

KHCC Public Meeting Minutes_September 19, 2023

7:36 Sharifah calls Welcome

7:37 Review of the minutes

7:40 Minutes are Approved by voice and virtual vote

7:41 Public Safety: Officer Martin

- A. Officer Rice was present to assist with the transition to Officer Martin
 - a. Felonious Assault on 3600 block of Northdale - persons involved knew each other
 - b. Thefts from Autos on the 5800 block of Wyatt. Went down one street, rummaged through a lot of cars, and took some property. Report does not indicate whether cars were locked.
 - i. Officer Martin reminds everyone to not leave any valuables in the car
 - c. One Criminal Damaging by a known suspect
- B. If anyone has questions or concerns they can email Officer Martin at Monique.martin@cincinnati-oh.us.gov or call 513-979-4481
- C. Question from public: Observation of increased activity from electric bikes on neighborhood streets with disregard for traffic laws. Is there anything that can be done?
 - a. Officer Martin says that they have observed the increased activity, but because they are a new vehicle that does not have specific laws—no registration around it, little to be broadly enforced.
 - b. If specific behavior becomes concerning, that they are driving recklessly, please contact the non-emergency line

7:47 Public Safety: Captain Harris (virtual)

- A. Audio problems, no report given.

7:48 Treasurer Report: Laura Wiesbrod

- A. Financial Statement shared.
 - a. Some donations \$33.83
 - b. Outgoing expenses for email system (monthly expense), Newsletter (regular expense), yard signs for upcoming event
 - c. Awarded \$160,000 for demolition of buildings along Montgomery Road
- B. There are still mini-grants available. Up to \$400 for an individually-led project that would improve things for neighbors
- C. Question: Is the mini-grant program for this year only, is it limited-time funding?
 - a. Mini-grants are from KHCC general fund, but once you have been awarded you are expected to spend and present results within a calendar year.
- D. Motion to accept financial report. Motion made. Seconded. Motion approved.

7:52 Parks & Green Space Committee: Kate Kern

- A. Did not have a September meeting. Next meeting will be October 10. If you want to get involved email kkern@kennedyheights.org
- B. The committee would like to know the process to request money from the KHCC budget
 - a. They have come up with requests
 - i. Mulch and a cornhole set for the Tot Lot
 - 1. They will also approach the CRC
 - ii. Refreshments for a bird watching program with the library in Drake Park
 - iii. Just starting on community orchard project and will probably
- C. Wonderful field trip to Rockdale Learning Garden with Jessic Winan. The place is open to the public and they recommend.
- D. Working on: maintenance of local parks, Tree Canopy project with Mary Ray, and Community Orchard
- E. Question from Public: Question about Tot Lot that will be answered later
- F. Question from Public: How does Duke decide their process for trimming trees? How can we interact with that process?
 - a. Kate knows that going forward, the best we can do is to continue planting trees in the tree lawn, but we need to make sure those trees will do well in those conditions—trees that won't grow too close to the wires.
 - b. Our existing tree canopy—if our goal is to increase shade, then anyone who has a space in their yard that is free of wires, Kate encourages homeowners to consider doing that, particularly if it is an area that wouldn't qualify for the ReLeaf program
 - c. The Committee is focused on getting shade along Montgomery Road where residents walk. Duke seems to be trying to prevent any tree limbs from growing over the tree
 - i. Trees along Montgomery Road need to be shorter and more compact
 - ii. Kate encourages people to put large shade trees in their yard where the limbs will not extend over street
 - d. The city has a program called ReLeaf: to prioritize putting trees in the right of way, but not in the curb
 - i. Information about the ReLeaf program will be shared on email blasts, Facebook, website.
 - ii. Kennedy Heights is considered to have a great tree canopy. The program prioritizes neighborhoods without a robust canopy, but when there are leftovers they may be given to neighborhoods like Kennedy Heights.

8:01 Caitlin Siegel-Hart: Explaining Committee Goals

- A. The Committees are presenting their plans of what they want to achieve. A budget will be crafted and shared with Laura, who will pass it on to the Finance Committee.
 - a. In November we will be voting on the budget which starts January 1.
 - b. treasurer@kennedyheights.org

8:02 Communications Committee: Amber Ziegler

- A. Information about the ReLeaf program will be in the newsletter

B. Newsletter

- a. Hoping to do content about the tree canopy in 2024
- b. Nov-Dec newsletter is forthcoming with a theme of gratitude
 - i. Hoping to include statements of thanks for neighbors.
 - ii. Pieces of paper in the back of the room for in-person guests to write their thanks on
- c. Deadline for content of newsletter is October 1
- d. If anyone has content ideas for 2024 issues, feel free to share with the Communications Committee

8:04 Events and Engagement Committee, Samara Ramudit

- A. 60th Anniversary of Community Council Meeting
 - a. Date changed: it is now Sunday, October 22. Still 12pm-4pm at the Arts Annex
 - i. There will be a highlight of Community Council through the years
 - ii. My Nose Turns Red will perform inside, times to be determined
 - iii. Vendors, food trucks, High Grain brewery
 - iv. Volunteers needed: visit website www.kennedyheights.org/volunteer
 - v. If you are interested in being a vendor, email sharifah@kennedyheights.org and she will send the Vendor Application
- B. Winterfest: Always first Friday of December, so this year it is December 2
 - a. Hot cocoa, crafts, music, etc.

