

March 12, 2024 South Fairmount Community Council

Minutes kept by Recording Secretary Heather Sayre

Bill Heimbrock presiding

Attendance: 5 on Zoom, 12 in Person.

Residents: 6

(count by Bill Heimbrock)

Fire Department Report: Lieutenant Christopher Leicht:

- 3 fires this month, 119 Medical runs
- Home fire escape plans: Each room should have 3 routes of egress. Draw a picture of your house. Make sure windows aren't blocked. Identify an outdoor meet place. Test smoke alarms. If you cannot get out of a door, shut the door to save time. Call if you can to let rescue persons know what room you are in.
- Apparatus awareness: avoid parking too close to corners so that fire engines can make the turn. Report if a car is closed close to corner.
- Traffic calming devices on Westwood Ave: dangerous if caught off guard.
- Becky: no response to reporting parked cars. Suggests fire department report for more effective response.
- Add Christopher.leicht@cincinnati-oh.gov to SFCC Email list.

District 3: Officer Utecht

- Relatively normal month
- Kia and Hyundai thefts still up, as well as theft from auto: 15-20 reports per morning. Illegal to leave a concealed carry in a car overnight. Theft from auto appears targeted for firearms.
- Keep Cincinnati Beautiful Don't Dump the Nati: program to prevent criminal dumping. Free Dump site last Friday of each month 9 am-1 pm 2121 State Ave
- Question from Jackie Chischille: encampment on Merton Street, adjacent to Orion School. Piles of litter and mattress. Request report at next meeting.
- City Manager is responsible for homeless encampment management rather than police department in order to attempt to connect individuals with services.
- Officer Utecht comes to every meeting. Anyone is invited to bring up an issue at meeting, by phone, email, or written anonymous note through another person.
Douglas.utecht@cincinnati-oh.gov 513-263-8345. Email is best.

Announcements

- Detrashify litter, sponsored by keep Cincinnati beautiful. This Friday 9-12 Esmond Street. Register through Keep Cincinnati Beautiful
- Beekman Community Market this Saturday 3-5 pm
- Earth Day Celebration will be April 27.

- Working with West Africa to establish a community development corporation so that South Fairmount can be restored to previous levels of population and activity.

Guests: Anna Albi, City Council Member anna.alvi@cincinnati-oh.gov 513-352-5280

- Gun violence prevention advocate: Support law enforcement and look at how the city invests in youth and individuals meeting housing/food needs. Mental health care and access to fresh food. 2/3 gun deaths in Ohio are suicides. Unsecured guns put people who struggle with mental health at risk. How can we make mental health care more accessible? Stigma, location, hours. Partnering with BestPoint, Talbert House.
- Fresh food: how can we have a big sustainable solution to get food out into the community. Cause/effect relationship between food insecurity and violence. How can we leverage food delivery and other options to get food into homes
- Brent Spence Bridge: environmental study happening to look at impacts. ODA is working on design.
- Convention center: plans being made. Look at designs in the Enquirer. Plans to develop the area, not just the building, to create a plaza place to be. Partnership with city, county, and Ohio.
- Connect the communities: Big Policy series of zoning changes to make it easier to build housing. City currently has single family and big apartments. Not a lot of mid size apartment buildings. How can we increase density to make more housing available. Connect the communities works to make it easier to build 4-6 unit dwellings on bus lines. Working for bus rapid transit, which has lane designated for bus only. Reduce parking minimums, emphasis on human scale development, developing environment for people not cars. Look on city website for more information.
- Budget season: currently hosting public input sessions. Next Wednesday march 20 at Avondale Rec center. Come to share thoughts on how you want the city to spend tax dollars.
- Questions: Western Hills Viaduct is close to downtown. Why is that not part of the connect the communities plan? Metro made the decision about where the routes would be. Focuses are around neighborhood business districts. Dave: none of the mentioned places are close to this area. If you want to see housing in the area, write to city council- they would love to hear it!
- Complete streets are city policy to reduce speed as well as make it safer for bikers.

Susan Vonderhaar from Cincinnati Permaculture Institute

- Brought buckwheat cover-crop seed: a great spring cover-crop for your garden
- Permaculture is an ecological design for producing food, based on principles of the natural world which are regenerative, rather than relying on hard human labor.
- CPI is primarily an educational organization
- We advocate for no bare soil. Plant cover crop to keep the ground in place between growing season.

- CPI is interested in developing an implementation program. We are looking for community spaces where permaculturalists can plant perennial edibles that support many functions. Could be home property or community gardens.
- Bill we have a small community garden with a workday planned before and after earth day. Bill and Jill Keith are planning the garden. Thinking of increasing number of raised beds. On Queen City Ave just past Extreme Sound
- Jackie Chischille is interested in starting a pumpkin patch on a property next to Orion Academy
- Growing Value: Perennial Edible Nursery 824 Enright Ave. hours vary. Check website for hours. info@cincinnati-permacultureinstitute.org

Neighborhood Support Program 2024

- Project 1# increase council membership \$545.12
- Project #2: Beautification: flower bed care, refreshments for cleanup event, fire department monument foundation, flower pots, soil, flowers \$2,350.00
- Project #3: Community Engagement Events: Pumpkin Fest, Earth Day Banner date change, New Fasteners for Pumpkin Fest Banner, 2 hour jazz concert in Greenway \$2266
- Project #4 Holiday Dinner \$1829.88
- Project #5 Council Support: \$384
- Amendment suggested to add printing budget of \$116 and take it from concert budget.
- 5 votes yes to pass. 0 votes no to not pass.

Dorothy Bush:

- Habitat for humanity has aging in place support for individuals over 60
- Difficulty getting home owner insurance.

Attend Beekman Coalition Meetings to support neighbors in project improvements

Suggestion to limit time to 5 min per speaker to stay on time.

Volunteer for the fish fry at Immanuel- setup, bus, tear down

Adjourn