

North Fairmount Community Council – March 2026 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by **Darlene Capell**, President, who opened the session and welcomed attendees.

Prayer

Prayer was led by **Mary Yates**, Chaplain.

Attendance

Council Members Present: **Darlene Capell**, **Barbara Palmer** (attended online with another participant), **Deanna Franklin**, **Mary Yates**, **Toni Hawkins**, and **Tricia Fetters**. Additional guests, community stakeholders, and partner organizations were present both in person at Carll Street Family Center and virtually. A quorum was established.

Welcome

Darlene Capell welcomed all attendees and emphasized continued collaboration among community partners, residents, and council leadership to address neighborhood concerns and opportunities.

Public Safety Reports (CPD & Fire Department)

Officer TJ Dula (CPD) reported that updated crime statistics will be distributed via email to Council members. **Ms. Renu** raised concerns regarding a lack of follow-up communication after incidents are reported. Additional resident concerns included an increase in **drag racing activity** and **safety concerns at the sprayground park**, particularly affecting children and families. Requests were made for increased patrol presence and improved communication.

Captain Levi Florence (Cincinnati Fire Department – Truck 35) provided a detailed report for February 2026: Truck 35 responded to **245 runs**, Engine 35 to **467 runs**, Engine 12 to **218 runs**, and Engine 21 to **145 runs**. A total of **24 emergency incidents** occurred within North Fairmount, including fires, gas leaks, and carbon monoxide calls. Residents were encouraged to remain aware of household safety risks and emergency preparedness.

Grants & Treasurer Update

Deanna Franklin reported on current funding opportunities. The Council is actively pursuing a **Seeds of Change Grant totaling \$15,000** to support community-based environmental and improvement initiatives. In addition, the Council is preparing to apply for **Neighborhood Support Program (NSP) funding in the amount of \$9,666** to support smaller-scale engagement activities, outreach, and planning efforts. Members discussed aligning both funding sources to support long-term community development goals.

President's Report

Darlene Capell announced the upcoming **Earth Day Celebration** scheduled for **April 19, 2026, from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM** at Washington Park. Members and residents were encouraged to attend and participate. Additional emphasis was placed on submitting project ideas and strengthening grant applications.

Community Partner Reports

Hammad Siddiqui (Fifth Third Bank) presented financial literacy programs and offered to bring the **Relief Bus** to the community to assist residents with financial services.

Gilbert Williams provided voter registration materials and encouraged civic participation.

Millvale Recreation Center announced free tax preparation services on March 28 and April 11, 2026, as well as ongoing aerobics classes held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 PM.

Brenda Waldron (Hopple Street Health Center) highlighted access to medical, dental, and pharmacy services available to residents.

Denise Hill (Carll Street Family Center) shared information about summer youth programming running June through August 2026.

Mary Metzmeier (Working In Neighborhoods) discussed traffic safety initiatives and announced the development of two net-zero homes in South Cumminsville as part of sustainability efforts.

Trista Davis (Beekman Community Market) reported that the March market was canceled and confirmed the next market will take place on April 11, 2026, from 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM at Lick Run.

Tricia Fetters (Cincinnati Public Library) will provide updates at a future meeting.

Mr. Teller (LEAP Academy) is organizing a neighborhood clean-up event, with flyers to be distributed to residents.

Announcements

The **ToolBank Community Celebration** will take place on March 19, 2026, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Residents interested in gardening were encouraged to connect with **Darryl Franklin**. Ongoing discussion and planning for grant opportunities, including Seeds of Change and NSP, were encouraged.

Meeting Highlights & Key Actions

Ms. Renu and additional residents emphasized concerns related to drag racing and park safety. Council leadership acknowledged these concerns and discussed the importance of continued engagement with public safety officials. Positive developments include increased collaboration with community partners and expanded program opportunities.

Motions & Council Actions

The February 2026 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. Motion and second are pending confirmation.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned following discussion. Motion and second pending confirmation.

Next Council Meeting

April 14, 2026 at 6:00 PM – Carll Street Family Center

Prepared by Secretary Barbara Palmer – Barb.nfcc@gmail.com