about the dynamics and consequences of foreclosure, especially in Cincinnati. After his comments there was an extended Q&A with neighbors. More than 300 homes in KH have been affected; some neighborhoods, like Price Hill, have been dramatically harmed by foreclosures. Our recently reestablished urban redevelopment corporation will be focusing on foreclosure for some time to come.

Clete Benken's report as Vice-President for Planning, included several reports. Ernie noted the document at each place that listed redevelopment proposals of the past five years re. K-M.

- Clete reviewed the Council's Community Priority Request recent submitted to the City Cincinnati, re. City's Capital Budget for '05-'010. Our request focused on upgrading Northdale Place, and redevelopment of the southeast corner of Montgomery-Kennedy.
- Clete reviewed our Urban Redevelopment's (UR) recent proposals for technical assistance from Local Initiatives Support Corp., re. development of the southeast corner of K-M, housing survey of the Kennedy Ave. Corridor, and financial development of our UR.
- Clete reviewed the Urban Redevelopment's recent \$270,000 proposal to the City of Cincinnati's Business Development Unit re. Westgate Enhancement, an upgrading our Montgomery Business Corridor (including a rendering of the Bateman Building).
- Within the next few weeks we expect to be informed by the Cincinnati Art Museum if our proposal for redevelopment of the K-M property will be part of the first round of on-site review. Our proposal was developed in discussions with several neighborhood partners, and other parties.
- Ernie stated that the above four proposals were developed in an integrated and comprehensive fashion, by neighborhood volunteers, especially Clete who provided highly valuable expertise. The totality of our proposals is the neighborhood's most significant implementation of our vision, especially for K-M.
- Ernie reviewed the June 16 meeting of the Urban Redevelopment Corporation's Board, and as noted on the agenda.
- Ernie and Jim Zarnowiecki reported on two education matters:
 - At KHCC's Board meeting of June 10, a motion was approved for the Council to allocate \$1,000. for the part-time employment of a Community Resource Coordinator with Woodford School. The intent is to give have an early start to developing a Community Learning Center, and not wait until a new Woodford School is rebuilt (expected opening is August 2011). Other funders will be approached, and Woodford's Local School Decision Making Committee is involved in the deliberations. Jim has been the lead person with this significant effort.
 - Ernie has been invited to attend the breakfast conferences with candidates seeking to be the Superintendent of Schools.
- Jim and Carolyn Thompson have been appointed Co-Chair of Beautification Committee.
- Judy Barbeau, Chair of the 2008 Landscape Awards Committee, reviewed the criteria, process, and timetable for nominations and for selection.

Ernie noted that the Board has agreed with the suggestion that a newsletter not be issued in July or August; the deadline for submitting articles/information for the September issue is August 29. For updates during the summer check our webpage: www.kennedyheights.org Tonight's meeting adjourned at 9:00p.m.

Ernie Barbeau, Acting Secretary