

Kennedy Heights Community Council
Meeting of the Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on September 16, 2008

Due to the weekends very serious windstorm and loss of electricity, in attendance were only 14 residents. Several guests were present, such as Dawn Jackson, Community Liaison for Councilmember Laketa Cole; Capt. Doug Wiesman, Commander of CPD's District Two, Lt. Joe Williams, Sgt. Tucker, and Officer George Engleman; Rick McCollum, Director of PR Recreation Center; and, Maria Kreppel, Chair of Montgomery Corridor Arts Collaborative.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40p.m. by Ernie Barbeau, President. After every one was welcomed, Ernie led the Pledge of Allegiance and then reviewed the agenda. At the Registration Table were several documents related to the Council's meeting, such as a packet that included the agenda and minutes of the Council's June meeting.

The meeting began with the Police Department's report, which was introduced by Capt. Wiesman, followed by a more detailed report by Officer Engleman of recent incidents. Residents applauded the extra time and effort that police officers have given due to the windstorm, and for the extra police attention that the District has recently given to Pleasant Ridge and Kennedy Heights. During the Q&A that followed, residents identified several problem areas.

Ernie presented his minutes of the June 17 meeting of the Council. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes; the motion was unanimously approved.

Kevin Holt, Treasurer, distributed and reviewed the September 1 financial report. We have a current bank balance of \$12,945. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report; the motion was unanimously approved.

Kevin distributed and reviewed the Board's preliminary Budget for 2009. The final proposed budget will be presented for action at the Council's October 21 meeting.

Kevin, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, distributed and reviewed the preliminary slate for election to the Board. He noted that even though several residents have been approached to be the nominee for President, none have accepted the opportunity. All other members of the Board have agreed to be reelected.

Ernie presented the President's Report.

- Since the Council's June meeting he has participated in sixty-nine conferences and meetings.
- Since the June meeting several complaints and concerns from residents have been re-ferred to relevant City departments, other community resources, or to KHCC committees.
- Ernie reminded residents of their role in identifying and recruiting volunteers to serve the neighborhood, such as volunteers for development of recreation services, Litter Magic, and Citizens on Patrol.
- In July, Ce Holm (Kinoll) had a stroke. She can be visited at Marjorie P. Lee Home. Ce and Duane have been neighborhood activists and residents of KH for forty years.

- Lydia Morgan (Orchard) was recently elected as a Board member of Housing Opportunities Made Equal.
- Michelle Dillingham a member of our Board and Chair of the Outstanding Citizen Award Committee was recently appointed by Vice-Mayor David Crowley as a Legislative Aide.

Maria Kreppel gave a report about the October 11 Street Festival, a festival to celebrate the opening of District A, the art district led by residents of Pleasant Ridge and Kennedy Heights. Maria distributed two documents about the Festival.

Rick McCollum, Director of Pleasant Ridge Recreation Center, gave a report about activities and services available at the Center. He noted that PRCC can provide transportation service for KH residents who wish to access the Center.

There was some discussion during our meeting of the need to increase our neighborhood's awareness to expand recreational services and to recruit more volunteers to assist in developing and providing such services, especially for youth. The next issue of our newsletter will highlight that need.

Natalie Boyer, VP for Administration, focused her report on the 25th Progressive Dinner held on September 20. She reviewed the elements of the Dinner, such as the reception and registration hosted by residents of the Geier Apartments 16 neighborhood families serving as hosts to approximately 90 individuals; 18 families volunteered to produce home made desserts, and dozens of items donated for the Silent Auction. In light of the fact that this year's Dinner is especially special, several surprises are being planned.

Clete Benken, VP for Planning, presented two items, logo update, and gateway:

Logo Update: Clete reviewed the process of the last sixteen months related to revisiting our logo from the 60s. At last week's meeting of the Board a new logo was adopted. Last year KHCC received a grant from the City to install new neighborhood identification signs. The new signs must be designed and installed by the end of 2008. The yin-yang symbol has been the neighborhood's logo for more than thirty years and was featured atop the old corporation limits signs along Montgomery Road and at legal boundaries with Columbia Township and Silverton. Last year, KHCC hired Erik Brown (Brownstone Design) to serve as our graphic design consultant, and asked him to work with us to prepare a range of possible logo alternatives. Our ad hoc committee hosted several meetings, including three public workshops where residents, business operators, and property owners were asked to consider several alternative designs, and property owners were asked to consider several alternative design concepts. During those workshops approximately 40 attendees offered their comments and opinions on how (or if!) the logo should be updated and what the "next generation" logo should look like.

The first public viewing of concepts took place at last year's Progressive Dinner. During this year's Sap Run, attendees were given the opportunity to vote for the best concepts by placing adhesive dots on their favorite designs. There were three concepts which stood out from the many alternatives presented. Two of the three preferred concepts were developed by Erik Brown; the third concept was developed by a neighbor, Jeffery Weidner.

This past summer the ad hoc committee asked graphic designers from the City's Department of Transportation and Engineering to make a recommendation regarding which of the three preferred concepts to develop for use in a comprehensive signing and gateway identity program. The concept recommended by the Department was subsequently adopted by KHCC's Board of

Trustees. That concept was judged to be the one that most closely represented the desire to have a simple and adoptable logo which honors the purpose and intent of the original symbol while reflecting the new energies, values, and ideals which characterize our neighborhood today and inspire us to work toward an even brighter, more colorful future.