8:07 Hospitality Committee, Peggy Brown

- A. Welcome table at the door. When you attend in-person, please stop at the table which has the sign-in sheet.
- B. We are re-instituting the hospitality hour at 6:30 p.m. prior to the public meeting. Donations are welcome to cover this cost
- C. Table in the back offers t-shirts (suggested donation of \$15) and yard signs (suggested donation of \$10)

8:09 Housing Committee, Mary Ray

- A. Mary Ray is representing Kennedy Heights Development Corporation
 - a. Shroder
 - i. There have been no updates regarding plans submitted or permits requested
 - ii. Shroder Working Group will try to put together some kind of regular communication with the developer
 - iii. If you have a sighting of anyone breaking into the building, dumping trash, etc. Please report it to board@kennedyheights.org
 1. They have a contact with someone who performs maintenance and has been responsive
 - b. Affordable Senior Housing Development
 - i. All three parcels have been purchased: Corner of Kennedy and Montgomery, from Family Dollar to Kennedy Ave

- ii. Parcels will be transferred to Port Authority, they will tear down the buildings
 - 1. Peter, the owner of NuVue, says farewell and thank you for everything, he loved being in this neighborhood
- iii. Cincinnati ToolBank harvested as much usable materials as possible from the buildings.
- iv. Buildings have been secured as much as possible, but please alert board@kennedyheights.org if it looks like windows are broken or doors broken into.
 - 1. The corner is pitch-dark at night, so please pay attention
- c. Water Academy
 - i. Cincinnati WaterWorks will give tours of water plants and teach about how the water plants work.
- d. Zinsle Four-Way Stop
 - i. After years of complaints, there is finally a four-way stop at Zinsle and Coleridge. Thank you all for your patience and perseverance
- e. Welcome to Rodney Thomson
 - i. New project manager for the Home Repair Program
 - ii. Project runs in fall and spring; as the weather turns, things are slowing down for the winter but will be back in the spring.
 - iii. 20 seniors have contacted the program. Projects range from just needing advice to repairing stairs, etc.

8:17 Safety Committee, Pat McVeigh

- A. If anyone wants to join the committee, email patrick@kennedyheights.org
- B. Committee is meant to improve neighbor infrastructure; increase pedestrian, bike, and bus rider safety; address blight and litter; and reduce crime.
- C. Has met with Officer Martin and a Zoom call with Metro.
- D. Public Question: Where are we in the process of getting the signatures from Kennedy Ave to get a speed cushion?
 - a. Pat would be glad to help get those signatures
 - b. At least 50% signatures are needed before taking to the city

8:19 Sharifah

- A. Plenty of sign-ups to sign up and volunteer on a Committee or for the 60th Anniversary celebration.

OPEN COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

8:20 Kathy Tyler, In God's Hands

- A. In God's Hands is an early learning center located at the corner of Zinsle and Red Bank.
- B. Facility is not closed, rather it is are "improving."
- C. Overcoming staffing issues since Covid; staffing up.
- D. 25th year in the community.

- E. Brought books in the back to promote reading to children.

8:21 p.m. Vote Riders (Shelly)

- A. Today is National Voter Registration Day.
 - a. Brought stickers available in the back.
 - b. Brought information about how to register to vote.
- B. VoteRiders is an organization that is there to help people get their birth certificate, registration, voter ID, and social security card. The service is free.
 - a. The organization pays for the paperwork, and organizes Ubers.
 - b. They will organize to help someone get a driver's permit, driver's license, and sometimes even a commercial driver's license.
- C. October 10 is voter registration deadline.
- D. Virtual attendee requested information in the ChatBox: www.voteriders.org

8:24 Home Repair Program (Mary Ray)

- A. Always looking for volunteers, no matter the skill levels.
 - a. Often work on Saturday mornings.
- B. If you're a skilled professional and you would like to be paid for plumbing or concrete work, etc, those opportunities also exist for the program.
- C. www.kennedyheights.org/homerepair

8:25 p.m. CRC (Kendall Bobo)

- A. All the pools are officially closed.
- B. Oct 27 is Ghoul Fest 6:30-8:30 Trunk or Treat
 - a. Still looking for food vendors and craft vendors
 - b. Come in costumes and decorate your trucks
- C. Public Programming
 - a. Afterschool program still has openings \$225 per month
 - b. Kids Club for affordable childcare \$100 per session 2:15p.m. - 6 p.m.
 - c. Senior programs 10am-1pm Thursdays
 - d. Open Play Sports Saturdays 9am-2pm
 - e. Teen Lounge M-F 6pm-8:45pm

8:27 p.m. Pam Wilder, Shroder School

- A. Welcome back to school starting.
- B. Always looking for tutors.
 - a. Basic fundamental math for 7th graders who need more support for foundational skills; skills they would have acquired in K-6.
 - b. 61 children have asked for math support, and only 20 tutors.
 - c. One on one tutoring.
 - d. 513-363-6977 is Wilder's direct line
- C. Also seeking donations to the JAG store
 - a. attempt to support a positive school culture. ROAR - encouraging students to have Respect ORder Achievement and Responsibility.