The new logo will now be refined for use in environmental graphics, signing, letterhead and web applications. The new logo will be formally unwrapped at the upcoming Progressive Dinner.

Selection/Design Phase of Gateway for the Montgomery Road Business Corridor: For the past several weeks there have been a number of discussions and conferences with members of our adhoc committee (Clete, Ernie, Rick Boyer of Glen Edge, Mary Ray of Orchard) and Diego Jordan (an architect with the City) about the gateway, an initiative funded by the City. The discussion has centered on design, site possibilities, cost, and a host of issues, concerns, and opportunities. We expect to have a more detailed report for the Council's October meeting.

Ernie provided an update on recent meetings of the Board of the KH Urban Redevelopment Corp. The Board's primary priority is redevelopment of the Old Kroger Building. In light of that priority, considerable time has been allocated to discussions with Cincinnati Art Museum (CAM) about that property. CAM has proposed to develop an off-campus Out-reach Center. They recently announced a Request for Proposal. We submitted a detailed proposal; we are now one of four communities out of twenty-two that are the 'finalist' for that Center. Over the summer Ernie and Clete convened a meeting of interested neighborhood organizations that could serve as partners if CAM was the anchor. In turn, Ernie initiated conferences with seven of nine members of City Council, so to be sure they understood the significance of the opportunity at hand. Clete and Ernie have also met with relevant City officials. CAM's decision about what site to select will probably be made shortly after the New Year. We are convinced that CAM's proposal offers our neighborhood the most attractive and dynamic redevelopment opportunity, and is especially complementary of our vision and assets, and the goals of District A.

The Corporation's Board has also established a Code of Regulations Review Committee (Chaired by John Williams of Brandonburg), Nominating Committee (Co-chaired by Jody Barkley of Tyne, and Valerie Butler of Ellmarie), and is in the process of applying to the Internal Revenue Service for 501-c-3 status (this task is led by Mike Harmon of Kinoll).

Ernie noted that Michele Dragga (Red Bank), Team Leader for our Citizens on Patrol, needs more neighbors to serve as volunteers with our COP. At the Registration Table was the schedule for basic training and the application form.

Ernie noted recent meetings of Glen Edge residents concerned about trespassing by residents of Columbia Township. Those concerns recently led to the establishment of a Block Watch group; 22 residents were oriented by Police Officer Engleman about the purpose and structure of a Block Watch group. Sister Carren Herring is leading that group. A few days ago, Ernie attended a meeting called by Sister Carren; the meeting included four Glen Edge residents, Hilltop's Property Manager, and two Columbia Township police officers assigned to Hilltop.

During the summer Ernie hosted a meeting of Bantry and Orchard residents concerned about safety issues. In attendance were more than 20 persons. The Bantry residents are exploring the possibility of establishing a Block Watch group.

A few days ago Ernie participated in a Robison Black Watch group meeting. The group was established about four years ago, and is currently led by Ms. Schmidt. More than 20 persons

attended that meeting, which focused not only on the recent incident of Robison young ado-lescents being assaulted in Pleasant Ridge, but on being more vigilant and active with the group.

During the summer there have been six two- to three-hours meetings of the Design Team for the New Woodford-Community Learning Center. KHCC representatives are Ernie, Jim Zarnowiecki (Beechview Circle) and Dr. Cinder Miller (Doon). More details about the Team's work will be discussed at the Council's October meeting.

The Beautification Committee, co-chaired by Jim Z. and Carolyn Thompson (Dogwood Lane) announced the first Giant Plant Swap, which will be held October 4, 9:00-noon, at Lang Playfield. The Committee is also exploring the possibility of having large flower planters at various neighborhood locations.

The Landscape Award Committee, chaired by Judy Barbeau (Kinoll), had the following report.

- This year the Committee is celebrating its 20th anniversary.
- With the approval of KHCC's Board it has established a Landscape Award Hall of Fame, and a new landscape award category.
- The Hall of Fame will be for those neighbors who have been landscape winners three times. The following individuals will be the first neighbors honored in the Hall of Fame: Lee DeRhodes (Iris), Jeane and Bill Goings (Iris), Eleina McFinley (Zinsle), Winona and Major McNeil (Davenant), Lori Puthoff (Aikenside), and Ralph Wright (Aikenside). All of these neighbors have been landscape winners since 1988.
- The new award category is for Businesses and Associations. The first winner of the new award is Lee DeRhodes, for the gorgeous garden that he designed, developed, and continues to maintain for the KH Arts Center.
- The residential winners for '08 are Matt Cresci (Tyne), Stephen Eadicicco and Tyler Seeger (Orchard), Charles Johnson (Woodford), Mike Maloney and Jeff Dey (Wyatt), and Lois and David Paterson (Davenant). (For pictures and details about '08 winners and their landscapes see our webpage.) More than 40 nominees from 22 of our neighborhood's 52 streets were referred to the Committee...the highest number of nominees and streets in the history of the Committee!
- On August 16 there was a major article with many photos in the Home Living section of the *Cincinnati Enquirer* about last year's three winners from Aikenside.
- Over the last few days a Cincinnati community council has requested the opportunity to have a discussion about our committee and what we have learned in having a neighborhood award program.
- Two representatives of the Cincinnati Horticultural Society (CHS) recently asked to tour our winner's landscapes; after the tour they nominated several of our residential winners for CHS awards.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05p.m.

Ernie Barbeau, Acting Secretary