- b. When they're caught being good, they earn JAG bucks which they can spend in the JAG store.
- c. Snacks, water bottles, t-shirts, etc.
- D. Pam will share the volunteer link with Student Government, if there are opportunities for students to volunteer. Students need 60 hours of community service to graduate.

8:30 Library (Jennifer)

- A. Events are in the newsletter, and everything can be found on the website
- B. Last minute additions:
 - a. Oct 4, Detecting Scams for Seniors presented by Engaging Seniors, Seniors teaching Seniors. 2pm, free.
 - b. Homework Helper Priyam started yesterday. Goes to Walnut Hills M-T 4-8, Kids from K-6. Free.
 - c. Isabel Wilkerson, Author of *Caste* will be at Aronoff Center. Library is bringing her in October 4. Tickets are \$5 or \$10.

8:33 p.m. Public Comment: Ben Warshing

- A. Owner of house flipping organization - purchasing severely old and distressed properties and restoring them. Recently worked on Odin.
- B. Just purchased 604 Kennedy, white house a few properties from Kennedy Park. The contractor that the city had contracted to bring the house up to code two years ago snapped the carrying beam and fixed it poorly...they can't save it.
- C. The ideal situation would be to take down the structure and put up a single-family home. Looking at where it is in relation to the park, wants to explore the community's interest in allowing him to re-zone to a Single Family Attached, meaning a two-story patio-home style
- D. First time speaking to Council because the code person told him this would be the best place to start.
- E. Sharifah suggests allotting time in the October meeting to have him present a more detailed plan.

8:36 p.m. Public Comment

- A. Public comment demands that Sharifah acknowledge the award The Caring Place recently received.
- B. The Pantry for 2022. Yay Sharifah and Caring Place!
- C. But this brings up that the Church is up for sale, so The Caring Place is going to have to move. They would love to stay in the service area: KH, Golf Manor, Silverton, PR. Please pass location leads on to Sharifah. On the bus line is preferred because so many walk to it or use the bus.
 - a. If you have any leads, contact sharifah@kennedyheights.org 841-1149

8:38 p.m. Meeting Adjourned

ONLINE CHAT:

Kennedy Heights Community Council

7:46 PM

Thank you, Officer Martin! And "hello" to Office Rice from KHCC.

monique.martin@cincinnati-oh.gov (513) 979-4481

Kennedy Heights Community Council

7:48 PM

You can also find Officer Martin's contact info on our website at <https://www.kennedyheights.org/resources>

Kennedy Heights Community Council

7:49 PM

If you have just joined, please sign in: <https://forms.gle/wkJBNFSs3AYpSycWA>

David Harris

7:50 PM

Still having issues

k

Kennedy Heights Community Council

7:55 PM

Kate Kern, Parks & Green Space: kkern@kennedyheights.org

I will share information about the Re-Leaf program to our Facebook account and in an upcoming email blast, so stay tuned.

Kennedy Heights Community Council

8:03 PM

Treasurer@kennedyheights.org

Kennedy Heights Community Council

8:05 PM

Online folks -- you can let us know who you're thankful for by going here: <https://www.kennedyheights.org/thankful> or by emailing communications@kennedyheights.org

Kennedy Heights Community Council

8:07 PM

60th anniversary celebration has moved from Oct. 7 to Sunday, Oct. 22

If you'd like to volunteer, email Samara@kennedyheights.org

<https://www.kennedyheights.org/volunteer>

Winterfest will be Friday, Dec. 2

Kennedy Heights Community Council

8:08 PM

(first Friday in December)

If you're interested in being a vendor for the 60th anniversary celebration, email Sharifah@kennedyheights.org

Kennedy Heights Community Council

8:12 PM

Report any incidents on the Shroder property to board@kennedyheights.org

Kennedy Heights Community Council

8:14 PM

Report any incidents on the former Mr. Kelly's lot or the NuVue lot to board@kennedyheights.org

Kennedy Heights Community Council

8:16 PM

Info on the Home Repair program: <https://www.kennedyheights.org/homerepair>

Kennedy Heights Community Council

8:17 PM

Patrick@kennedyheights.org - traffic & safety

VoteRiders: www.VoteRiders.org

(866) 432-8683

Christian Armstrong

8:24 PM

Kendell Bobo is in the audience to speak about the rec center

Thank you

Kennedy Heights Community Council

8:28 PM

Pamela Wilder - 513-363-6977

7th grade math tutoring

Kennedy Heights Community Council

8:38 PM

Thank you all. Good night!